

Bush freezes assets of 27 organizations

by Martin Merzer
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WASHINGTON - Determined to drain "the lifeblood of terrorist operations," President Bush froze the assets of 27 people and organizations Monday, and he threatened similar action against foreign banks that serve as financial vessels for terrorists.

Among those on the government's monetary hit list: renegade Saudi millionaire Osama bin Laden, alleged mastermind of the Sept. 11 massacre, and at least six people or groups aligned with him.

"We will starve the terrorists of funding, turn them against each other, rout them out of their safe hiding places and bring them to justice," Bush said.

A few hours later, Attorney General John Ashcroft announced that federal agents have arrested or detained 352 people in the investigation of the Sept. 11 airborne attacks by suicide hijackers that killed at least 6,500 people.

The FBI also is seeking 392 other people for questioning, Ashcroft told the House Judiciary Committee. He said the probe was "moving aggressively forward" and was examining the possibility that the hijackers had inside help.

The government grounded crop-dusting planes for a second day amid fears that they could be used to launch biological or chemical attacks. Rebecca Trexler, FAA spokeswoman, said all workers with access to secure airport areas have been asked to have their IDs re-checked. But they won't require new criminal background checks at this point because such checks were already required for workers hired after December 2000. And, in a development that further illustrated the magnitude of change in the American psyche, representatives of the nation's 60,000 commercial pilots said they would ask Congress Tuesday to allow them to carry firearms into their cockpits.

"We used to be against that, but that was before Sept. 11," said John Mazon, a spokesman for the pilots' union. "We've gone from a passive way of dealing with hijackers to what we're calling an aggressive defense."

Halfway around the world, a defiant bin Laden surfaced - in the form of a media statement - and urged followers to join "the battle of Islam in this era against the new Jewish and Christian crusader campaign that is led by the chief crusader Bush under the banner of the cross."

At the same time, Pakistan withdrew its diplomats from Afghanistan's capital Kabul, leaving that nation's Taliban leaders - and bin Laden's protectors - increasingly isolated.



WASHINGTON, DC - President Bush leads senior advisors Andrew Card, White House Chief of Staff; Condoleezza Rice, National Security Advisor; and John Ashcroft, Attorney General.

than 6,400 people still lost and presumed dead in the ruins of the World Trade Center. Family members soon can apply for death certificates - even if the remains of their loved ones have not been found and identified.

The president's "Executive Order on Terrorist Financing" prohibits all U.S. citizens and businesses from contributing to or engaging in financial transactions with bin Laden and others on the list. It also freezes any assets hoarded in the United States by those on the list.

Bush described the action as the first real shot of his broad, unconventional counter-offensive against those who attacked America two weeks ago or have triggered other terrorist actions.

"A major thrust of our war on terrorism began with the stroke of a pen," he said. "Today, we have launched a strike on the financial foundation of the global terror network."

Still, the practical effect of the order was unclear, given that it seemed unlikely that the groups or individuals cited in the order raised or banked substantial sums of money in the United States.

Bush acknowledged that bin Laden and other terrorists keep most of their assets overseas, but he also placed foreign financiers on notice: cooperate or else.

If they do not block access to terrorist funds in foreign accounts, their U.S. assets and transactions also will be frozen.

"If you do business with terrorists, if you support or sponsor them, you will not do business with the United States of America," Bush said.

In effect, the order expanded the Treasury Department's ability to undermine the financial foundations of terrorist organizations. Previously, the department's reach extended only to terrorism in the Middle East; now it stretches around the globe.

The administration said it already has received help from Britain and Switzerland, and it clearly was lobbying for more.

"We're going to take this initiative into the United Nations and try to get additional resolutions that serve similar purposes," said Secretary of State Colin Powell. "All civilized nations in the world understand that the civilized world has to go after terrorism."

The executive order lists about a dozen terrorist leaders, including Ayman al-Zawahiri, bin Laden's chief deputy, and about a dozen organizations, including al-Qaida, bin Laden's main network.

Also on the list: the Wafa Humanitarian Organization and the Al Rashid Trust. Both describe themselves as charitable groups that provide food

or medical care to the poor, but the administration called them terrorist fronts.

"Money is the lifeblood of terrorist operations," Bush said. "Today, we're asking the world to stop payment."

In more visible financial circles, the stock market staged a vigorous rally after last week's dramatic sell-offs motivated a key Wall Street analyst to flash a buy signal.

The Dow Jones Industrial Average closed at 8,603.44, up 367.63 points. The NASDAQ ended the day at 1,499.13, up 75.94 points.

Before the market opened, Abby Joseph Cohen, chief investment strategist for Goldman, Sachs & Co., recommended that investors increase the stock portion of their portfolios to 75 percent from 70 percent. She said many stocks were now undervalued. More good news, at least in the short term for consumers, came from the oil industry, where global crude oil prices fell to their lowest levels in nearly two years. Sadly, analysts attributed that to sharp cuts in airline operations and to weak prospects for the global economy.

In the Middle East, bin Laden issued a statement broadcast by Qatar's Al-Jazeera satellite television channel, a frequent outlet for his remarks. He urged supporters around the

world, and particularly in Pakistan, to fight what he framed as "the American crusade" against Islam. U.S. officials have been careful to focus their fury solely on bin Laden and other terrorists, and to make clear that they harbor no ill will toward Muslims.

Bin Laden also went out of his way to praise Mullah Mohammed Omar, the Taliban leader of Afghanistan and bin Laden's strongest shield against the West.

"I announce to you, our beloved brothers, that we are steadfast on the path of Jihad (holy war) with the heroic, faithful Afghan people, under the leadership of Mullah Mohammed Omar," said the statement from bin Laden, who has operated under Taliban protection since 1996.

In other developments: -U.S. troops and equipment kept streaming toward the Persian Gulf area, and the Air Force announced that

it was activating a special rule that allows it to suspend, for at least 30 days, all scheduled retirements and separations from active service.

- New York Mayor Rudy Giuliani acknowledged that virtually no hope remains of finding survivors in the trade center's rubble.

"I believe it is certainly time to say chances of finding anyone alive would involve a miracle," Giuliani said. The toll at the World Trade Center stands at 276 bodies recovered and 6,453 people missing.

The mayor also announced that starting Wednesday, family assistance staffers will help relatives obtain death certificates for those who perished - even if their bodies have not been recovered.

- In another move to shore up Pakistan, the administration said it would ask Congress to lift sanctions imposed in 1999 after that nation's military overthrew a democratically elected government. That would allow Washington to provide economic and military assistance to the government of President Pervez Musharraf.

Other sanctions related to Pakistan's and India's 1998 nuclear tests were waived by Bush on Saturday.

"We intend to support those who support us," said State Department spokesman Richard Boucher. "We intend to work with those governments that work with us in this fight."

- The Senate approved a long-delayed free trade pact with Jordan, a demonstration of support for a key Middle East ally. The House approved the measure nearly two months ago.

- Russian President Vladimir Putin said his nation would ship weapons and military equipment to Afghan rebels. He did not offer to contribute troops to the U.S. anti-terrorist offensive, but he suggested that former Soviet republics in Central Asia might allow their airfields to be used.

- As a condition to joining a U.S.-led coalition, Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak is demanding not only persuasive evidence about bin Laden or other suspects but also advance notice about potential targets, according to a Western diplomatic source.

College students begin anti-war protests

by Michelle Crouch
Knight Ridder Newspapers

CHARLOTTE, N.C. - As the war drums grow louder in Washington, an anti-war movement is emerging on college campuses across the country.

Last week, students from more than 150 colleges - from UCLA to Harvard University - staged a series of peace rallies, candlelight vigils and petition drives.

In the Carolinas, more than 180 Davidson College students are painting messages of peace onto cloth squares they are joining into a giant "Peace Quilt." Others signed letters urging American leaders "not to duplicate these horrors."

At Duke University, dozens of students, faculty members and staff participated in a peace rally Friday with the slogan: "No more victims."

The events, evoking muted images of 1960s activism, were aimed at encouraging a restrained response to the attacks on the World Trade Center and the Pentagon. The efforts are united by what students call a need for "peaceful justice."

"We wanted to bring people together who are interested in finding alternatives to war," said Chris Paul, a student organizer at Duke. "We're not implying there shouldn't be any action, but it should be with the

awareness that others will be hurt if we do take military action."

Davidson students said they considered a rally, but decided a quilt would be more appropriate, said student organizer Grant Bleecher.

"This is an opportunity for students to use their creativity and leave their mark," Bleecher said. "We can hang it up and it will be around for a while. We hope it will get people to think."

Bleecher said he's working to get permission to hang the quilt in the college's student center, and he would eventually like to rotate it to different locations.

Pieces were covered with peace signs and quotes from Mahatma Gandhi, Martin Luther King Jr. and JFK. On one, the words, "It's in our hands," encircle a large globe.

Another is addressed to the president: "Bush, only fools rush in."

A third proclaims, "THINK" in bold white letters on a red background.

"Retaliating with violence for violence is just going to lead to more violence," said Mary Donoghue, 19, a sophomore whose colorful square simply reads, "Shalom." "The lives of people in Afghanistan are just as important as the lives of people in New York."

Ridge appointed head of Homeland Security

President Bush announced that he would nominate Tom Ridge to head the newly formed Office of Homeland Security. Ridge, who is expected to take on the cabinet-level post without any opposition, will oversee government-wide efforts to defend America against domestic terrorism. His task is to "lead, oversee and coordinate a comprehensive national strategy to safeguard our country against terrorism, and respond to any attacks that may come." Ridge will coordinate the efforts of some 40 federal agencies and departments, working alongside a new deputy national security advisor for combating terrorism. Ridge will also control a budget estimated at \$11 billion.



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