

American prisoners held in difficult conditions

By DILIP GANGULY
Associated Press Writer

BAGHDAD, Iraq — Two imprisoned Americans are languishing in rough conditions in a cellblock with 200 inmates and three holes for toilet facilities, a Polish diplomat and a reporter said yesterday.

The diplomat, Ryszard Krystosik, visited the pair in the maximum-security Abu Ghraib prison. They were sentenced March 25 to eight-year terms for illegally entering the country.

"They are well. They're better than before. However, their con-

ditions are difficult," said Krystosik, who represents U.S. interests in Iraq in the absence of direct relations between Baghdad and Washington.

The prisoners — David Daliberti, 41, of Jacksonville, Fla., and William Barloon, 39, of New Hampton, Iowa — were arrested by Iraqi border guards on March 13.

Cable News Network correspondent Brent Sadler visited the prisoners yesterday and said they appear "more determined" and thinner than before.

He said Daliberti is increasingly

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Polish diplomat

concerned about his health and was seen yesterday by two heart doctors and two eye doctors.

According to Sadler, the men said they are being held in a small cell along a cell block that holds about 200 prisoners, including murderers. Three holes in the floor function as toilet facilities

for all of them, Sadler said.

The men's wives, Kathy Daliberti in Jacksonville and Linda Barloon in Kuwait City, said they were grateful to hear about their husbands but the incarceration seemed unfair.

Sadler told the women their husbands had lost weight and were

wearing the same jeans and jackets that they had on when detained, but that they appeared to be cleaner and to be wearing laundered clothing.

Daliberti and Barloon, who worked for U.S. defense contractors in Kuwait, say they unwittingly strayed into Iraq while trying to visit friends at a U.N. post near the Kuwaiti border.

Khaled Jarjees, the pair's Iraqi lawyer, has said he will argue in an appeal this week that the men entered Iraq unwittingly and unintentionally.

Krystosik met with Jarjees on

Monday, but neither he nor the attorney would comment on the appeal. Iraq has banned journalists from meeting or calling Jarjees.

U.N. personnel in the demilitarized zone along Iraq's southern frontier admit they mistakenly waved the men through onto Iraqi soil, and the United States has repeatedly appealed for the pair's release.

But Iraqi officials suggest that the Americans entered with ulterior motives tied to U.S. efforts to prolong the U.N. oil and trade embargo imposed after Iraq's 1990 invasion of Kuwait.

Mother found guilty of murder in death of 7-year-old child

Pauline Zile's husband beat her daughter to death because she defecated on the floor.

By JOAN THOMPSON
Associated Press Writer

WEST PALM BEACH, Fla. — A mother who claimed her 7-year-old daughter was abducted from a flea market and pleaded tearfully on television for the girl's safe return was convicted of murder yesterday in her beating death.

Pauline Zile, 24, lowered her head and fought back tears as the guilty verdicts on charges of murder and child abuse were read.

Prosecutors said they will seek the death penalty. No immediate date was set for the jury to return to consider the sentence.

Pauline Zile was accused of abusing Christina Holt and causing her Sept. 16 death by not protecting the girl from her stepfather, John Zile. The couple kept the girl's body in a closet for several days before Zile buried it.

In October, a sobbing Pauline Zile went on TV with her husband with a concocted story about how the girl was kidnapped from a flea market bathroom. Later that month, Zile led investigators to the child's grave.

"I think this verdict is an

outrage," Pauline Zile's attorney, Ellis Rubin, told Circuit Judge Stephen Rapp outside the jury's presence. He said he would ask Rapp to throw out the verdict and order a new trial in another county.

State Attorney Barry Krischer said the verdict is a warning to abusive parents: "These people will be pursued, and they will be prosecuted to the full extent of the law."

Zile, 32, is awaiting trial and could also face the death penalty. He told police that the girl was beaten after repeatedly soiling herself but that her death was an accident.

The defense called no witnesses. At an earlier hearing, however, Pauline Zile's lawyer read a letter she wrote to her husband, portraying herself as blameless except for not seeing her husband's faults and not stopping the violence.

Christina came to live with the Ziles and their two young sons in the couple's one-bedroom apartment in Riviera Beach last June after spending most of her life with relatives in Maryland.

She went to school for only a few days before Pauline Zile took her out in what prosecutors said was a way to prevent anyone from seeing signs of abuse.

The Ziles' former next-door neighbor Dayle Ackerman testified she overheard the fatal beating. She said she was getting dressed when she heard shouting, crying and hitting sounds coming from the Ziles' apartment.

Church, GOP ties coming undone

By DARLENE SUPERVILLE
Associated Press Writer

WASHINGTON, D.C. — The close ties between the Republican Party and the religious right are "starting to unravel" and the two are headed for divorce court, the founder of the anti-abortion group Operation Rescue declared yesterday.

"I believe that the days of the marriage between the religious right and the GOP are numbered," Randall Terry, who was recently released from jail, asserted at a news conference. "I believe a divorce is coming."

Terry said religious conservatives were disappointed that the first 100 days of the new Congress lacked a "strong effort on abortion" and they would push for action on moral issues after the Easter congressional recess.

"Their second 100 days should be dedicated to issues of morality," he said, claiming to speak for "hundreds of thousands" like himself.

Terry made his comments at a news confer-

ence at which he announced protests would be held in Washington, D.C. next week on behalf of refugees of the Golden Venture, a rusty freighter that ran aground off Rockaway Beach, N.Y., in June 1993 with nearly 300 Chinese men and women on board.

He would not release details of the protests planned for next Tuesday and Wednesday, except to say they would involve civil disobedience.

Most of the refugees remain in U.S. custody while they seek asylum on the grounds that they fled China to avoid sterilizations and forced abortions under the communist nation's population control policy of one child per family. Some of the asylum-seekers have been deported.

But the Clinton administration, claiming the China policy is not the same as personal persecution, since it is nationwide, has not granted asylum.

Terry said House Speaker Newt Gingrich, R-Ga., should intervene on behalf of the refugees,

who face "certain torment, torture and imprisonment" if deported.

Lauren Sims, a Gingrich spokeswoman, had no immediate comment.

"The religious right got behind you because of our moral concerns and this is one of them," Terry said of Republicans. "This is a chance for you to show that you don't take us for granted."

He said his group will meet with Gingrich staff next Tuesday and would press for a meeting with the speaker to discuss possible legislation.

Terry reiterated that sentiment on yesterday. "The Republican Party cannot win without us. If we leave the party, the party becomes irrelevant," he said.

Terry recently completed a five-month sentence for contempt of court for his role in a July 1992 demonstration during the Democratic National Convention in New York City in which an anti-abortion opponent showed then-presidential candidate Bill Clinton an aborted fetus.

Screaming church ladies move to another parish

GREENSBURG — A Roman Catholic church beseeched a judge yesterday to hush up two women who last week were banned from another parish for praying so loudly they drowned out the choir.

For the third consecutive day, Joan Sudwoj and Cynthia Balconi shouted the rosary at Blessed Sacrament Cathedral before and after the 6:30 a.m. and 8 a.m. Masses.

On Friday, Judge Bernard Scherer banned the women from another church, Holy Cross Church in Youngwood, until they comply with the pastor's rules.

Cecelia Miscovich, a third woman who also prayed loudly, met with church attorneys before the judge's ruling and agreed to quiet down.

Parishioners at Holy Cross endured two years during which Sudwoj, Balconi and Miscovich — who has since agreed to quiet down — disrupted services by

splashing holy water around and shouting the rosary louder than the priest's preaching or the choir.

Vincent Morocco, an attorney for the Diocese of Greensburg, filed a petition yesterday asking Scherer for a second injunction, this time to ban any disruptions at Blessed Sacrament. Scherer set a hearing for 9 a.m. today.

The motives of the women, who decline to speak to reporters on the telephone or in person, remain a mystery.

"They don't respond to the priests when they've tried to talk with them," said Alice Laurich, diocese spokeswoman.

On Monday, Balconi left Blessed Sacrament after the early Mass. Monsignor Robert Shuda brought children in for their pre-Easter confessions and quietly asked Sudwoj to lower her voice while the children were there.

"She just raised her voice louder," Laurich said.



Collegian Photo/Hector Caro

Micro, what?

Chris Lubkemann, a woodcarver from Lancaster, gave a demonstration of the sport he created called "micro-pong" in the HUB Fishbowl yesterday. Lubkemann makes the micro-pong tables and founded the United States Micro-pong Table Tennis Association.

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Miscellaneous Equipment
Walker Turner band saw, Challenger EH-3 paper drill, restaurant equipment, Berkel electric meat slicer, large quantity of copper wire & pipe (approx. 30 skids), irrigation piping, welders lawn mowers, trimmers, hospital beds, skids of shelving, skids of electronics, motors, pulleys & wheels, s/s sinks & counters, misc. hand tools, skids of computer parts, Craftsman drill press, Lodge & Shipley milling machine, skids of paint, Brown & Sharpe surface grinder, drill press (mtg. unknown), Racine Shear cut, hardwood sander, weed eaters, telephone equip., belt sander, generator, compressors, lathe & milling machine parts, battery operated lot sweeper, chipper / shredder, sprayers, chain hoists, Yale boom sweeper, hospital equipment, fans, fuel tank, turnstiles, incubators, vending machines, platform scales, dock leveler, growth chamber, spools of wire rope, light fixtures, 12' Jon boat, hundreds of items too numerous to mention.

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