

## WORLD NEWS AMERICAS ASIA AFRICA MIDDLE EAST

# U.S. to investigate 2 detainees' deaths

WASHINGTON

Despite possible charges, C.I.A. sees vindication in closing of other cases

BY ERIC LICHTBLAU AND ERIC SCHMITT

The U.S. Justice Department has announced that it is opening a full criminal investigation into the deaths of two terrorism suspects in C.I.A. custody overseas, but it is closing inquiries into the treatment of nearly 100 other detainees over the last decade.

Attorney General Eric H. Holder Jr. said Thursday that a two-year review by a specially appointed prosecutor, John H. Durham, had determined that any further investigation into that large group of cases was "not warranted." The inquiry into the two deaths, though, could result in criminal charges against Central Intelligence Agency officers or contractors.

Intelligence officials saw the announcement as a vindication of sorts.

"I welcome the news that the broader inquiries are behind us," Leon E. Panetta said on his last day as director of the C.I.A., before being sworn in Friday as defense secretary. "We are now finally about to close this chapter of our agency's history."

Still, the renewed attention to the volatile issue of C.I.A. interrogations was sure to set off a range of legal and political challenges for the Justice Department, the White House and lawmakers from both parties.

The Justice Department has faced years of criticism from the left for inaction on accusations of abuse by C.I.A. interrogators, while defenders of the C.I.A. have warned that any prosecutions would be deeply damaging to the agency. It will be left to Gen. David H. Petraeus, who was confirmed Thursday as C.I.A. director, to lead the agency through any turmoil from the criminal investigation.

The Justice Department did not identify the two detainees at the center of the criminal investigation. But government officials, who spoke on condition of anonymity because of the continuing review, said the first case involved the death of Manadel al-Jamadi, who died in C.I.A. custody in 2003 at Abu Ghraib prison in Iraq.

The second case involves the death of Gul Rahman, suspected of being a mili-

tant, who died in 2002 after being shackled to a concrete wall in a secret C.I.A. prison in Afghanistan known as the Salt Pit, the officials said.

Beginning in 2002, Justice Department lawyers wrote a series of then-secret legal opinions authorizing intelligence officers to use increasingly harsh interrogation methods like sleep deprivation, slapping and the near-drowning technique known as waterboarding on dozens of terrorism suspects in an effort to elicit information about Al Qaeda.

In his statement on Thursday, Mr. Holder stressed, as he has before, that any intelligence officials who acted "in good faith" within the scope of the Justice Department's legal guidance at the time would not face prosecution. The review that led to the full criminal investigations focused on whether "unauthorized interrogation techniques were used by C.I.A. interrogators" and, if so, whether they amounted to criminal violations of statutes against torture, he said.

In a nod to the tensions surrounding the issue, Mr. Holder emphasized the "incredibly important service to our nation" that intelligence officials provide. "They deserve our respect and gratitude for the work that they do," he said.

Civil rights leaders said Thursday that they were disappointed that Mr. Holder had not set a broader target for the current investigation by looking at the legality of the interrogation policies approved by senior lawyers and intelligence officials.

"With the approval of the Bush administration's most senior officials, the C.I.A. operated an interrogation program that subjected prisoners to unimaginable cruelty and violated both international and domestic law," said Jameel Jaffer, deputy legal director for the American Civil Liberties Union. "The narrow investigation that Attorney General Holder announced today is not proportionate to the scale and scope of the wrongdoing."

But Representative Mike Rogers, a Michigan Republican who leads the House Intelligence Committee, said the Justice Department's decision to close all but the two remaining cases had "finally substantially lifted an undeserved cloud of doubt and suspicion from all of our intelligence professionals."

Soon after his inauguration in January 2009, President Barack Obama signaled that he was reluctant to re-examine some of the most controversial tactics of the previous administration.



**Party's birthday** Communist Party members listening as President Hu Jintao spoke in the Great Hall of the People in Beijing on Friday, the 90th anniversary of the party's founding. Friday was also the 14th anniversary of the return to Chinese rule of

the former British colony of Hong Kong, where tens of thousands of marched to protest soaring housing prices, inflation and a wealth gap. Organizers also called for the resignation of Hong Kong's chief executive, Donald Tsang. [global.nytimes.com/asia](http://global.nytimes.com/asia)

## Qaddafi warns of retaliation in Europe

TRIPOLI, LIBYA

NATO cautioned to halt strikes or face attacks on 'homes, offices, families'

FROM NEWS REPORTS

The Libyan leader, Col. Muammar el-Qaddafi, threatened Friday to carry out attacks in Europe against "homes, offices, families," unless NATO halted its campaign of airstrikes against his regime.

Colonel Qaddafi, sought by the International Criminal Court for brutally crushing an uprising against him, delivered the warning in an audio message played to thousands of supporters gathered in the main square of the capital, Tripoli.

Addressing the West, Colonel Qaddafi said the Libyan people might one day take this battle "to Europe, to target your homes, offices, families, which would become legitimate military targets, like you have targeted our homes."

"We can decide to threaten you in a similar way," he said of the Europeans. "If we decide to, we are able to move to Europe like locusts, like bees. We advise you to retreat before you are dealt a disaster."

The demonstration Friday was one of

the largest pro-government rallies in recent weeks.

It came just four days after the International Criminal Court issued arrest warrants for Colonel Qaddafi, his son Seif al-Islam and the Libyan intelligence chief, Abdullah al-Sanoussi, for crimes against humanity. International prosecutors have alleged that government troops fired on civilian protesters during anti-Qaddafi street demonstrations earlier this year.

The popular uprising has since turned into a protracted civil war, with anti-government rebels controlling much of eastern Libyan and parts of Libya's western mountains. NATO has been bombing government-linked targets since March.

In his speech Friday, Colonel Qaddafi denounced the rebels as traitors and blamed them for Libya's troubles. He said Libyans who fled to neighboring Tunisia are now "working as maids for the Tunisians."

He urged his supporters to "march on the western mountains" to clear the area of weapons the French government delivered to the rebels there several days ago.

Demonstrators took to the streets in other countries in the region on Friday.

In the Egyptian capital, Cairo, thousands of protesters returned to Tahrir Square to voice frustration with what they called the slow pace of change five

months after the revolution.

The demonstration came just days after renewed clashes between protesters and the police left hundreds wounded and underscored the lingering distrust between Egyptians and a police force long seen as a pillar of the former government.

Young men erected roadblocks and protesters set up a small tent city, as demonstrators waved Egyptian, Libyan and Syrian flags to demand the prosecution of former government officials accused of ordering the use of deadly force during Egypt's 18-day revolution. Throughout the afternoon, protesters spilled from Tahrir Square to nearby landmarks, including Parliament, the Interior Ministry and the headquarters of the country's state-run television network.

"The people demand the execution of Habib," they chanted, referring to the former interior minister, Habib el-Adly, in a chant that played on a popular anti-government slogan from the days of the revolution. "There is still a revolution in Tahrir!"

Despite the pounding summer sun, protesters turned out to demand justice for those killed during the revolution, who are seen as martyrs for democracy. Few issues crystallize the lingering distrust between rulers and the ruled here more than the prosecution of former officials, including police officers, accused

of the deadly violence that claimed more than 850 lives during the uprising that overthrew President Hosni Mubarak in February.

Protesters in Alexandria also took to the streets, rallying outside the Qaed Ibrahim mosque and blocking traffic on the Corniche, a seaside boulevard that runs the length of the city.

Legal proceedings have begun against former officials like Mr. Adly, said Heba Morayef, a researcher for Human Rights Watch in Cairo, but victims' families and their lawyers are often barred from court sessions. Cases have also been repeatedly adjourned and postponed for a month or more.

In the capital of Yemen, Sana, tens of thousands turned Friday Prayer into rallies for and against President Ali Abdullah Saleh, who is recovering from wounds sustained in an assassination attempt earlier this month.

Meanwhile, the president's son, Ahmed, ordered the arrest of dozens of military officers suspected of turning against his wounded father, including many in one of the country's most elite forces, the Republican Guards, military officials said Friday.

The arrests hinted at growing dissent in one of the key units that Mr. Saleh has relied on most to retain power in the face of five months of massive street protests demanding his ouster. (AP, IHT, REUTERS)

## Chávez, ill, could govern from seclusion, aide says

CARACAS

BY SIMON ROMERO

President Hugo Chávez, who shocked the nation by revealing that he had a cancerous tumor removed and would "continue battling," could keep governing Venezuela from his seclusion in Cuba for as long as six months, his vice president said Friday.

The statement by the vice president, Elias Jaua, a loyal supporter of Mr. Chávez who has said he has no plans to temporarily replace the president, will almost certainly intensify concerns in Venezuela over a power vacuum as Mr. Chávez recovers from cancer surgery in a Cuban medical complex.

In the few weeks the president has been out of the country, a bitter dispute between Mr. Chávez's followers and the political opposition has erupted over whether the Constitution allows Mr. Chávez, 56, to govern the country from abroad during his convalescence.

But the possibility of a much longer stay in Cuba has further emboldened Venezuela's spirited, if fractured, opposition, reinvigorating its hopes of defeating Mr. Chávez in a presidential election next year.

"It cannot be that the president is incapacitated for six months to fully exercise his duties, and nothing happens," said Teodoro Petkoff, editor of the opposition newspaper Tal Cual. "The vice president of the republic needs to take care of this."

Looking pale and keeping his remarks uncharacteristically short, Mr. Chávez acknowledged from Cuba on Thursday that he had undergone surgery there to remove the tumor, but he gave no indication of what type of cancer he had or when he hoped to return to



Chávez, in an image taken from Venezuelan TV, spoke from Cuba on Thursday.

Venezuela.

Mr. Jaua emphasized that he fully expected Mr. Chávez to return to Venezuela within 180 days. In his remarks, made in an interview with a Colombian radio station, he made it clear that he and other top officials in Mr. Chávez's government were relying on an interpretation of the Constitution that would allow the president to exercise his duties as head of state from abroad for a three-month period, which could then be extended for another three months.

"We're going to have a victory for the life of President Hugo Chávez," said Mr. Jaua, who directed land expropriations before Mr. Chávez named him vice president.

The situation is made more complex by a governing apparatus that revolves around the commanding personality of Mr. Chávez. The vice president has shown no desire to step into the leader's shoes. Senior military officials, meanwhile, asserted on Friday that Mr. Chávez remained in charge.

María Eugenia Díaz and Girish Gupta contributed reporting.

## Moroccans vote on king's proposals for political reform

BY J. DAVID GOODMAN

Moroccans went to the polls on Friday to vote on constitutional changes proposed last month by King Mohammed VI in a bid to introduce greater political openness and ward off the kind of pro-democracy protests that have swept the Arab world.

The proposals, which include choosing a prime minister from the largest elected party and establishing an independent judiciary, are expected to be approved by voters in a wide margin after a strong push in favor of the changes by the government and in the Moroccan media.

Voting began Friday morning at roughly 40,000 polling places across the relatively stable Muslim kingdom, the Moroccan news agency, Maghreb Arab Press, reported. Crowds were light but steady at polling places outside the capital, Rabat, The Associated Press said.

The king introduced the constitutional changes, which aim at addressing demands of opposition groups, during a rare television address in mid-June.

But some opponents of the king have objected to the measures, saying that despite formally calling the prime minister the "president of the government," the moves fall short of a constitutional monarchy and would leave the king as the head of state with absolute control over the military and in religious matters. Some have called for a boycott of the vote.

Among the new provisions, the proposed constitution would make Berber, a minority language in Morocco, an official language alongside Arabic, and would explicitly grant the government executive powers. Government ministers, ambassadors and provincial governors would be appointed by the prime minister, subject to the approval of the king.

## Thousands of Syrians protest in Hama

SYRIA, FROM PAGE 1

livered speeches, slogans and songs, they said. Others distributed water, falafel sandwiches and bananas to the crowds on a hot summer day.

"We didn't even see a policeman," said a 35-year-old opposition leader there who gave his first name as Mazen. "If the government pulls out all its security men from the streets on Friday, I can say that all cities will have as big demonstrations as Hama."

Residents said protesters joined the rally Friday from the countryside, unimpeded by checkpoints that had existed only weeks before. In Hama itself, even the traffic policemen were gone. They said that after the rally, protesters picked up trash and cleaned the square, a scene redolent of Tahrir Square in Cairo in February, where demonstrators spoke of a new notion of citizenship as an old authoritarian order crumbled.

"The numbers are so intense in Hama," said Omar Idlibi, a spokesman for the Local Coordination Committees, which have sought to represent the protesters.

Diplomats, activists and Syrian officials differ on the government's strategy in Hama: whether the departure points to a government attempt to avoid casualties or to security forces that are exhausted and overstretched.

Syrian officials have pointed to Hama as evidence that one of the region's most repressive governments can tolerate peaceful dissent, and have suggested that it is part of a new government approach to embrace what a Syrian diplomat called "much-needed reform."

"In the city of Hama, people have been demonstrating in public places for two weeks without any incident, because they expressed their political viewpoints peacefully," Imad Moustapha, the Syrian ambassador to the United States, wrote in a letter this week to the Syrian-American communi-

ty that was circulated by e-mail.

Residents, though, have spoken in more jubilant terms, celebrating the departure of the military and security forces as a victory. Though the military and security forces have withdrawn from other towns and cities only to return in force, the size of the crowds Friday suggested that a renewed crackdown could only come at a very high cost. Hama carries symbolic significance, too: In the culmination of a struggle between an armed Islamist opposition and the government in 1982, the military stormed Hama, the country's fourth-largest city, killing 10,000 people and perhaps far more.

"The regime showed more restraint there because of the sensitivities and

"Oh youth of Damascus, we're in Hama and we've toppled the regime."

the symbolism of Hama," said Peter Harling, a Damascus-based analyst with the International Crisis Group. "There was a desire on the part of the regime to contain this."

While officials have ceded territory to the protesters, their administration appears to still function in Hama; a pro-government rally was organized there last month. But the psychological impact of a security apparatus that vanished in days has reverberated through a predominantly Sunni Muslim city still scarred by the events of 1982.

"Oh youth of Damascus," went a chant shouted this week by youthful protesters in Aasi Square, "we're in Hama and we've toppled the regime."

"This regime doesn't want to create a problem in Hama," said Omar al-Habbal, a 57-year-old civil engineer there. "They don't want to blow up an

explosive situation."

Large crowds were also reported in the eastern city of Deir al-Zour, from which the military withdrew to the outskirts last month. The military and security forces have also withdrawn from Albu Kamal, on the Iraqi border, and some Damascus suburbs.

"As soon as the security forces pull out, the protests increase," Mr. Idlibi said.

Syrian state television broadcast images of pro-government rallies Friday in Damascus and Aleppo, and despite the scenes in Hama, the government still draws on substantial support, particularly among minorities, the middle class and the business elite.

As in past weeks, violence erupted in several locations across the country, though the death toll was lower than past weeks. Mr. Idlibi said that in Homs, a city to the south of Hama that has emerged as a nexus of the uprising, security forces killed three people, and residents said the military deployed armored vehicles into some neighborhoods.

Syrian state television said that armed men in Homs fired on crowds and security forces, killing a civilian and a policeman. It also reported that armed men cut the road in a Damascus suburb and in an exchange of fire with the gunmen, a civilian was killed.

Throughout the uprising, the Syrian government has blamed an armed uprising for most of the deaths, and indeed, diplomats have said there is evidence of armed opponents across Syria. But those diplomats and the protesters themselves contend that a clear majority of the demonstrations have remained peaceful and largely spontaneous.

Mr. Idlibi said security forces also killed three people in Idlib, a restive province in northwestern Syria — two in the capital's suburbs and one in Latakia, on the coast.

Hwaida Saad contributed reporting.

## Religious Services

### Paris and Suburbs

**SAINT JOSEPH'S** English speaking Catholic Church Mon-Fri. Masses 8:30am Sat. 11am & 6:30pm (Vigil), Sunday Masses 9:30, 11, 12:30 & 6:30pm. 50 ave Hoche, Paris 8th. Tel 01 42 27 28 56 Metro Charles de Gaulle - Etoile. [www.stjosephparis.org](http://www.stjosephparis.org)

**AMERICAN CHURCH IN PARIS** Worship 9:00 am & 11:00 am. Contemporary Service at 1:30 pm 65 quai d'Orsay, Paris 7th, Bus 63, Metro Alma-Marcou or Invalides. Tel 01 40 62 05 00. [www.acparis.org](http://www.acparis.org)

### Vietnam

**NEW LIFE FELLOWSHIP,** Ho Chi Minh City. English worship: 10:30 am Sunday. Email: [newlife@hcm.vnn.vn](mailto:newlife@hcm.vnn.vn)

**Association of Int'l Churches**

### Zurich

**ENGLISH SPEAKING** Catholic Mission Zurich Minervastrasse 69 (see website for directions) Tel. 044 382 02 06. [www.englishmission.ch](http://www.englishmission.ch) Mass times: Saturday 6pm (Crypt) and Sunday 11.15am (Church)

**Association of Int'l Churches**

### Zurich

**Int'l Protestant Church of Zurich.** English worship service: 11.30 at French Reformed Church, corner of Schanzengasse and Promenadengasse. Sun. School & Nursery. Evening service: Every Sunday except the last Sunday of the month, 18.30 at Methodist Church Promenadengasse 4. Tel: (044) 262 55 25 [www.ipc-zurich.org](http://www.ipc-zurich.org)