

TABLE OF CONTENTS

ARTICLES PUBLISHED BY

EMAL HAIDARY, LOS ANGELES TIMES CONTRIBUTOR

AND DANIEL PEARL FELLOW

AT ALFRED FRIENDLY PRESS FELLOWSHIPS

Articles

1. [Man gets 30 years for producing child porn](#)
June 23, 2011
2. [Keck Foundation Gives \\$150 Million to USC Medical School](#)
June 13, 2011
3. [Online video a parting tribute from high school seniors](#)
June 16, 2011
4. [In Arnold Schwarzenegger's Brentwood neighborhood, shock over news of affair](#)
May 17, 2011
5. [Inglewood Club owner fatally shot at wheel of Rolls-Royce](#)
May 14, 2011
6. [Angels to ask fans to attempt mask-wearing world record during tonight's game](#)
May 10, 2011
7. [Osama bin Laden's death: The view from abroad](#)
May 8, 2011
8. [IRAQ: Government to disband tribunal set up for Saddam Hussein trial](#)
May 4, 2011
9. [IRAQ: At least nine killed in Baghdad bombing](#)
May 3, 2011
10. [IRAN: American hiker, released on bail after being detained in 2009, is subpoenaed for court hearing](#)
April 26, 2011
11. [Karzai labels abductions un-Islamic and disgraceful](#)
July 30, 2007

Man gets 30 years for producing child porn

The El Monte resident had said on a CHP job application that he watched child porn. An inquiry found an extensive collection, including pictures of him molesting a 5-year-old girl.

  AA   Recommend  118  Tweet  11  Share  33  Comments  25

By Emal Haidary, Los Angeles Times

June 23, 2011

A 31-year-old El Monte man who molested a 5-year-old girl and took pictures of his attacks was sentenced Wednesday to 30 years in prison for producing child pornography.

Christian Hernandez was arrested in 2009 after he disclosed on his application to become a California Highway Patrol officer that he viewed child pornography on the Internet.

CHP officials launched an investigation, searching Hernandez's home, where they found "an extensive collection of child pornography depicting minors being raped by adult men" on his computer, according to briefs filed by prosecutors.

Among the images were pictures of Hernandez molesting a 5-year-old girl in the bedroom of his house, according to a statement by the U.S. attorney's office. Authorities said Hernandez sexually abused the child for at least a year.

Hernandez "has no shame regarding his conduct, instead, he bragged about his conduct on a job application to the CHP," prosecutors said in court papers.

U.S. District Judge Otis D. Wright II gave Hernandez the maximum prison sentence and ordered that he be placed on supervised release for the rest of his life when he is released. Hernandez was also ordered to pay more than \$71,000 for counseling for the victim until she turns 18.

Wright said Hernandez deserved a lengthy sentence because of the enormous harm to the victims and Hernandez's ongoing denial of "the full extent of the sexual abuse of the victims," according to the U.S. attorney's statement.

Los Angeles Times

LOCAL U.S. WORLD BUSINESS SPORTS ENTERTAINMENT HEALTH LIVING TRAVEL OPINION

L.A. NOW POLITICS CRIME EDUCATION O.C. WESTSIDE NEIGHBORHOODS ENVIRONMENT

YOU ARE HERE: [LAT Home](#) → [Collections](#) → [Medical Research](#)

Keck Foundation gives \$150 million to USC medical school

The funds, aimed at improving the school's medical research ranking, will help recruit faculty in fields of stem cells, cancer, liver disease and preventative health. It is USC's third large donation since March.

June 13, 2011 By Larry Gordon, Los Angeles Times

Times staff writer Emal Haidary contributed to this report.

The W. M. Keck Foundation on Monday will announce a gift of \$150 million to boost scientific research at USC's medical school and at two affiliated hospitals, adding to the university's recent success in attracting supersized donations.

The gift is the single largest in the 57-year history of the Keck Foundation, which has backed many scientific projects, including the famous Keck Observatory and telescopes in Hawaii. For USC, the money marks the third mega-gift since March, for a total of \$460 million, as new President C. L. Max Nikias seeks to build the Los Angeles university's endowment.

The Keck money will be paid out over 20 years with the goal of raising the academic reputation of USC's medical school now that the university has full authority over USC University Hospital, a 411-bed general care facility, and the 60-bed USC Norris Cancer Hospital, said James Ukropina, a Los Angeles attorney who is a vice president of the Keck Foundation.

In 2009, USC bought the two Eastside hospitals from Tenet Healthcare Corp. for \$275 million, ending a long dispute over control and improvements. USC had supplied faculty to the Tenet hospitals and trained students there but had not been able to implement all the programs that professors wanted.

"It's very difficult to have a leading research university today without a great medical school," Ukropina said. And strengthening the school and hospitals, he added, "will have immense benefits to the Los Angeles community."

U.S. News & World Report recently ranked USC 36th in the nation among medical research schools, tied with the Oregon Health & Science University. Harvard was No. 1 and three UC medical schools ranked high: UC San Francisco, No. 5; UCLA, No. 13 and UC San Diego, No. 15.

USC wants to boost its rankings in that category, as it has done in recent years with the reputation of its undergraduate programs.

The Keck gift is not earmarked to a specific area of medical research, but is being left open for USC to recruit top faculty in fields the school deems most promising, officials said. Those areas include stem cells, cancer, liver disease and preventative healthcare, according to Dr. Edward Crandall, chairman of the school's Department of Medicine. "We will vigorously target outstanding young and mid-career scientists to come to USC with the help of this money," he said.

In 1999, the USC medical school received a \$110-million donation from the Los Angeles-based foundation and was renamed after Keck. With the latest donation, the entire medical center, which is about 7 miles northeast of the main university campus, will bear the Keck name, as will the general hospital; the cancer center will still be named after donor Kenneth Norris Jr.

USC physicians also provide services on a contract basis to Los Angeles County-USC Medical Center, a 600-bed public facility.

The founder of Superior Oil Co., William Myron Keck used his wealth to establish the foundation, which now has assets of more than \$1.2 billion. His grandson Robert Day, its current chairman, said in a prepared statement that he expects the research funded by the USC donation will "expand the boundaries of medical knowledge and improve quality of life for vast numbers of people."

Including the three nine-figure gifts since March and numerous smaller gifts, Nikias said he expects fundraising to total about \$1 billion when his first year in office is completed by the end of the summer. In March, USC received its largest donation to date, a [\\$200-million gift](#) to the College of Letters, Arts & Sciences from alumnus David Dornsife, a steel industry businessman, and his wife Dana. In April, engineering school alumnus and oil businessman John Mork and his wife, Julie, [gave \\$110 million](#) for undergraduate financial aid.

The [single largest gift](#) to a U.S. college or university was the \$600-million pledge to Caltech in 2001 from Intel Corp. co-founder Gordon Moore, his wife, Betty, and their foundation, according to the Chronicle of Higher Education.

Online video a parting tribute from high school seniors

Clovis High students lip-sync to two songs and, in a single take, lead viewers around the Fresno-area campus. Nearly all parts of student life are presented.



"Livin' on a Prayer" by Bon Jovi and "Firework" by Katy Perry provide the soundtrack for the video. (YouTube)

By Emal Haidary, Los Angeles Times

June 16, 2011

The Clovis High School Class of 2011 has left a lasting legacy: Members made a [video](#) aimed at portraying all aspects of their school life — and featuring nearly every one of the 600 graduates.

In a lively, nearly 11-minute video posted on [YouTube](#), the students at the school near Fresno lip-sync to two songs and lead viewers on a tour around campus. Nearly all parts of student life are presented, among them the athletes, the cheerleaders, the folklorico dancers.

The video, "Clovis High Class of 2011 Lip Dub," was notable because the students shot it silently — the other students on campus were taking state-mandated exams and the seniors couldn't distract them.

It also was shot in a single take and wasn't edited.

"We thought it would be a great way to showcase the school spirit, unity and contributions of this senior class," said Chrissy Prandini, the school's activities director. The video, she said, also paid tribute to the teachers, advisors, coaches and

administrators who helped the graduates find success over the course of their educational lives.

The video has been viewed nearly 42,000 times.

"I'm really proud of the video now that it's online," said Nicole May, one of the seniors. "I'm really happy that our senior class gets to be showcased and remembered this way."

"Livin' on a Prayer" by [Bon Jovi](#) and "Firework" by [Katy Perry](#) provide the soundtrack for the video, which was conceived as a farewell recording to the school.

The students developed the project for more than two months, but they had only two days to rehearse in a gym before they started recording.

"In leadership [class], we got shown a few of these lip dub videos from other schools, and we immediately thought, 'Oh, we could do this so much better,' " May said.

She said it was the students' goal to leave something "that will always be remembered" and that helped maintain their motivation.

The video has become a symbol for unity and self-expression not only on campus but in the school district and the community as well, Prandini said.

emal.haidary@latimes.com

<http://www.latimes.com/news/local/la-me-clovis-seniors-20110616,0,4118471.story>

In Arnold Schwarzenegger's Brentwood neighborhood, shock over news of affair

Tue May 17 2011 11:19 AM



In Arnold Schwarzenegger's Brentwood neighborhood, shock over news of affair

News that Arnold Schwarzenegger fathered a child with a household staffer rattled some patrons Tuesday of a Brentwood coffee shop not far from the ex-governor's home.

Sel Muttah, 34, a Los Angeles bookseller, said he was upset and angry over the revelations after reading about them in the newspaper outside a Starbucks where Schwarzenegger and his family have occasionally been spotted.

Photos: A political marriage with star power

Muttah never voted for him, in part because he suspected Schwarzenegger was a womanizer. Now, he expects the popularity of the former governor and movie star to sink.

"This is not right. He was lying to his family, cheating on them for 10 years," he said. "He would not be governor if people knew about it."

Others who had supported Schwarzenegger were more muted in their criticism.

"It's hard to judge. He has messed up the whole thing," said Simon Nicholson, 52, a designer. "I'm sad because he's got a family, but not angry.

"It's a bad mistake," he added. "But that is his life and that's his business."

Nicholson voted for Schwarzenegger and said the news doesn't change his opinion of him as a politician and entrepreneur.

"I would still vote for him because he's very charismatic and a good businessman," he said. "That's what we need."

Matin Yaldash, 31, a college student and onetime supporter of Schwarzenegger, expressed sympathy for the former governor's wife, Maria Shriver.

"All the support Maria gave him was eroded," Yaldash said. "It's not fair. He should not get away with it." Yaldash now says he regrets having voted for Schwarzenegger.

"Transparency is very important for voters," he said. "But he kept all this under wraps."

-- Emal Haidary in Brentwood

<http://mobile.latimes.com/p.p?m=b&a=rp&tl=281863&postId=281863&postUserId=7&sessionToken=>

Los Angeles Times

LOCAL U.S. WORLD BUSINESS SPORTS ENTERTAINMENT HEALTH LIVING TRAVEL OPINION

L.A. NOW POLITICS CRIME EDUCATION O.C. WESTSIDE NEIGHBORHOODS ENVIRONMENT

YOU ARE HERE: LAT Home → Collections → News

Inglewood Club owner fatally shot at wheel of Rolls-Royce

Alonzo "Dicky" Ester was shot in the driveway of his Baldwin Hills home. A security guard, as a precaution, had followed Ester part of the way from his nightclub to the house.

May 14, 2011 By Abby Sewell and Richard Winton, Los Angeles Times



Friends of club owner Alonzo "Dicky" Ester console one another after he was fatally shot early Friday. (Mel Melcon / Los Angeles Times)

Alonzo Ester enjoyed showing off the spoils of his success, including his Rolls-Royce Phantom and his Mediterranean-style home in Baldwin Hills. But friends said he was also a cautious, street-smart man who even avoided the Inglewood nightclub he owned during the late-night hours.

Early Friday, as a measure of his caution, a security guard from the Dynasty Restaurant and Lounge followed 67-year-old businessman partway home, believing that a white truck or SUV was staking out the nightclub on Locust Street.

Ester made it as far as his driveway, where he was shot to death as he sat in his milk-white car. Police said the killer apparently approached the driver's side door and fired one or two shots about 2:30 a.m. Ester died later at a hospital.

Family members and friends said Ester — known to friends as "Dicky" — was a successful real estate entrepreneur and nightclub owner who was mindful of the urban scene.

"He's been around a long time in the streets, so he's always cautious," said 41-year-old Anthony Jett, who said he was Ester's godson.

His ex-wife, Patricia Ester, 60, said Ester had talked about wanting to move to the suburbs, concerned about crime in the city. His house in the 4200 block of Hillcrest Drive had been broken into before, she said. Still, family members said they are not aware that Ester had any enemies.

Witnesses who heard the gunfire reported seeing a man leaving the neighborhood in a sedan, said Capt. Vito Palazzolo of the Los Angeles Police Department. Witnesses told The Times that a silver BMW had been parked on the street half an hour or more before the incident and was gone after the shooting.

Ester was a gregarious man who liked to entertain guests at his home. His annual birthday party at the Dynasty Restaurant was a "red-carpet affair" that drew hundreds, said Denice Daggans, 56, one of numerous friends who stopped by the house Friday after hearing news of his death.

The club owner was a self-made man who moved to Los Angeles from a small town in Louisiana when he was 18, family members said.

Patricia Ester, who remained close with her ex-husband, described him as a "people person" and workaholic. "He was friendly, cheerful, but extremely business," she said.

She said her father gave Ester his start in real estate, and mentored him as he established himself as a successful landlord. He later bought a liquor store in Long Beach.

The couple lived together in Leimert Park before Ester bought the house on Hillcrest Drive in 1999. Initially, it was a fairly modest one-story home, but after it burned in a fire, he rebuilt it in a more palatial style.

Angels to ask fans to attempt mask-wearing world record during tonight's game

May 10, 2011 | 11:10 am

By Emal Haidary

The Los Angeles Angels of Anaheim are aiming to set a Guinness world record for the largest gathering of people wearing costume masks Tuesday night at Angel Stadium, an official said.

Every fan who shows up when the Angels play the White Sox at 7:05 p.m. will be given an Angels red wrestling mask when they enter the stadium. About 40,000 fans are expected to take part in the event.

"Setting another world record to complement last season's blanket event will be a unique and memorable experience for our fans and another memory during our 50th anniversary," Angels spokesman Robert Alvarado said in a statement.

The Angels set the world record last year for the largest gathering of people wearing fleece blankets when more than 40,000 fans at the stadium wore complimentary Hideki Matsui "blankies" during the fifth inning of a game against the Minnesota Twins.

The Tuesday night crowd will be prompted during the game to don their masks for 10 consecutive minutes, after which a Guinness world records adjudicator will officially certify the record.

A short ceremony will follow to recognize the record-breaking attempt.

<http://latimesblogs.latimes.com/lanow/2011/05/angels-to-attempt-mask-wearing-world-record.html>



OP-ED

Osama bin Laden's death: The view from abroad

What commentators around the world have said about the significant event.

29 6 33 27

May 8, 2011

In the days after [Osama bin Laden](#) was killed by Navy SEALs in [Pakistan](#), commentators around the world weighed in about what the event signified. Here are excerpts of opinion writing from international publications. They were compiled by **Emal Haidary**.

From an unsigned editorial in [Outlook Afghanistan](#)

It might be the end of [Osama bin Laden's] physical existence, but the challenge to deal with terrorist-led insurgency will still remain as the greatest challenge for Afghanistan and rest of the world. Now it will remain to be seen whether the U.S. government decides to pull out after eliminating Osama bin Laden physically, or whether it will further increase its determination and commitment for the final victory against the terrorism.

From an unsigned editorial in [Pakistan's Daily Times](#)

Pakistan has found itself in quite the embarrassing situation. Osama bin Laden was found in a military town just a mile or so away from the Kakul Military Academy. How he was able to hide there without any action on our part is going to be a hard sell to the Americans.

So far, we have been milking the same excuse: joint intelligence and a willingness on our part in counter-terror operations led to this victory. Scratching beneath the surface may reveal other truths entirely. Whilst we have been allies of the U.S., we have been very trying partners, picking and choosing the militants we wanted to root out and the ones we wanted to protect. No doubt, in the coming days, Pakistan's exact role in the war on terror and Osama's death will become clearer. It is hoped we will not be on the receiving end of negative fallout with the Americans, who are in this war for the long haul.

Gary Younge in [Britain's Guardian](#)

This was not so much the exercise of American power as the performance of it. Coming eight years to the day after [George W. Bush](#) landed on the USS [Abraham Lincoln](#) to announce "Mission accomplished" in [Iraq](#), news of [Bin Laden's death](#) was yet another mediated milestone in this war on an abstract noun. Like the capture of [Saddam Hussein](#), the murder of Bin Laden changes little. [Al Qaeda](#) was never a top-down organization, and was in decline anyhow — and the principal reason for its waning fortunes is the uprisings in the Arab world, revolts that have mostly taken place against America's client states.

But to suggest that "justice has been done," as President Obama did on Sunday night, seems perverse. This was not justice; it was an extra-judicial execution. If you shoot a man twice in the head, you do not find him guilty. You find him dead. This was revenge. And it was served very cold indeed.

From an unsigned editorial in [Lebanon's Daily Star](#)

It is time for the United States and other countries interested in pursuing the so-called war on terror to turn over a new leaf, by formulating a new policy. This new policy should not be created and carried out in unilateral fashion, or with the same small group of allied countries; it should be the result of a wider partnership. Just as the [G-8](#) was too small to handle the complex global economy, the complex global phenomenon of terrorism requires a much more inclusive mix of nations....

If Washington and its friends ... are serious about fighting terror, they must uphold the values that they constantly champion: democracy, freedom, human rights and reform, while ensuring that their own records can be scrutinized.

If they indulge certain Arab regimes, for example, while targeting others, the policy will certainly backfire, as the world has witnessed thus far during the "year of Arab revolutions."

If [Israel's](#) human rights violations are a "[no-fly zone](#)" for criticism, they should not be surprised that their own "no-fly zones" for the enemy Arab regime of the moment will be questioned when protection for other populations is absent.

Amir Oren writing in Israel's Haaretz

The assassination of the most wanted man in the world, coming on the heels of the bombing of [Muammar Gadhafi's](#) headquarters, is a lethal message to Hezbollah chief Hassan Nasrallah, to [Hamas'](#) military chief in [Gaza](#), Ahmed Jabari, and to Qassem Suleimani of the Iranian Quds Force, which cherishes the memory of Hezbollah's Imad Mughniyeh. It is an achievement of the system, not of a single individual; of continuity, investment and persistence.

Tariq A. Al Maeena writing in the United Arab Emirates' Gulf News

Events in Libya, Syria, Algeria, Yemen and Bahrain today are more important for those facing the challenges within those borders than the death of a man considered to be the icon of terror in the 21st century.

From an unsigned editorial in [Saudi Arabia's Arab News](#)

For years, there have been reports that Bin Laden was in Pakistan. The authorities consistently denied them. Their credibility is now blown apart. More importantly, certainly as far as the Pakistani public will be concerned, a foreign state has walked into their country without government knowledge, done what it wanted and walked out. Anywhere else in the world this would have resulted in a furious row, broken diplomatic relations and/or the government falling. The latter may yet happen.

Pakistan has suffered more at the hands of the [Taliban](#) and Al Qaeda than any other country. Thirty thousand people have been killed. The military have been attacked again and again. In Swat and Waziristan, the army has fought with great courage. The war against the Taliban is not over. If it is to win, the army needs the full support of every sector of Pakistani civil society. The government has to ensure that the military's efforts are not undermined by incompetence or an enemy within.

An urgent inquiry and, if necessary, a thorough overhaul of its intelligence services and its defense capabilities are the minimum required if Pakistan is to reestablish its international credibility.

From an unsigned editorial in Pakistan's The News

For Islamabad, the whole business is something of an embarrassment. Despite years of fervent denial, Bin Laden has been found on Pakistani soil. And now that the brazen U.S. action in Abbotabad has happened, there may be other attempts to go after key militant figures in different urban centers....

The Western jubilation we are seeing on our television screens should not distract us from the fact that militancy will continue. It has not died with Bin Laden. Al Qaeda has, over the years, splintered, and given rise to many other groups. These will continue with their actions; revenge may be attempted — and the dangers we face are, tragically, far from over, even if the

killing of Bin Laden delivers a demoralizing blow to militants everywhere.

From an unsigned editorial in Afghanistan's Arman-e-Mili

The death of Osama bin Laden is considered a danger bell for Mullah Omar, the leader of Taliban. If the U.S. puts more pressure on Pakistan, we will soon witness the last days of Omar and his associates. With the death of Bin Laden, the people of Afghanistan are now more hopeful that the U.S. will put more pressure on Pakistan soon.

Fatih Abdulsalam writing in Iraq's Azzaman

Was the news of Bin Laden's burial at sea meant to provoke hundreds of millions of Muslims who are still divided on Osama Bin Laden...? [The Americans] said they were compelled to do so because there was no country willing to receive his body. This is a pretext as there is no evidence that Washington had contacted all the countries in the world to see whether they would accept to provide a proper burial for him.... Everything was done in accordance with the American way that is characterized with blunders and stupidity.

Gregor Peter Schmitz writing in Germany's Der Spiegel

The death of Osama bin Laden will not provide a happy ending for America's tale of woe. Because America is no longer the country it was before 9/11. That's something not even a courageous team of Navy SEALs can change....

At least 3,000 people died at the hands of mass-murderer Bin Laden, and all efforts were justified to find him. But Washington didn't just begin a search for a criminal. Instead, it launched one of the largest campaigns for retribution in history.

On the American side, there have been about 6,000 dead U.S. soldiers, not to mention \$1.3 trillion in new federal debt that is attributed to the wars in Afghanistan and Iraq. But the real costs will likely be much higher. The U.S. has accumulated a total debt burden of over \$14 trillion, even though it was running a budget surplus just 10 years ago....

America has become so caught up in a culture of fear and anxiety that it spends more on defense than all other countries put together. And it is caught up in wars that it cannot win — and which it no longer wants to fight, if one believes American opinion polls about the war in Afghanistan.

Of course, security is a country's most important right. But in the search of it, the United States has so far overshot the mark that its citizens have long had a greater fear of debt than of terrorism.

Emal Haidary, a reporter from Kabul, Afghanistan, is a visiting journalist at the Times sponsored by the Daniel Pearl Foundation in partnership with the Alfred Friendly Press Fellowships.

Copyright © 2011, Los Angeles Times

<http://www.latimes.com/news/opinion/commentary/la-oe-opinion-roundup-bin-laden-20110508.0.6833997.full.story>

Babylon & Beyond from the staff of the Los Angeles Times and...

OBSERVATIONS FROM IRAQ, IRAN,
ISRAEL, THE ARAB WORLD AND BEYOND



[« Previous](#) | [Babylon & Beyond Home](#) | [Next »](#)

IRAQ: Government to disband tribunal set up for Saddam Hussein trial

May 4, 2011 | 5:54 pm

A special court set up to prosecute former leader Saddam Hussein and his associates after the 2003 U.S.-led invasion of Iraq will be disbanded, the Iraqi government said Wednesday.

A proposed law to disband the tribunal has been sent to the parliament, according to a government statement. The legislation sets June 30 as a deadline to close the court, a spokesman, Raid Juhi, told the Associated Press. Juhi said the court had completed its work, aside from a few minor cases.

Hussein was hanged in 2006 for his role in the deaths of more than 140 Shiite Muslims after an attempt on his life in 1982.

The fairness of the court's proceedings, involving the trials of dozens of former officials, has been questioned by members of Iraq's Sunni Muslim community and a number of international human rights organizations.

-- Emal Haidary

<http://latimesblogs.latimes.com/babylonbeyond/2011/05/iraq-court-saddam-hussein-parliament-invasion-tribunal.html>

Babylon & Beyond

from the staff of the Los Angeles Times and...

OBSERVATIONS FROM IRAQ, IRAN,
ISRAEL, THE ARAB WORLD AND BEYOND



[« Previous](#) | [Babylon & Beyond Home](#) | [Next »](#)

IRAQ: At least nine killed in Baghdad bombing

May 3, 2011 | 3:29 pm

At least nine people were killed and many wounded Tuesday in a car bomb explosion in south Baghdad, officials in Iraq said.

The blast occurred in front of a cafe, according to news reports. Many of the dead and injured were young people, police and medical officials said.

"It was a bomb inside a vehicle which resulted in the death and injury of a number of civilians in the district of Abu Dshir," said Maj. Gen. Qassim Atta Moussawi, spokesman for security forces in Baghdad, Reuters news agency reported.

No one had claimed responsibility for the attack by late Tuesday.

-- Emal Haidary

<http://latimesblogs.latimes.com/babylonbeyond/2011/05/baghdad-iraq-car-bomb-killed-dead-civilians-attack.html>

Babylon & Beyond from the staff of the Los Angeles Times and...

OBSERVATIONS FROM IRAQ, IRAN, ISRAEL, THE ARAB WORLD AND BEYOND



[« Previous](#) | [Babylon & Beyond Home](#) | [Next »](#)

IRAN: American hiker, released on bail after being detained in 2009, is subpoenaed for court hearing

April 26, 2011 | 1:56 pm

By Emal Haidary

A woman who was among three Americans detained by Iranian forces in 2009 on suspicion of spying is wanted back in Iran for a court hearing in May, a news agency reported Tuesday.



Subpoenas issued by the Iranian Foreign Ministry indicate Sarah Shourd's presence at the court session scheduled May 11 is considered mandatory, said her lawyer, Masoud Shafii, according to the official Islamic Republic News Agency.

Iran released Shourd on \$500,000 bail in September, but her two male companions remained jailed in Tehran. Shourd, Shane Bauer and Joshua Fattal, who have pleaded not guilty, were hiking near the Iran-Iraq border when they were arrested.

Espionage charges can carry the death penalty under Iranian law.

<http://latimesblogs.latimes.com/babylonbeyond/2011/04/iran-sarah-shourd-trial-spying-shane-bauer-joshua-fattal.html>

Los Angeles Times

LOCAL U.S. **WORLD** BUSINESS SPORTS ENTERTAINMENT HEALTH LIVING TRAVEL OPINION

AFGHANISTAN & PAKISTAN AFRICA ASIA EUROPE IRAN IRAQ LATIN AMERICA MEXICO UNDER SIEGE

YOU ARE HERE: LAT Home → Collections → Kidnapings

THE WORLD

Karzai labels abductions un-Islamic and disgraceful

Afghan kidnapers say South Koreans will be killed if 23 militants are not freed today.

Emal Haidary and Laura King | Special to The Times

President Hamid Karzai declared Sunday that the abduction of 23 South Korean church workers by Taliban militants was an un-Islamic act that brought disgrace on Afghanistan.

Karzai issued his statement, his first since the hostage crisis began, after meeting with Baek Jong-chun, a special envoy sent by South Korean President Roh Moo-hyun.

Eighteen of the captives are women, and Karzai said their abduction was a particularly heinous act.

"Hostage taking and abuse of foreign guests, especially women, is against Islam and the Afghan culture," Karzai's office quoted him as telling the envoy. "The perpetration of this heinous act on our soil is in total contempt of our Islamic and Afghan values."

Similar sentiments were voiced Sunday by Afghanistan's national council of clerics.

Meanwhile, a purported Taliban spokesman set a new deadline of noon today for the freeing of 23 militants held by Afghan authorities, threatening to kill the hostages if the demand was not met.

"If the Kabul administration fails to meet our conditions by then, we will start killing the hostages," Qari Yousef Ahmadi, who claims to speak for the kidnapers, said by telephone.

The Korean church workers were seized by militants July 19 as they traveled on a public bus along the Kabul-Kandahar highway. The group's leader, a pastor, was shot and killed by his captors Wednesday, setting off a wave of grief and dismay in South Korea.

The church group's decision to take public transportation on a notoriously dangerous stretch of highway has been termed extremely foolhardy by security officials and foreign aid personnel who work in Afghanistan. South Koreans have been riveted by the drama, and there has been an outpouring of sympathy for the hostages' plight.

Karzai's office said South Korean envoy Baek had thanked the Afghan leader for his efforts and would respect whatever course of action the government took to end the standoff.

Tribal elders in Ghazni province, where the group was taken captive, have been seeking without success to mediate an agreement with the kidnapers.

Several deadlines for the granting of the kidnapers' demands have passed without incident, but the abductors have repeatedly warned against trying to rescue the 22 remaining captives by force.

The captors say the church workers are being held in small groups in different locations, which would make their rescue difficult and complicated.