

Pope honours victims of killings of Armenians, Nazi horror

AFP, Vatican City Pope John Paul II on Sunday beatified an Armenian archbishop who died during the 1915 massacre of Armenians under Ottoman Turkish rule, and a German journalist who was executed by the Nazis following a failed 1944 attempt on Adolf Hitler's life.

Nikolaus Gross was a non-violent opponent of Hitler's rule and is already officially recognised by the church as a martyr. Although his official biography said he was not personally involved in preparing or carrying out the July 1944 attack on the German dictator, he was arrested for treason and executed the following January.

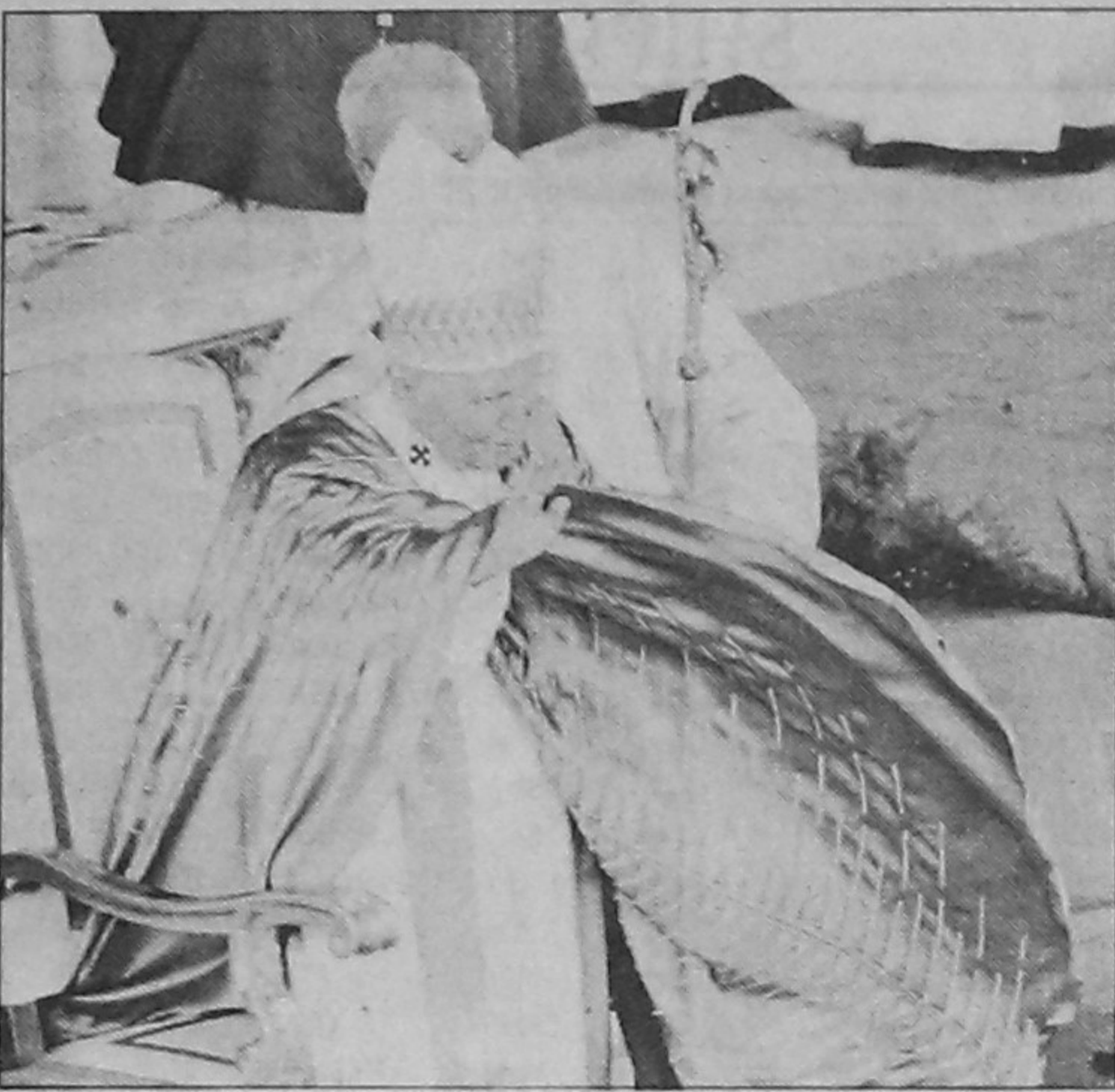
According to the Simon Wiesenthal Center's Museum of Tolerance, Gross had been trying to organise Catholic workers in preparation for the assassination attempt.

"Being opposed to all forms of violence, Nikolaus Gross had disassociated himself from the plot," said Andrea Ambrosi, the lawyer in

charge of his beatification process. The pope also beatified Archbishop Ignatius Malayan, who died during the massacre of an estimated 1.5 million Armenian Christians in 1915, in what was then the Ottoman Empire, a German nun, Maria Eutymia Uffing, who died in 1955 aged 41, as well as Emilie Tavernier Gamelin, who founded the Sisters of Providence religious community in Montreal and who died in 1851.

In a prayer for the people who died in the explosion of a Russian jet over the Black Sea last week as well as "stable peace" in Colombia after an agreement between the country's guerrilla and the government, the 81-year-old head of the Roman Catholic Church also asked believers to pray for world peace every day in October.

Since the start of his pontificate in 1978 John Paul II has beatified more than 1,200 people as an example to follow by the Catholic faithful. He has also canonised 400 others making them saints.



Pope John Paul II blesses the faithful at the end of the beatification ceremony in St. Peter's square yesterday. The Holy Father beatified seven people, elevating three women and four men to one step from sainthood, including a German hanged in 1945 for opposing the Nazis.



An AFP graph shows the different troops deployment outside Afghanistan. US launched attacks on Afghanistan last night. (Story on page 1)

Fear stalks many New Yorkers who escaped WTC bombings

AFP, New York Nearly a month after escaping from the 47th floor of the World Trade Center, Jonathan Becker jumps when he hears a siren, is too afraid to ride the subway, avoids downtown Manhattan and panics at talk of chemical attack.

Becker, 23, wanders desperately to forget the events of September 11, but everywhere he sees reminders.

This week, he had his first nightmare. "People were beating me up and there was nothing I could do to stop them," he said.

He went back to work 15 days ago, which he said helped, but Becker still regularly finds himself crossing the city gripped by fear.

"I'm afraid, really. When I hear the horns of lorries or the sirens of ambulances, I am sure that something terrible is happening again and I cannot drive properly," he said.

Becker no longer goes to lower Manhattan, where the centre's 110-floor towers once dominated the skyline, or frequents nightclubs he used to go to. He finds going on the subway frightening, and listening to the television.

"All they ever do is talk about suicide or chemical attacks," he

said. The US national also is considering leaving New York or even the United States.

Those affected directly by the suicide attacks with hijacked airliners which collapsed the twin towers could face panic attacks or bouts of nervousness for years when confronted by certain triggers or images, said

Psychologist Gilbert Reyes said many of those people not directly affected by the attacks, who nevertheless have seen the security of their daily lives shaken, were starting to move back towards some kind of normality.

"Most people are able to think about other things, that's a very good sign, and yet at the same time the tragedy is in the back of their mind and then comes up in every conversation," he said.

"They might be talking about going to dinner, seeing a play, and then they say 'I feel bad doing that because of this'."

Reyes said some people in New York could be suffering from trauma even though they only witnessed the attacks and their aftermath through the media.

He said many people whose daily lives had been changed by attack, even in small ways, could be affected.

UN "not ready" yet if refugee crisis erupts on Iranian border

AFP, Mashhad

UN officials along Iran's north-eastern border admitted on Sunday they do not have enough tents or clean water to cope with the refugee crisis expected to erupt if a US-led military coalition attacks Afghanistan.

"We are not ready if something happens," Toshiro Odashima, head of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) office in the north-eastern city of Mashhad near the Afghan border, told AFP.

Odashima said his agency had hoped to stock-pile along the 900 kilometre border enough tents, clean water and other relief supplies for up to 80,000 refugees in the initial phase of a crisis.

But he said there was only enough aid to meet "30 per cent" of the needs of 50,000 anticipated refugees in this northern sector of Iran's Khorrasan province, and another 30,000 in the southern sector.

"We are trying to fill the gap in the coming week," Odashima said.

Specifically, the UNHCR is hoping for more humanitarian flights from Europe and shipments of tents and other supplies from the Pakistani port of Karachi, but may also have to obtain supplies locally in Iran.

Early Saturday two plane sent by the British government arrived in Mashhad loaded with tents, plastic sheets and other supplies. Meanwhile, two UN engineers arrived from Germany on Thursday to search for water and dig wells along border areas near sites where refugee camps might be built.

The United Nations has forecast a worst-case scenario of 400,000 refugees surging to the Iranian border for fear of US-led military action against Osama bin Laden, who is believed to be hiding in Afghanistan.

Bin Laden is suspected of being behind the September 11 attacks in New York and Washington using hijacked airliners which killed more than 5,000 people.

UN officials said they were also urging Iranian authorities to change their mind and allow camps to be set up inside their country to ensure the safety of

both Afghan refugees and humanitarian workers.

Iran, which already shelters more than two million Afghan refugees, has pledged to help build several refugee camps, but only inside Afghanistan and is adamant about keeping its borders closed to prevent a further influx.

Odashima referred to high-level talks between the United Nations and Iran on the location of the camps as "a delicate issue."

"The Iranians have very good reason to say 'we have more than enough refugees'," he said.

Other UN officials also said the Iranians had told them they were in contact with Afghanistan's ruling Taliban militia to arrange the camps inside Afghan territory, but that they remained "hopeful" that Tehran would agree to set up the interior camps.

Workers for other UN agencies were meanwhile flocking to Mashhad to organise relief efforts since UN expatriate workers were

evacuated from Afghanistan for security reasons in the wake of the anti-US attacks.

Ershad Karim, who represented UNICEF in the western Afghan city of Herat, said his agency is arranging for medical supplies and blankets to cross Tuesday through the border at Dogharoun, around 250 kilometres southeast of Mashhad.

The supplies will be transferred to trucks on the other side of the border and driven by Afghan employees to Herat and the surrounding area, Karim said.

"We are going to increase enormously our activities in Iran," said the WFP representative in Iran, Marius de Gaay Fortman.



A model presents a creation for Christian Lacroix during the spring/summer 2002 ready-to-wear collections in Paris yesterday.

TODAY'S TRADED ISSUES OCTOBER 07, 2001

Table containing stock market data for October 7, 2001. It is divided into sections: 'Day's Market - October 07, 2001' (with indicators and DSE/CSE indices), 'Non Traded Issues', 'Turnover Leaders', 'Capital Gainers', 'Capital Losers', and 'Book Crossover/AGM/Dividend/IPO'. The table lists various companies with their respective prices, changes, and other financial metrics.