

## KYRGYZ ETHNIC CLASHES UN calls for humanitarian corridor

BBC ONLINE

Kyrgyzstan must set up a humanitarian corridor to help people affected by deadly fighting between ethnic Kyrgyz and Uzbeks, a top UN official says.

Lynn Pascoe said he also wanted to get help to Uzbekistan to make sure it could deal with the influx of refugees.

Tens of thousands of ethnic Uzbeks have fled their homes in Kyrgyzstan and headed for Uzbekistan.

The violence began in the southern cities of Osh and Jalalabad on Thursday and has left at least 170 dead.

The BBC's Rayhan Demytrie in Osh says there were more reports of fighting overnight, and there was no indication the violence would end.

Kyrgyzstan's interim government, which came to power after violent protests overthrew the previous administration, has been quick to blame supporters of ousted President Kurmanbek Bakiyev.

Bakiyev, who now lives in exile in Belarus, still has widespread support in the south, but he has denied whipping up tensions.

Kyrgyzstan's interim leader Roza Otunbayeva said on Tuesday that there was no need for a peacekeeping force in the country, and that a constitutional referendum would go ahead on 27 June.

### BODIES IN THE STREETS

Pascoe, a UN undersecretary-general, briefed the Security Council on the situation, and told reporters after that he had stressed the need to "get something in there right away".

"It's also a great concern of ours about the refugees - whether they can get across the border," he said.

"What we are trying to do is get [Uzbekistan] enough assistance there that they can feel comfortable with additional refugees coming through."



Pakistan's Foreign Minister Shah Mahmood Qureshi (L) and other officials carry the coffin of a Pakistani student Ali Raza, who was killed in ethnic riots in Kyrgyzstan, in an ambulance at the military Chaklala airbase in Rawalpindi yesterday. Pakistan flew home more than 130 citizens and students from riot-hit Kyrgyzstan.

## Asian states airlift their nationals

AFP, Beijing

Governments across Asia were evacuating hundreds of their nationals from Kyrgyzstan after days of deadly ethnic clashes in the central Asian nation.

China, India, Pakistan and South Korea all organised flights to rescue citizens living and working in the troubled south of the country after violence that has left 170 people dead.

Two charter flights carrying 195 Chinese citizens landed early Tuesday in Urumqi, the capital of China's Xinjiang region bordering on Kyrgyzstan, the foreign ministry in Beijing said.

About 600 Chinese living in the southern Kyrgyz city of Osh have requested evacuation, the official Xinhua news agency said, citing foreign ministry officials.

The China Daily reported that about 7,000 Chinese nationals live in the Osh region. Most of them are businessmen, but some are construction workers.

Two more planes were sent to Osh during the day, state media said.

So far, no Chinese nationals have been counted among the 170 dead and nearly 1,800 injured as ethnic Kyrgyz gangs attacked the shops and homes of ethnic Uzbeks.

## Bakiyev's son accused of financing Kyrgyz unrest

AFP, Bishkek

Authorities have accused the son of Kyrgyzstan's ousted president, nicknamed "the Prince" and known for his playboy lifestyle, of being a prime instigator of ethnic violence gripping the country.

Maxim Bakiyev, 32, known for his penchant for luxury, is the son of the country's former president Kurmanbek Bakiyev, who was toppled in violent street protests in April and subsequently fled the country.

"The 'wallet' of these riots is the son of the former president, Maxim Bakiyev, who started financing the riots back in April," first deputy president Almazbek Atambayev said at a news conference.

Atambayev said that the inter-ethnic riots -- in which at least 170 people have died in five days of bloody violence -- were paid for with 10 million dollars from Bakiyev's pocket.

Maxim Bakiyev was arrested Monday in Britain after being listed as wanted by Interpol. Kyrgyz officials said he landed in Britain in a private plane in an apparent bid to apply for asylum.

The Kyrgyz authorities said they would fight for Maxim Bakiyev's extradition. His family have denied any involvement with the latest unrest.

"We have facts and proof that he is guilty of crimes, which I hope will help us bring him to trial and we will of course ask Britain to extradite Maxim Bakiyev," interim leader Roza Otunbayeva said at a news conference Tuesday.

## Ireland to expel Israeli diplomat over Hamas killing

BBC ONLINE

The Irish Republic is to expel an Israeli diplomat over the use of fake passports in the killing of a Hamas official in Dubai.

Foreign Minister Micheal Martin said an investigation had proved that eight Irish passports used in the operation were forgeries.

Hamas official Mahmoud al-Mabhouh was found dead in a Dubai hotel in January.

Dubai police have said they are 99% sure Israeli agents were involved, though Israel says there is no proof.

Martin said Israel had been "requested to withdraw a designated member of staff of its embassy" and that he expected the request would "be quickly acceded to".

"The misuse of Irish passports by a state with which Ireland enjoys friendly, if sometimes frank, bilateral relations is clearly unacceptable and requires a firm response," he said.

## Nuke deal 'still alive' Ahmadinejad says

BBC ONLINE

Iranian President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad says a nuclear fuel swap deal brokered by Brazil and Turkey is still on the table, despite the adoption of new UN sanctions last week.

Ahmadinejad said the deal could help defuse the conflict with Western powers over Iran's nuclear programme.

It provides for Tehran to send enriched uranium abroad in return for high-grade fuel for a research reactor.

Iran had earlier threatened to withdraw the offer if the US pursued sanctions.

Under the deal brokered in May, Iran agreed to deposit 1,200kg of low-enriched uranium with Turkey, in return for reactor fuel.

But the US and its Western allies said the agreement was too little too late, and pressed ahead with a fourth round of sanctions on Wednesday.

"The Tehran declaration is still alive and can play a role in international relations even if the arrogant [Western] powers are upset and angry," Ahmadinejad said on state television, during a meeting with visiting Turkish parliament speaker Mehmet Ali Shahin.

A number of Western countries suspect Iran is trying to build nuclear weapons, but Iran insists its nuclear enrichment programme is for peaceful purposes.

The UN Security Council voted by 12 votes to two in favour of the sanctions. Brazil and Turkey voted against, while Lebanon abstained.

The new UN resolution includes measures to prohibit Iran from buying heavy weapons such as missiles and helicopters.

It toughens rules on financial transactions with Iranian banks, and increases the number of Iranian individuals and companies that are targeted by asset freezes and travel bans.

Also on Tuesday, an Iranian foreign ministry spokesman said Tehran would protest against the sanctions resolution by sending separate letters to all 15 members of the UN Security Council, the AFP news agency reports.

## GAZA FLOTILLA RAID US urges Israel to inquiry 'promptly'

IANS, Washington

The US has urged Israel to 'promptly' conduct a probe into its military raid on an international aid flotilla bound for the Gaza Strip, a media report said.

"While Israel should be afforded the time to complete its process, we expect Israel's commission and military investigation will be carried out promptly," Xinhua reported Sunday quoting White House spokesman Robert Gibbs.

"We also expect that, upon completion, its findings will be presented publicly and will be presented to the international community," Gibbs said in a statement.

Israeli Navy commandos boarded a pro-Palestinian international aid flotilla May 31 and clashed with activists on one of the ships. The violence left nine dead, eight of them Turkish citizens, and dozens wounded.

## Koreas give UN testimony over ship sinking

BBC ONLINE, ANI, Seoul

North and South Korea have presented their cases to the UN in a dispute over the sinking of a Southern warship.

Seoul asked the UN to take "timely and appropriate measures", blaming Pyongyang for March's sinking of the Cheonan, which killed 46 sailors.

But the North denied involvement and said it was the victim.

After hearing separate submissions from both sides, UN officials said they had "grave concern" over the issue and needed to debate it further.

"The Security Council makes a strong call to the parties to refrain from any act that could escalate tensions in the region," said the council in a statement.

**NO AGREEMENT**  
The South Koreans presented evidence, including a Powerpoint presentation, which they said showed their warship was sunk by a North Korean torpedo.

"We hope that on the basis of this finding the Security Council will take timely and appropriate measures against North Korea," said South Korean delegate Yoon Duk-yong.

UN diplomats said the North Koreans demanded an opportunity to visit the site of the explosion, and once again rejected South Korea's allegations as forgery and fraud.

"We are just a victim, we would like to make our position clear here, we will inform our position, concerning that issue," said Pak Tok-hun, the North's deputy UN ambassador.

Yukio Takasu, Japan's ambassador to the UN, said South Korea's argument that North Korea was behind the sinking was "extremely convincing."

They will be hoping that their case was so strong that it leaves no doubt in the minds of Security Council members as to North Korea's culpability, our correspondent says.

South Korea hopes the next step will be a strong statement from the council outlining some form of action against North Korea, he adds.

But there is still no agreement on what to do, as Security Council members China - North Korea's strongest ally - and Russia have not yet commented on the investigation.

The warship row has left inter-Korean relations highly tense. Seoul has suspended inter-Korean trade and Pyongyang responded by cutting all ties.

South Korean President Lee Myung-bak has called on his country's citizens to be prepared militarily and respond sternly to Pyongyang following the March 26 sinking of the warship "Cheonan".

"If we fail to sternly respond to North Korea's wrongdoing in cooperation with the international community, and build up solid military readiness, a second and third provocation like the Cheonan incident can occur anytime," the China Daily quoted Myung-bak, as warning.

## BP faces US Congress grilling on oil case

BBC ONLINE

A US government panel is to question BP's US chief over the Gulf oil disaster amid damning accusations the firm took shortcuts.

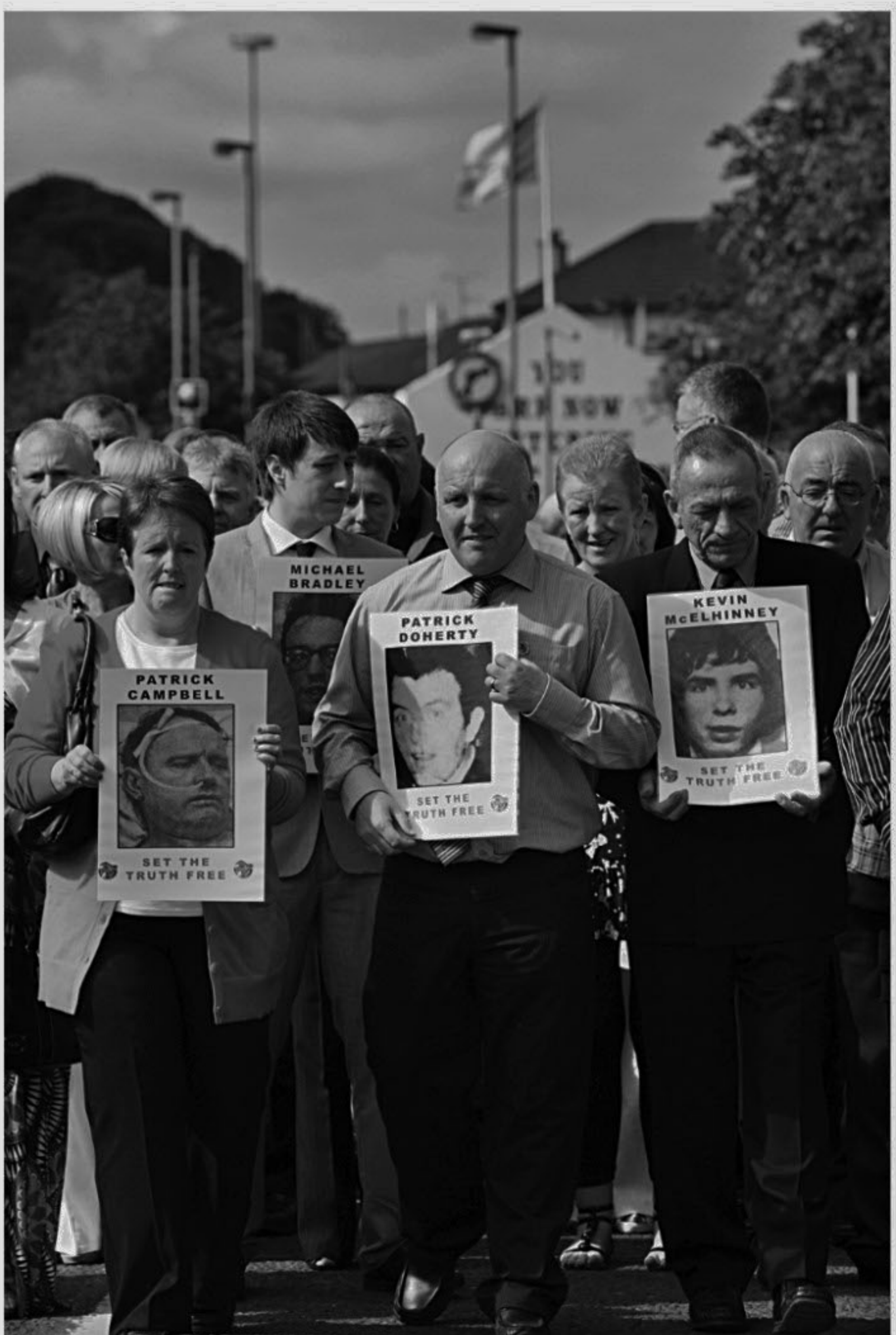
Lamar McKay has been called to testify along with heads of other oil companies about the safety of deepwater drilling.

Congressmen have suggested in a letter to BP that the company took decisions, which raised the risk of a disaster.

US President Barack Obama is due to make a speech to the nation on the spill.

He is expected to outline the next steps his administration will take when he appears on prime-time TV on Tuesday evening.

The president has been touring Gulf states affected by the leak, which he has likened to the 9/11 attacks in terms of its impact.



Relatives of the Bloody Sunday victims hold photographs of them during a march towards the Guildhall in Londonderry, Northern Ireland yesterday. The Saville Inquiry into Bloody Sunday was set to publish on Tuesday after 12 years and a cost of £190 million pounds (275 million dollars, 230 million euros), the 5,000-page report examines the events of January 30, 1972 in Londonderry, Northern Ireland, when 13 civilians were shot dead by British soldiers at a civil rights march.

## Wikipedia unlocks divisive pages for editing

BBC ONLINE

The online encyclopaedia Wikipedia says it has taken an "important step" towards making it easier to edit some of its most controversial articles.

Up to 2,000 articles, including a page about former US President George W Bush, will have their strict editing restrictions relaxed.

Users will now be able to submit changes to the selected pages for review by senior editors.

It is part of Wikipedia's ongoing efforts to curb vandalism of the site.

Wikipedia's founder Jimmy Wales told BBC News that the new system, called "pending changes" will allow the site "to open up articles for general editing that have been protected or semi-protected for years."

"That's what is exciting about this," he said.

**FALSE REPORTS**  
Wikipedia encourages editorial changes from everybody who comes to the site.

However, it has been plagued by persistent problems such as the malicious editing of entries, and repeated editing of controversial topics.

As a result, the site has introduced a number of levels of protection that can be applied to articles.

For example, new or anonymous users could previously be prevented from editing "semi-protected" articles, and were forced to suggest changes on a discussion board attached to each article before they could be incorporated.

## 11 Thai Red Shirt leaders denied bail

AFP, Bangkok

A Thai court yesterday denied bail for 11 Red Shirt protest leaders accused of "terrorism", triggering angry scenes outside the courtroom where hundreds of their supporters were gathered.

The criminal court cited the severity of the charges and the risk of the suspects skipping bail as reasons for its decision to keep them in detention, their lawyer Karom Poltaklang told reporters.

The 11 -- who include the movement's chairman Veera Musikapong -- surrendered to police after the army stormed the Red Shirt's sprawling encampment in the heart of Bangkok on May 19, ending the two-month rally.

If found guilty of terrorism, they could in theory face the death penalty.

## FBI releases secret Kennedy files

BBC ONLINE

The FBI has released some of its secret files on the late Senator Edward Kennedy, who died in August 2009.

Most of the documents relate to the numerous, and at times specific, death threats made against Kennedy.

The files contain little about the senator's controversial car accident on Chappaquiddick Island in 1969, in which a female passenger was killed.

The documents show that the FBI learned of the crash early on but kept the senator's identity secret.

Senator Kennedy was the last surviving brother of the famous political family.

President John F Kennedy was killed in Dallas, Texas, in November 1963, while Senator Robert F Kennedy was shot in a California hotel in June 1968 while campaigning for the presidency.

One letter in the FBI files warned that Ted Kennedy would be next, calling him "number three to be assassinated on Oct. 25, 1968. The Kennedy residence must be well protected on that date."

Many of the death threats against Ted Kennedy were made during his unsuccessful attempt to beat incumbent President Jimmy Carter for the Democratic nomination for president in 1980.

Others were traced to radical groups including the Ku Klux Klan.

One letter warns the senator to stay out of private planes and keep his bodyguards close, ominously concluding "your kids need a father".

The threats continued into 1985, the date of the latest files released by the FBI.

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