



Democratic presidential nominee Hillary Clinton and her vice presidential running mate Senator Tim Kaine, and their spouses Anne Holton and former president Bill Clinton, walk through balloons during the at the Democratic National Convention in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, US on Thursday.

AFTERMATH OF WAVE OF TERROR ATTACKS

France may ban foreign financing of mosques

AFP, Paris

France's prime minister yesterday said he would consider a temporary ban on foreign financing of mosques, urging a "new model" for relations with Islam after a spate of jihadist attacks.

Manuel Valls, under fire for perceived security lapses around the attacks, also admitted a "failure" in the fact that one of the jihadists who stormed a church and killed a priest on Tuesday had been released with an electronic tag pending trial.

In an interview with French daily Le Monde, Valls said he was "open to the idea that -- for a period yet to be determined -- there should be no financing from abroad for the construction of mosques."

The Socialist prime minister also called for imams to be "trained in France, not elsewhere."

He said Interior Minister Bernard Cazeneuve, whose portfolio also includes religious affairs, was working on building a "new model" for France's relations with Islam.

And Salafism -- the deeply fundamental-

ist branch of Islam espoused by many jihadists -- "has no place in France," Valls said.

France has just over 2,000 mosques, for one of Europe's largest Muslim populations which numbers around five million.

Some large mosques have been financed by Saudi Arabia and other Gulf or Northern African countries, according to local media reports.

The government has faced tough questions since it emerged that both church attackers had been on the radar of intelligence services and had tried to go to Syria.

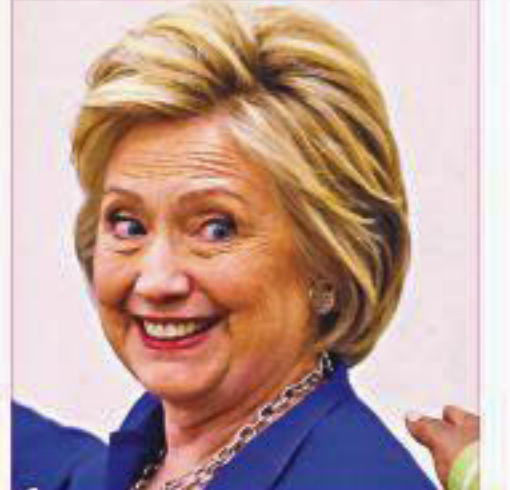
The church attack came as the government was already facing a firestorm of criticism over alleged security failings after the Bastille Day truck massacre in Nice that left 84 people dead two weeks ago.

In the government's first admission of a lapse since the two attacks, Valls acknowledged Kermiche's liberty was a "failure, it has to be recognised", adding that judges needed to take a "different, case-by-case, approach, given the jihadists' very advanced concealment methods".



PHOTO: REUTERS

KEY QUOTES FROM CLINTON'S SPEECH



PRESIDENT FOR ALL

"I will be a president for Democrats, Republicans and independents. For the struggling, the striving and the successful. For those who vote for me and those who don't. For all Americans."

HISTORY MADE

"Tonight, we've reached a milestone in our nation's march toward a more perfect union: the first time that a major party has nominated a woman for president."

I'VE HEARD YOU

"Bernie, your campaign inspired millions of Americans... And to all of your supporters here and around the country: I want you to know, I've heard you. Your cause is our cause."

CLINTON ON TRUMP

"Imagine him in the Oval Office facing a real crisis. A man you can bait with a tweet is not a man we can trust with nuclear weapons." "He wants to divide us -- from the rest of the world, and from each other. (...) He wants us to fear the future and fear each other."

REACTIONS

"Great speech. She's tested. She's ready. She never quits. That's why Hillary should be our next POTUS. (She'll get the Twitter handle, too)"

President Barack Obama

"I congratulate @HillaryClinton on this historic achievement. We are stronger together."

Bernie Sanders

"Our way of life is under threat by Radical Islam and Hillary Clinton cannot even bring herself to say the words."

Donald Trump

"Her best speech -- once she got to trump and loosened up. Didn't shed the 'trust' baggage but no one trusted Nixon either and he won twice"

Sam Tanenhaus, author

Fear mounts for Aleppo

UN seeks control of Russian escape corridors; civilians trapped

AGENCIES

The UN yesterday urged Russia to give it control of humanitarian passages out of Aleppo in northern Syria where besieged residents covered indoors afraid to use what some called "death corridors".

Syrian regime ally Russia has announced the opening of three humanitarian passages for civilians wanting to flee rebel-held eastern districts of the city and for fighters to surrender.

But only 12 Aleppo residents trickled out through one passage yesterday, while others wanting to flee were turned back by rebels, the Syrian Observatory for Human Rights said.

An AFP correspondent in east Aleppo said streets were empty in the morning with residents holed up indoors and shops shuttered.

Ahmad Ramadan from the opposition Syrian National Coalition accused Russia and the regime of forcing civilians to flee through continued bombing raids.

UN Syria envoy Staffan de Mistura said Russia should let the United Nations take charge of the corridors as a reassurance to the beleaguered population.

"Our suggestion is to Russia to actually leave the corridors being established at their initiative to us," he said. "How can you expect people to want to walk through a corridor, thousands of them, while there is shelling, bombing, fighting?"

The UN says around 250,000 people have been trapped in Aleppo's eastern districts since July 17 when

medical aid since July 7.

The US-based International Rescue Committee warned that those left behind in east Aleppo risked starvation and called for a pause in fighting.

Russian Defence Minister Sergei Shoigu announced Thursday that three humanitarian corridors were being opened "to aid civilians held hostage by terrorists and for fighters wishing to lay down their arms".

Losing Aleppo would be a major blow for the armed opposition and could signal a turning point in Syria's five-year-old conflict, analysts say.

Meanwhile, a maternity hospital supported by Save the Children was bombed in an air raid in Idlib province of northwest Syria, causing casualties and heavy damage, the Britain-based charity said. It said there was an unspecified number of casualties. The Observatory said the hospital in the rebel-held town of Kafar Takharim was heavily damaged and left barely operational.

The Observatory said that the death toll from coalition strikes Thursday on the IS-controlled town of Ghandoura had risen to 28 civilians, including children. The US military acknowledged Thursday that there may have been civilian deaths.

pro-regime forces surrounded the area. Residents have reported food shortages and spiralling prices in rebel districts since regime forces cut off the opposition's main supply route into the northern city.

Aid agencies and analysts said the humanitarian corridors must be exploited to send desperately needed supplies to the besieged areas which has not received any

SYRIA WAR

- Maternity hospital bombed in Idlib: report
- US-led coalition raids kill 28 civilians near Manbij
- IS executes 24 civilians after seizing village

Traitors' graveyard

AFP, Istanbul

It's a barren plot on the outskirts of Istanbul, its stony ground baking under the merciless summer sun. A single sign gives a macabre clue as to the intended use of the arid patch.

"Traitors' graveyard," say the white capital letters on the black sign, planted on two stakes into the ground.

The cemetery was created to bury Turkish rebel soldiers whose failed July 15 putsch claimed a total of 270 lives but did not manage to unseat the government of President Recep Tayyip Erdogan. The location has been chosen with the apparent intention to offer the minimum glory in burial -- just near a construction site where a project to build a shelter for street animals is under way.

The Turkish authorities say 24 plotters were killed in the coup. Only one soldier has been buried in the graveyard so far.

Captain Mehmet Karabekir reportedly killed a local headman during the power grab attempt and his body was rejected by his family and relatives. There is no gravestone on his tomb but just a pile of soil.

Civilians are banned from visiting the cemetery and media are accompanied by a security official for taking any video or pictures.

Istanbul Mayor Kadir Topbas, in remarks carried by Turkish media, said the idea to create a "traitors' graveyard" had been floated during a municipal meeting.

"Those who betray this nation cannot rest in peace even in their tombs," he said.

Turkey's Religious Affairs Directorate, Diyanet, said after the putsch there would not be any funeral services or prayers for the rebel soldiers involved in the coup.

"Funeral prayers are made for the deceased by his Muslim brothers for redemption. But those people, by resorting to that action, trampled on the law not only of individuals but an entire nation.

"They did not deserve redemption or prayers of their Muslim brothers."

'Lord, forgive so much cruelty'

AFP, Oswiecim

Pope Francis yesterday walked alone through the notorious wrought-iron "Arbeit Macht Frei" gate as he visited the former Nazi death camp Auschwitz-Birkenau.

Free for once of his security entourage or cardinals, he sat on a bench among the trees and bowed his head in prayer, remaining at length in silent contemplation before meeting Holocaust survivors. In front of the death wall where the Nazis summarily executed thousands of people by firing squad, he tenderly kissed the former prisoners.

The Argentine later lead prayers for the 1.1 million people, most of them Jewish, who were murdered at the camp as part of Nazi Germany's "Final Solution" of genocide against European Jews which claimed six million lives in World War II.

"Lord, have mercy on your people. Lord, forgive so much cruelty," Francis wrote in the memorial book.

As he arrived Wednesday in Poland -- the heartland of Nazi Germany's atrocities -- the pontiff said the world had been plunged into a piecemeal third world war.

He has repeatedly denounced those committing crimes in the name of religion, after a string of deadly jihadist attacks in Europe.

'Vicious' cycle of violence, hunger

UN says more than 56m people in 17 countries are victims

More than 56 million people in 17 countries affected by prolonged conflicts are struggling to feed themselves, trapped in a "vicious" cycle of violence and hunger, two United Nations agencies said yesterday. Conflict is a leading cause of hunger because it forces people to flee their homes and fields, and disrupts markets leading to higher prices for food. Farmers are unable to grow their crops or tend to their livestock, a key source of income in many conflict-hit areas. The UN Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) and World Food Programme (WFP) said there were 17 countries where violence has significantly affected access to food. They listed them as Syria, Yemen, Lebanon, Iraq, Burundi, Central African Republic, Democratic Republic of Congo, Guinea-Bissau, Ivory Coast, Liberia, Mali, Somalia, South Sudan, Sudan, Haiti, Colombia and Afghanistan.



HERE ARE SOME FACTS ABOUT THE WORST-AFFECTED POPULATIONS AND THE IMPACT OF CONFLICT ON FOOD SECURITY

- A hunger crisis affects 14 million people in Yemen; more than half of the population.
- Nearly 5 million South Sudanese and 8.7 million Syrians urgently need food, nutrition and other assistance.
- In Central African Republic and Colombia, millions of people are not sure where their next meal will come from.
- Nearly 90 percent of Syrian refugees in Lebanon need urgent food, nutrition and other assistance.
- About a fifth of the population in Burundi and Haiti, and 50 percent of the population in Central African Republic face a food crisis.
- About half of all poor people live in countries affected by conflict and violence.
- Countries recovering from conflict where people do not have enough food to feed themselves are 40 percent more likely to relapse into conflict within a decade if hunger is not addressed.

'Unpopular' rivals hit the road

Experts say 'negative partisanship' -- voting against a candidate, rather than for a candidate -- will have a major role in deciding who makes it to the White House

AFP, Philadelphia

With 101 days to go before Americans elect a new president, Donald Trump and Hillary Clinton were to hit the campaign trail yesterday hoping to secure a poll bump from their dueling party conventions.

In the last fortnight Republicans and Democrats have gathered to formally select their presidential nominees and tee-up what is already one of the most fractious and vitriolic presidential campaigns in living memory.

Both parties are deeply divided and led by profoundly unpopular figures with approval ratings below 40 percent.

Both conventions featured withering personal barbs, with Republicans in Cleveland chanting "lock her up" against Clinton and Democrats in Philadelphia painting Trump as an authoritarian and



major role in deciding who makes it to the White House.

Clinton, fresh from becoming the first woman in history to win the nomination of a major US political party, will take her vice presidential running mate Tim Kaine on a bus journey through Pennsylvania and

Ohio.

The so-called "rustbelt" states are vital parts of almost any strategy to garner the 270 electoral college votes needed to win the presidency.

Trump meanwhile will be in Colorado, another battleground state, where his plan to build a wall on the Mexican border could resonate with angry white voters but turn Hispanic voters away in droves.

At the Republican convention Trump doubled-down on controversial far-right plans to stem Muslim and Hispanic immigration and get tough on crime.

Both Clinton and Trump donated large chunks of invaluable convention time to softening their public image.

Clinton and Trump will face off in their first presidential debate in late September.

'You have sacrificed nothing'

Slain Muslim soldier's dad challenges Trump

AFP, Philadelphia

The father of a Muslim US soldier killed in Iraq accused Donald Trump of vilifying patriotic American Muslims while "sacrificing nothing" himself, in a steely rebuke that electrified the Democratic convention Thursday.

Khizr Khan -- whose son Humayun died in a 2004 suicide bombing in Baquba -- admonished the Republican presidential nominee for his plan to ban Muslims from entering the United States.

"Tonight we are honored to stand here as parents of Captain Humayun Khan and as patriotic American Muslims with undivided loyalty to the country," he said, stirring delegates who had watched a video tribute to his son in captivated silence.

"If it was up to Donald Trump, he never would have been in America," he said. "Don-

ald Trump consistently smears the character of Muslims."

"Donald Trump, you are asking Americans to trust you with their future, let me ask you -- have you even read the United States Constitution?" he said, brandishing a copy to loud cheers.

"I will gladly lend you my copy!" Khan said, demanding Trump look for the word "liberty" and consult the 14th amendment, which guarantees equal protection before the law.

"Have you ever been to Arlington cemetery?" he demanded, as many in the audience were moved to tears. "Go look at the graves of brave patriots who died defending the United States of America. You will see all faiths, genders and ethnicities."

"You have sacrificed nothing, and no one!" he said.



NEWS IN brief

Suu Kyi meets rebel group leaders

AFP, Naypyidaw

Myanmar's most heavily armed ethnic group yesterday held "positive" talks with the country's de facto leader Aung San Suu Kyi, a spokesman for her office said, in a major boost for peace prospects. The United Wa State Army stopped fighting the government in 1989 in exchange for control of a remote portion of territory bordering China.

Leaving UN-backed peace talks: Yemen

AFP, Kuwait City

Yemen's government delegation to UN-brokered peace talks in Kuwait said it will leave today, signalling the collapse of four months of UN-brokered negotiations with Shia Huthi rebels. "Today (Friday), we are holding some farewell meetings... and the delegation will leave on Saturday," delegation spokesman Mohammad al-Emrani told AFP.

Indonesia executes four drug convicts

REUTERS, Cilacap

Indonesia executed four convicted drug traffickers, including three Nigerians, early yesterday as it pushed ahead with its "war against drugs", although another 10 scheduled executions were delayed. As many as 14 people were originally set to face the firing squad together yesterday, but officials decided a "comprehensive review" was needed to "avoid any mistake" in the 10 cases, authorities said.

UN aid convoy in Nigeria ambushed

AFP, Lagos

A United Nations humanitarian convoy was ambushed by Boko Haram jihadists Thursday in Nigeria's restive northeast, leaving several people wounded. It was the first such attack on aid workers in the volatile Muslim-majority north.

Afghan cleric, 60, marries girl, 6

AFP, Kabul

An elderly Afghan cleric has been arrested after he married a six-year-old girl, officials said yesterday, in the latest case highlighting the scourge of child marriages in the war-battered country. Mohammad Karim, said to be aged around 60, was held in central Ghor province as he claimed her parents gave him the girl as a "religious offering", officials said. "This girl does not speak, but repeats only one thing: 'I am afraid of this man,'" said the officials. The girl's family, who said she was abducted, is on the way to collect the infant.