

National News

NBC exposes Saudi torture of Americans

In a 30-minute premiere on Jan. 6, a new NBC News program "Exposé" reported on how Saudi Arabia, a member of the anti-Iraq coalition, has been involved in torturing American citizens.

Among those interviewed was a college English professor who was tortured because the Saudi secret police suspected his friends were smuggling guns into the country. He was held for 14 months and released only after repeated appeals for help by his brother to officials in Washington. The office of then-Vice President Bush told him that Bush would bring the case up with King Fahd, but Bush never did.

In another case a man was charged with smuggling "pornography"—video copies of "The Love Boat" with bikini-clad women in the background—into the country.

The NBC program also showed interviews of torture victims conducted by a representative of Amnesty International.

Incarceration rate in U.S. highest in world

The United States has the highest incarceration rate in the world, even greater than South Africa and the Soviet Union, the Sentencing Project, a research group, has reported. The U.S. incarcerates 426 of every 100,000 residents, compared to 333 per 100,000 in South Africa, 268 in the Soviet Union, 120 in Northern Ireland, and 97 in Britain. Hong Kong, where there are no civil rights and residents cannot even vote, imprisons 118 per 100,000.

The racism of the Anglo-American legal establishment is reflected in the statistics on imprisonment of black citizens: of every 100,000 black males in the United States, 3,109 are incarcerated. In South Africa, 729 of every 100,000 black men are incarcerated.

The result of the so-called war on drugs "has been to lock up young black men," according to Marc Mauer of the Sentencing

Project. Nearly 41% of those arrested on drug charges in 1989 were black. Also in the U.S. last year, more than half of all murder victims were black, up from 40% in the early 1980s.

The group also reported that while the U.S. crime rate declined 3.5% in the past ten years, the number of people imprisoned doubled.

Schools using occult textbooks, says group

The American Family Association Law Center in Mississippi has filed suit against a California school district to stop it from using portions of a reading program that the group claims endorses witchcraft.

A spokesman for the group said that the "Impressions" reading curriculum now in use in the Woodland Joint Unified School District near Sacramento, "endorses or sponsors the religion of witchcraft" by calling upon children to "role-play as witches and wizards, to create and cast 'spells,' to sit in circles and chant," and to participate in other occult rituals and practices.

The lawsuit alleges that the curriculum violates the constitutional principle of separation of church and state.

FDIC accused of racial discrimination

The Federal Deposit Insurance Corp.'s (FDIC) decision to guarantee deposits exceeding the \$100,000 limit at the Bank of New England Corp.'s banks, has drawn howls of outrage from New York, where depositors lost \$7 million of uninsured deposits when the federal government closed Harlem's Freedom National Bank Nov. 9.

"Once again, the FDIC has shown that a different standard applies to the minority, inner-city depositors of Freedom National Bank than to wealthy depositors of big banks, said New York State Attorney General Robert Abrams Jan. 7. "The funds in those bank accounts were the lifeblood of

the poorest and most vulnerable of this city's inhabitants."

"I'm not sure its racism, but the Bank of New England serves the white business community and it was protected," said Harlem realtor Eugene Webb, a former director of Freedom. "Both banks were operating under the same charter and suffered from the same problems."

"I think the faithful depositors of Freedom National Bank are due a straightforward explanation as to why their government is providing them with less protection against a bank calamity than it is providing to other Americans," said Rep. Charles Rangel (D-N.Y.), whose district includes Harlem.

De Toledano calls for LaRouche to be freed

Ralph De Toledano, a former *Newsweek* correspondent, well-known author of a dozen books, and a syndicated columnist who also writes frequent book and music reviews published in the *National Review*, has called for Lyndon LaRouche to be freed from prison.

In a six-page article entitled "The Railroading of Lyndon LaRouche, America's Political Prisoner Number One," De Toledano writes that "if there is any conscience in the White House, President Bush will grant an immediate pardon to Lyndon LaRouche—and an apology to the Bill of Rights and to the Constitution."

The article, which has been made available by the author for circulation, reviews the history of the government's railroading of LaRouche, and the involvement of the Anti-Defamation League and other private agencies in the nationwide "Get LaRouche" task force.

U.S. Congress backs deal with narcos

The U.S. Congress has formally endorsed the decision by Colombian President César Gaviria Trujillo to strike a deal with Colom-

bia's cocaine cartels. During a Jan. 7 visit to Bogotá, Rep. Charles B. Rangel (D-N.Y.), head of the House Committee on Narcotics Affairs, told the press after meeting with Gaviria that the Congress fully endorses Gaviria's "sovereign" decision to suspend extraditions and reduce sentences of fugitive drug traffickers, in exchange for their surrender to Colombian authorities.

Gaviria's "decision" is the result of a lengthy negotiation process with the cartels, who are currently holding numerous prominent journalists hostage to their own surrender conditions. The Gaviria government is currently building luxury condominiums to "jail" the traffickers following their surrender.

Rangel, who for years has claimed to be strenuously anti-drug, declared, "The Congress of the United States has confidence in the President of Colombia, and has not thought for a single moment that he or his government are engaged in negotiations with the traffickers."

In an early January interview with the French daily *Le Monde*, Gaviria admitted that there had been contact with the cartels, and that while he had little hope of eradicating the cocaine trade in Colombia as long as there was international demand for the drug, he intended "in the medium term, to reduce the trade so that the narcos go somewhere else, to other countries."

Roundups planned by Irangate criminals

Plans for detaining large numbers of Americans opposing administration war schemes based upon ethnic origin, were developed by the some of the same criminals convicted during the Irangate scandal.

Today, the FBI is targeting Arab-Americans as the U.S. is engaged in war with Iraq. Under an earlier plan drawn up by the Federal Emergency Management Agency under the Reagan administration, thousands of Hispanic-Americans were to be detained in camps in Louisiana and other states in the event of a U.S. war with the Sandinista regime in Nicaragua.

In the spring of 1987, an *EIR* special report on the secret parallel government in-

cluded a March 1986 affidavit by Christic Institute director Dan Sheehan, in which he cited details of the FEMA roundup plan and attributed the plan to then National Security Council staffer Col. Oliver North. Also at that time, reports had surfaced of parallel plans to round up Arab-Americans as part of a so-called counter-terror scheme.

In both instances, government documents and informants reported that the LaRouche movement was on the FBI's target list of "enemies" to be potentially detained in the event of a national security emergency.

Sen. Bradley decries Soviet Baltic crackdown

The Senate passed a resolution sponsored by Sen. Bill Bradley (D-N.J.) on midnight Jan. 11, calling upon Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachov to refrain from further use of force against the Baltic states of Lithuania, Latvia, and Estonia.

"While the bulk of our attention has been in the Gulf, glasnost appears to be dying," Bradley warned, shortly after the Senate passed the resolution for the use of force against Iraq. "The Senate has put a red flag up to the Soviets by going on record stating clearly our view," said Senator Bradley.

Bradley told his fellow senators that the Soviets had already called his Senate office to request a copy of the resolution. The Senator recalled that Bush had spoken to Gorbachov on Jan. 10 and told him his actions were counterproductive. But Bush, when asked by the press why he didn't say more, had responded, "The Soviet Union knows how we stand." Bradley told the U.S. Senate, as he recounted how Soviet military forces had moved in the three Baltic republics, "It would be a sad irony if the price of Soviet cooperation around Kuwait is the freedom of Lithuania."

Sen. Christopher Dodd (D-Conn.) told the Senate, "Another drama is unfolding which we can say can really be linked to the Persian Gulf in the way that Hungary was linked to Suez." We have been so preoccupied with the Persian Gulf just as we "were preoccupied while the tanks into Budapest."

Briefly

● **THE LOS ANGELES** County Democratic Central Committee passed a resolution affirming that "all Arab-Americans are human beings with the same rights and privileges of other human beings" on Jan. 10. It asked President Bush and Congress to take steps to ensure that their rights are not abridged.

● **JOHN SUNUNU**, the White House Chief of Staff, refused to condemn the Soviet butchery in Lithuania during an interview with CBS News reporter Leslie Stahl Jan. 13.

● **MORE VETERANS** of the Vietnam War have committed suicide since returning to the U.S. than were killed in Vietnam, a Member of Congress announced in the House of Representatives in early January, London *Observer* correspondent Andrew Stephen reported Jan. 13. There were 59,000 Americans killed in Vietnam; so far, 60,000 Vietnam veterans have killed themselves.

● **'BROCCO-FLOWER,'** a new vegetable which is a cross between broccoli and cauliflower, is being stocked by Washington grocers, according to Channel 7 news Jan. 8. The ABC affiliate replayed the news clip of George Bush from March 1990 whining that, "I am President now, so I don't have to eat my broccoli."

● **LEON SULLIVAN**, pastor of the Zion Baptist Church in Philadelphia and a leader of the national Opportunities Industrial Center, has called for a conference on African-American cooperation to be held in June in West Africa to focus on saving Africa.

● **REV. AL SHARPTON**, whose actions have fueled a climate of race war, was stabbed in the Bensonhurst section of Brooklyn, N.Y. just before he was to lead a march there, and is reported in stable condition, AP reported Jan. 12. A white male suspect is in custody. Sharpton called on his followers to refrain from retaliation.