

ISRAEL IS INVESTIGATING
POSSIBLE MILITARY MISCONDUCT
IN GAZA. TICKET #GMA 900 -
MORNINGAMERICA ABC NEWS.COM
FOR LATEST NEWS UPDATE SEPTEMBER
11, 2014

Sometimes I can't help believing
this whole world ... this whole
wide world is just one big
prison yard.
— DYLAN

CHECK OUT BOOK: "MAN'S SEARCH
FOR MEANING" BY MARK FRANKL.

SOME OF US ARE PRISONERS
AND SOME OF US ARE GUARDS
— ID

ISRAEL IN THE NAME OF LOVE
ISRAEL IN THE NAME OF PEACE
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TEAR DOWN THAT WALL !!!

FREE ALL THE GAZA GHETTO
PRISONERS !!!!!!

TEAR DOWN THE WALL !!!

20187

BLESSED ARE THE PEACE-
MAKERS !!!

JAVIER BARDEM, ACTOR AND ACTIVIST, SPAIN

MS. PENLOPE CRUZ

Arch Bishop Desmond Tutu, 1984 Noble
Peace Laureate.

EDDIE VEDDER, PEARL JAM

ROGER WATERS

ELVIS COSTELLA

CAT POWERS

JOHN KERRY, USA STATESMAN

RIHANNA

Ameno!

BY: LEON ZRBY DATED: SEPTEMBER 21, 2014

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Several state and federal courts have thrown out marriage bans since a high court ruling invalidated Defense of Marriage Act provisions denying federal benefits to same-sex spouses in 2013.

Last year, the Supreme Court allowed California's ban on same-sex marriage to fall after state officials declined to appeal a lower-court ruling striking it down.

Nineteen states, as well as the District of Columbia, currently authorize same-sex marriage.

U.S. offers \$30 million bounty to find Haqqani Network leaders

The U.S. government is offering a \$30 million bounty for receiving information pertaining to five Haqqani Network leaders.

The Haqqani Network (pronounced hah-KAH'-nee) or HQN is a Pakistan-based militant group, which deploys asymmetric warfare tactics for fighting.

On Wednesday, Aug. 20, the U.S. Department of State's Rewards for Justice program revealed that it will be offering a cash reward of up to \$5 million for getting information on the whereabouts of four of the members of the insurgent group - Aziz Haqqani, Khalil al-Rahman Haqqani, Yahya Haqqani and Abdul Rauf Zaki - who are relatives of the group leader. The Department has also increased the bounty from \$5 million to \$10 million for the ring leader Sirajuddin Haqqani, who is the son of HQN founder Jalaluddin Haqqani.

Sirajuddin has acknowledged that he was the brains behind the Jan. 2008 attack on Kabul's Serena Hotel, which killed six people. All five accused have been designated as Specially Designated Global Terrorist by the State Department.

On Sept. 7, 2012, the Secretary of State designated the HQN as a Foreign Terrorist Organization.

The HQN is said to have allied with the Afghan Taliban, as well as the al-Qaida. The extremist group also collaborates with other terrorist organizations.

"Based primarily in North Waziristan, Pakistan, HQN conducts cross-border attacks in eastern Afghanistan and Kabul and is considered the most lethal insurgent group targeting International Security Assistance Force (ISAF) and Afghan personnel in Afghanistan," said The Department of State in a statement.

The Haqqani Network has also been accused of being the mastermind behind several staged high-profile attacks. The militant group allegedly conspires to generate cross-border attacks from their base in North Waziristan, Pakistan. The terrorist organization is accused of orchestrating the 19-hour attack on the U.S. Embassy in

Kabul and the ISAF headquarters that took place in September 2011.

Tennessee high school student suspended for saying 'Bless you' in class

A young girl in Tennessee says she was suspended for breaking a class rule by saying "Bless you" after a classmate sneezed, according to a report from WMC in Memphis, Tennessee.

Dyer County High School senior Kendra Turner says her teacher told her that "Bless you" was for church. The teen says she thinks her teacher was taking issue with her religion. When she stood up for herself, Turner says she was told to go to the administrator's office. Later, she was placed on in-school suspension for the remainder of that class period.

Rev. Becky Winegardner, Turner's youth pastor, says she has heard other students talking about having to stand up for their faith at the school.

"There were several students that were talking about this particular faculty member there that was very demeaning to them in regards to their faith," Winegardner said.

A reporter at WCM says a Dyer County student sent him a photo showing a list of words that, the student says, the teacher in question does not allow in the class. "Bless you" is on the list.

Turner's parents say the school leaders are claiming the outburst was a classroom distraction; saying Turner shouted "Bless you" across the room.

WMC reports that the station was told only the Dyer County School Superintendent could comment. The station reported that Hedge did not return its phone messages, an e-mail or a visit to his home. Student Claims Suspended for Saying 'Bless You' in Class

Palestinian Banner Unfurled on NYC Bridge

Pro-Palestinian activists marching along the Brooklyn Bridge were surprised when a giant flag in Palestinian colors was unfurled on the nearby Manhattan Bridge.

The flag had the words "Boycott, Divest, Sanction" on it and was lowered from a part of the bridge near the Manhattan side Wednesday evening. Activists on the Brooklyn Bridge met its appearance with cheers.

The BDS movement is an international effort to pressure Israel over the settlements.

The flag was taken back up a short time later. Police say no one was arrested in connection with its display.

It's the second time in recent months that flags have unexpectedly shown up on city bridges. In July, two white flags were put in the place of American flags on top of the Brooklyn Bridge.

UW plans to ask for \$95 million boost in next budget

New University of Wisconsin System president Ray Cross plans to ask lawmakers for a \$95 million funding increase in the next two-year budget cycle to pay for some new initiatives and continue others that he said will help power up the statewide system's economic development engine.

Cross acknowledged in an interview Wednesday that the increase for the 2015-2017 budget is a tough request given that Gov. Scott Walker has told state agencies to expect no increases. The system's icy recent past with lawmakers doesn't help either, although Cross has made repairing relationships a foundation of his presidency since starting in February.

He said the details of the plan, considerably larger than the \$21 million bump then-president Kevin Reilly asked lawmakers to approve at this time two years ago, should sway lawmakers to back it. The System's current total operating budget for fiscal year 2014-2015 is about \$6.1 billion, with about \$1.2 billion coming from the state.

"I like my chances because I think it's a compelling argument," Cross said. "I believe this question — Should the state invest in high-impact job creation? — I think there's only one answer. It has to be a resounding yes."

Cross will share details of the budget proposal, due to the Department of Administration in mid-September, with the UW System Board of Regents at a meeting Thursday afternoon in Oshkosh.

State Sen. Sheila Harsdorf, R-River Falls, chairwoman of the Senate higher education committee, said she hasn't seen the budget proposal and that it's too early to comment.

The relationship between lawmakers and System administrators is improved, she said, over the last budget process in 2012-2013, which featured public harangues of System leaders by top lawmakers over revelations the System held about \$650 million in unrestricted cash reserves as it was raising tuition for students.

"President Cross has been very instrumental in turning things around," she said. "I think we've turned the corner."

According to the proposal, the System needs the additional money for a new, multipart program called the Talent Development Initiative. It calls for:

- Pumping another \$22.5 million into grants for UW campus efforts to help grow businesses and faculty and student

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entrepreneurs. The competitive grants were part of the current two-year budget but were paid for using existing System funds.

- Spending an additional \$15.4 million to increase by 50 percent the number of students in the Course Options Program, which gives high school students a chance to earn college credit; boost efforts to improve remedial education for students who arrive on campus unprepared for college math and other subjects; update a computer system that shows students how credits would transfer between UW schools and state technical colleges; and cover costs for the Flex Option program, which allows adult students to earn college credit by demonstrating real-life experience, as enrollment grows.

- Devoting \$30 million in grants to UW institutions for programs that recruit more students and issue more degrees in fields where employee demand in the state is high, including agriculture, finance, health care, manufacturing, transportation and water management; recruit and retain faculty in high-demand fields; and increase student internships.

- Spending \$27 million to help offset the effects of the tuition freeze on faculty compensation and benefits. The proposal notes schools have drawn down their reserves and some schools have seen enrollment declines.

Cross said the initiatives focus on getting more students into UW classes earlier, putting more of them in high-demand fields and connecting them with internships during college and jobs after it.

"We're an aging population," he said. "We need more working-age adults and fewer people like me who should be retired."

Cross also plans to ask lawmakers for changes in state law that would give the Board of Regents more power in personnel decisions. One provision would allow them to grant merit raises to certain UW employees. Another would give the board authority to award larger across-the-board pay raises to university staffers than other state employees receive.

Unemployment down in Wis. cities, counties

MADISON, Wis. - Unemployment fell in most Wisconsin cities and counties in July.

The state Department of Workforce Development released data Wednesday that shows unemployment rates fell in 22 of the state's 32 largest cities compared with June.

Rates were unchanged in La Crosse, New Berlin and Wausau and rose slightly in Brookfield, Fond du Lac, Kenosha, Milwaukee, Oshkosh, Racine and Superior. Racine had the highest unemployment rate at 11.3 percent followed by Milwaukee at 9.4

percent. Caledonia had the lowest at 3.3 percent.

Unemployment rates fell in 63 of 72 counties, remained unchanged in four counties and rose in five counties. Menominee had the highest unemployment among all the counties at 18.3 percent. Dane County had the lowest at 4 percent.

The state's overall unemployment rate was 5.8 percent.

Milwaukee zoo visitors stuck when ride stops

MILWAUKEE - About a dozen visitors to the Milwaukee County Zoo were stuck in the air for about a half hour when a ride malfunctioned.

The Sky Glider stopped Wednesday afternoon and a back-up system had to be activated to restart it.

Zoo spokeswoman Jennifer Diliberti-Shea tells the Milwaukee Journal Sentinel everything was orderly, and no one panicked. She says the zoo has a plan in place and regular drills in place for when something like this happens.

She says the Milwaukee Fire Department was called, but its help was not needed because the back-up system got the Sky Glider running again.

But she says the ride will remain closed for the rest of the day for an inspection and any necessary repairs.

Obama says U.S. will be 'relentless' in pursuing Islamic State

A clearly furious President Obama condemned the Islamic militants who claimed responsibility for beheading an American journalist, vowing Wednesday to beat back "this cancer" and showing no sign of constraining the U.S. military intervention in Iraq.

As 14 new U.S. airstrikes pounded Islamic State positions, the grisly video and photos of a masked militant killing James Foley ricocheted around the Internet and focused global outrage on the Al Qaeda-inspired army that has swept across much of eastern Syria and western Iraq this year.

In the video, the executioner speaks English with a British accent, and U.S. and British authorities scrambled to identify him. British Prime Minister David Cameron told the BBC that it was "extremely likely" the killer was a British citizen.

The tape thus raised fresh fears about the hundreds of recruits with Western passports, including dozens of Americans, who have rallied to the Sunni insurgents' side in Syria and Iraq and may return home to wreak havoc, U.S. and European officials say.

U.S. officials disclosed that the Pentagon had sent a special forces team, with air and

ground forces, into Syria this summer in an attempt to rescue Foley and several other American hostages held captive by the militants.

The government had "what we believed was sufficient intelligence, and when the opportunity presented itself, the president authorized the Department of Defense to move aggressively to recover our citizens," Lisa Monaco, the White House counter-terrorism advisor, said in a statement. "Unfortunately, that mission was ultimately not successful because the hostages were not present."

Obama appeared grim when he met with reporters here on Martha's Vineyard, where he is on a family vacation, shortly after U.S. intelligence verified that the video was authentic. He said he had called Foley's parents, Diane and John, and told them that "we are all heartbroken at their loss."

Denouncing "an act of violence that shocks the conscience of the entire world," Obama accused the extremists of also "killing innocent, unarmed civilians in cowardly acts of violence. They abduct women and children and subject them to torture and rape and slavery."

The extremists "speak for no religion," Obama said. "Their victims are overwhelmingly Muslim, and no faith teaches people to massacre innocents. No just God would stand for what they did yesterday, and for what they do every single day."

As Twitter and other social media tried to block the spread of the video, Obama said the United States would "continue to do what we must do to protect our people. We will be vigilant and we will be relentless."

He did not mention the militants' threat to execute Steven Joel Sotloff, another American journalist held captive. Like Foley, Sotloff was shown on the video wearing an orange jumpsuit similar to those worn by detainees at the U.S. prison at Guantanamo Bay, Cuba.

Foley, 40, was working for the website GlobalPost when he was kidnapped in Syria in November 2012. Family members who sought to secure his release believed they were close to winning it when the video appeared Tuesday.

Foley's parents pleaded with their son's executioners to spare other captives.

"We beg compassion and mercy of Jim's captors, for Steven Sotloff and the other captives," John Foley told reporters who gathered outside their home in Rochester, N.H. "They never hurt anybody; they were trying to help and there's no reason for their slaughter."

Secretary of State John F. Kerry, who had met with Foley's parents, said they were "as

cleanup than a forensic investigation," Australian Prime Minister Tony Abbott said Monday.

"Given the almost certain culpability of the Russian-backed rebels in the downing of the aircraft, having these people in control of the site is a little like leaving criminals in control of a crime scene," Abbott said.

Gaza resident: We're being 'collectively punished'

GAZA CITY — As Israeli forces continued their offensive against Hamas militants in the Gaza Strip on Tuesday, outrage among Palestinians caught in the crossfire grows with the mounting death toll.

The offensive has killed at least 583 Palestinians and injured 3,300 more, the Palestinian Health Ministry said. On Tuesday, about 70 targets including five mosques were hit, it said.

Israel's ground campaign, whose goal it says is to destroy a network of tunnels used to attack Israeli citizens, has ignited Palestinian support for Hamas, the political group Israeli forces have been targeting since July 8 in retaliation for ongoing rocket attacks against Israel. Israel estimated there have been more than 2,000 rocket attacks in the past two weeks.

Both Israel and the United States condemn Hamas as a terrorist group, but residents here see it very differently.

"We faced two Israeli wars before but this one is the ... bloodiest and most cruel," said Abu Awni, 38, of Gaza City. "Civilians are attacked in their homes. I'm against Hamas, but when Israel is killing my family, then I will join Hamas.

"The world must wake up and stop consuming Israeli propaganda," he added. "More than half of the population in Gaza is not affiliated with Hamas. But we have been collectively punished."

Ministry spokesman Ashraf Al-Quidra said the casualties were the same as a full-fledged war. "Bodies torn to pieces. Severe burns. We even found some chips of missiles in the bodies of victims," he said.

Israel has said it tries to avoid civilian casualties but blames Hamas for hiding rockets and launchers in civilian areas, a charge echoed recently by United Nations inspectors.

The Shuhada Al-Aqsa Hospital in central Gaza was among the targets shelled Monday, killing five patients and injuring dozens others. Panic erupted in the hospital as families attempted to evacuate patients, Al-Quidra said.

Hamas and Islamic Jihad, another Palestinian militant group, confronted Israeli troops advancing on eastern Gaza, provoking fierce clashes. Israeli jets and

tanks fired on numerous sites in the territory.

In central Gaza, Israeli bombardments targeted a mosque and a U.N.-run school in the Al-Maghazi refugee camp. Six members of a Palestinian civil defense squad came under fire while driving in the area. In separate attacks, a Palestinian paramedic and television news cameraman were also killed.

In Gaza City in the northern section of the territory, Israeli airstrikes hit the Al-Isra apartment tower, killing at least 12 people. In a mosque in southern Gaza, an Israeli drone fired a missile at a mosque, injuring six worshippers.

Around 3,000 homes throughout Gaza have been destroyed during air raids or tank shelling, Palestinian officials said.

Random tank shelling has become routine in Gaza since the start of the ground invasion three days ago. Around 85,000 people have fled the Shijaeyyah, Toffah and Shaaf neighborhoods on the east side of Gaza City. Ruined apartment blocks and piles of debris, including the dead, blocked the streets in the three districts.

"I lived here most of my life in my house here in Shijaeyyah," said Um Naser, a 63-year-old grandmother. "Seeing this huge destruction makes my heart bleed. What Israel is doing in Gaza is criminal. Why destroy our homes? Why kill our children? We, personally, were not firing rockets into Israel."

Refugees are now seeking shelter at 50 U.N.-run schools throughout Gaza. Many locals compare Gaza to an enormous open-air prison that's hemmed in by Israel, the Mediterranean Sea and Egyptian troops that have closed the Rafah border crossing for much of the past seven years. Around 2 million people live in Gaza, an area around twice as large as Washington, D.C.

Palestinians are becoming increasingly concerned that nobody will come to their aid. The lack of international condemnation has bolstered Hamas' reputation even as Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu and Western leaders stress that the militants bear responsibility for the bloodshed, they added.

"I cannot understand how Egypt mediates a cease-fire when it closes the Rafah crossing," said Gaza Strip resident Ibrahim Bulul, 28. "We are abandoned by the Arab countries. We are left alone to face Israel's war. But we are steadfast. You cannot expect us to blame Hamas while Israel is committing massacres."

Meetings in Cairo that include officials from the Palestinian Authority, Israel, the U.S. and Arab countries have yet to yield a permanent cease-fire, raising the specter of

a humanitarian crisis as the military campaign drags on.

Palestinians in the Gaza Strip have electricity for around four hours a day. Water is becoming increasingly hard to acquire. Hospitals face imminent shortages in medicines and other supplies.

The pace of the attacks is overwhelming relief agencies.

International Committee of the Red Cross local spokesman Naser Al-Najjar said coordinating with Israel on a protocol for retrieving the dead has not been easy. It takes far too long to secure permission to send ambulances to areas after bombardments, the spokesman said. The Red Cross is acting as an intermediary between the two sides during the crisis.

"Our role is coordinating between the Israeli army and Palestinian Red Crescent Society who then send ambulances and rescue teams," said Al-Najjar.

The constant wailing of ambulance sirens, Israeli drones buzzing overhead and the tank shelling has made sleep nearly impossible for many residents. The lack of sleep has given many an opportunity to focus on their rage.

"We know that Israel has no red line when it attacks us," said Abu Ali Khamash, a 40-year-old father of five children, referring to an Arabic expression meaning "boundaries not to cross."

"We know that it does not respect international law," he said.

15 dead after blast hits U.N. school in Gaza

A United Nations school came under fire Thursday, killing at least 15 and wounding dozens more seeking shelter as clashes between the Israeli military and Hamas militants raged on the 17th day of the conflict.

The U.N. was attempting to arrange a humanitarian pause in the fighting to evacuate civilians from the U.N. school in the northern town of Beit Hanoun when it was hit.

"We were inside the school, hundreds of us. My daughters were in the courtyard of the school, then many explosions happened, smoke and debris ensued and then I saw my daughters covered with blood," said Um Yasser, whose two daughters were killed in the attack. "We thought this UNRWA school would be safe. But we were mistaken. I wish we stayed in our house since death is chasing us."

The Palestinian Red Crescent said Israeli shells hit the school. The Israeli military said it was reviewing the incident, and suggested Hamas-launched rockets may be

Air Algerie said all six crew members were Spanish. The plane belongs to a private Spanish company, Swiftair, but was operated by Air Algerie.

Though the cause of the crash is unknown, the flight path took the aircraft through a turbulent area hit by regular thunderstorms at this time of year, according to CNN meteorologist Mari Ramos.

The wreckage was located by a helicopter sent by Burkina Faso, the country's Prime Minister Luc Adolphe Tiao said, according to his government's website.

Tiao said 28 of those aboard were from Burkina Faso, four more than the number stated by the airline.

Tiao also said there was "no link" between the crash and the mediating role played by Algeria and his own country in the ongoing conflict in northern Mali between government forces, backed up by French troops, and Islamist militants.

He said the three countries must work hand in hand to clarify the situation and support the families of the victims.

Air Algerie's crash came a week after a Malaysia Airlines plane was downed in Ukraine with 298 people on board.

Days after the July 17 incident, 48 people were killed when a twin-engine plane crashed while attempting to land Wednesday in Taiwan's Penghu Islands.

Air Algerie, Algeria's national airline, flies to 28 countries.

Until this week, the deadliest incident in the airline's history occurred in March 2003 when a domestic flight crashed after takeoff, killing 102 people on board. One person survived.

Missile downs Malaysia Airlines plane over Ukraine, killing 298; Kiev blames rebels

A suspected Russian-made surface-to-air missile downed a Malaysia Airlines jet in a separatist-controlled corner of eastern Ukraine on Thursday, prompting the Ukrainian government to denounce an "act of terror" that killed all 298 people on board.

U.S. intelligence officials confirmed, but could not identify the origins of, the missile strike that led to the deadliest downing of a civilian passenger plane in recent decades. One Ukrainian government official, however, said the Boeing 777 traveling from Amsterdam to Kuala Lumpur appeared to have been hit by an advanced Russian-made missile system that recently came into the hands of the pro-Moscow separatists waging a bloody uprising in the east.

The Ukrainians appeared to point the finger at either Russia or pro-Russian separatists.

In a late-night news conference, Valentyn Nalyvaichenko, chief of Ukraine's Security Service, said his government had obtained intercepts of phone calls between members of Russia's main intelligence directorate and pro-Russian separatists in which they allegedly discussed shooting down the airplane, according to the Kiev Post.

Images capturing what appeared to be the explosion showed a massive cloud of smoke in the air as the plane was hit about 4:21 p.m. local time. Blurred lines of debris rained down on the ground. Rescue workers plied water over the smoldering remains, which landed in a rural patch of eastern Ukraine where the crash site appeared to be a ghastly scene of twisted metal and bodies splayed out in an ashen tableau.

In Amsterdam, an audible gasp went up at the news conference Thursday night at Schiphol airport when it was announced that 154 Dutch passengers had been on board Malaysia Airlines Flight 17. The airline's senior vice president, Huib Gorter, read out a list of passenger nationalities that included 27 Australians as the next-largest group. The airplane's 15 crew members were Malaysian, as were 28 passengers. The nationalities of 41 passengers had not been established at the time.

Rebels turn over MH17 black boxes

Under mounting world pressure, pro-Russian rebels handed over data-filled "black boxes" from the Boeing 777 downed over eastern Ukraine to Malaysian officials as victims' bodies began a grim journey back to Amsterdam.

A senior separatist leader, Aleksander Borodai, gave the data recorders recovered from the wreckage of Malaysia Airlines Flight 17 to a delegation from Malaysia in the city of Donetsk in the early hours of Tuesday.

"Here they are, the black boxes," Borodai said at the headquarters of his self-proclaimed Donetsk People's Republic, Reuters reported.

Col. Mohamed Sakri of the Malaysian National Security Council told the meeting the two black boxes were "in good condition."

The data recorders were sought by investigators for clues to what happened to Thursday's flight from Amsterdam to Kuala Lumpur that ended in fields controlled by pro-Russian separatists. All 298 people aboard were killed.

The resolution calls for a halt to all military activities around the site and for Russian-backed separatists to allow international investigators complete access to the crash site. With Russian support, the United Nations Security Council voted unanimously Monday for an international investigation into the downing of the flight.

The U.N. action came after four refrigerated rail cars carrying the bodies of 282 of the 298 victims left for the city of Kharkiv, controlled by the Ukrainian national government, en route to Amsterdam. Earlier Monday, Dutch investigators were allowed to inspect the remains.

The Netherlands said 193 of its citizens were on the Amsterdam-to-Kuala Lumpur flight.

Malaysian Prime Minister Najib Razak said the remains would be taken to Kharkiv, Ukraine's second-largest city, then will be flown to the Netherlands.

The jet crashed in a remote area near this city, a short distance from the rebel stronghold of Donetsk. The Pentagon has accused the pro-Russian separatists of shooting down the jet with a surface-to-air missile system probably provided by Russia. The rebels have blamed the crash on Ukrainian forces, and Russia has denied involvement.

The train was to be met in Donetsk by a Malaysian delegation.

Kharkiv, pop. 1.4 million, is 180 miles northwest of Donetsk and outside the area where separatists and Ukrainian forces have been fighting.

The bodies of some of the victims have still not been recovered from the huge, debris-strewn crash site near the town of Hrabove.

Separatist groups controlled the crash site area for five days and have given international investigators limited access to the area. After leaving bodies in the field for more than two days, the rebels organized teams over the weekend to begin moving the bodies to the refrigerated train car in Torez.

At the White House, President Obama called on Russia on Monday to get separatists to stop hampering the crash investigation and allow international experts free access to the crash site.

"The Russian-backed separatists who control the area continue to block the investigation," Obama said. "The separatists are removing evidence from the crash site. All of which begs the question: What are they trying to hide?"

Obama said Russian President Vladimir Putin had "a direct responsibility" to compel the separatists to cooperate with the investigation. "That's the least they can do," he said.

Armed rebels had kept international inspectors at bay for days, prompting outrage from political leaders in the Netherlands and Australia, whose citizens were aboard the ill-fated jetliner.

"This is still an absolutely shambolic situation. It does look more like a garden

responsible for the deaths, but provided little additional information.

"We can't confirm that this is a result of errant fire. In any case, we do not target U.N. facilities," said military spokesman Lt. Col. Peter Lerner. He said Israel had urged officials to evacuate the school three days earlier.

U.N. staff were among the casualties, said U.N. Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon, who called on Hamas and Israel to respect "the sanctity of civilian life, the inviolability of U.N. premises."

"Today's attack underscores the imperative for the killing to stop — and to stop now," Ban said during a visit to Iraq.

The strike is the fourth time a U.N. facility has been hit during fighting between Israel and Hamas. The U.N. Relief and Works Agency, which handles refugees, previously said it had found militant rockets inside two vacant schools.

Condemning the violence, Hamas spokesman Fawzi Barhoum said Israel was targeting displaced people and "committing massacres."

Israel maintains it does all it can to prevent civilian casualties and that Hamas puts Palestinians in danger by hiding weapons in crowded civilian areas.

The deaths raised the number of Palestinians killed in the conflict to at least 788, most of them civilians, Gaza health official Ashraf al-Kidra said.

The Israel Defense Forces (IDF) says 32 of its soldiers have been killed since July 17, when it widened its air campaign into a full-scale ground operation aimed at halting rocket fire from Gaza and destroying a sophisticated network of cross-border tunnels. Two Israeli civilians and a Thai worker in Israel have also been killed.

The violence ominously began to spread to the West Bank, where thousands of Palestinians protesting the Gaza fighting clashed with Israeli soldiers late Thursday in Qalandia, near the West Bank city of Ramallah. At least one Palestinian was killed and dozens were injured, the Associated Press reports, citing a Palestinian doctor.

The fresh violence came as the Israeli parliament swore in Reuven Rivlin as the country's new president, replacing Nobel Peace laureate Shimon Peres.

"We are not fighting against the Palestinian people, and we are not at war with Islam," Rivlin said in his speech at the handover ceremony. "We are fighting against terrorism."

More than 2,000 rockets have been fired at Israel from Gaza since July 8, and the Israeli military says it has uncovered more than 30

tunnels leading from Gaza to Israel, which Israel says Hamas uses to carry out terror attacks.

Despite the continued fighting, the U.S. Federal Aviation Administration lifted a ban on commercial flights just before midnight Wednesday, but European airlines extended their cancellations through Thursday.

Meanwhile, the international community continued to step up efforts to negotiate a Israeli-Palestinian truce. U.S. Secretary of State John Kerry and U.N. chief Ban traveled to the region to meet with various Arab leaders.

Kerry spent time in Cairo to gather support among regional leaders for a cease-fire. A truce proposal brokered by the Egyptians last week failed because it did not contain a clause to lift the Israeli and Egyptian blockades on Gaza — a key Hamas demand — and the U.S.-designated terror group said it was not consulted on the terms of the deal.

"We will not accept any initiative that does not lift the blockade on our people and that does not respect their sacrifices," said Hamas leader Khaled Meshaal at a news conference in Qatar on Wednesday. "We will not accept anything but the end of the siege."

Israel imposed the blockade in 2006 after Hamas and other militants abducted an Israeli soldier in a deadly cross-border raid. It tightened the siege in 2007 after Hamas seized political power over Gaza from forces loyal to Western-backed Palestinian President Mahmoud Abbas, but had eased some of the restrictions in recent years.

Egypt tightened its own restrictions last year after the overthrow of a Hamas-friendly government in Cairo, and has destroyed many of the cross-border smuggling tunnels that sustained Gaza's economy and which were also used by Hamas to bring in arms.

The attack on the U.N. school "underscores the need to end the violence and to achieve a sustainable cease-fire and enduring resolution to the crisis in Gaza as soon as possible," State Department spokeswoman Jen Psaki said.

For Ahmed Meri of Gaza City, the international efforts aimed at stopping the violence are not enough.

"Where is the international community to see how we are being massacred?" Meri asked. "I was against Hamas but now I'm with any party that can avenge our deaths."

Norway: group from Syria en route to commit terror

COPENHAGEN, Denmark -- The head analyst of Norway's intelligence agency says a group of people is en route from Syria "to carry out an act of terror in the

West," adding that Norway has been "concretely named" as the target.

Jon Fitje Hoffmann spoke in a live interview with Norwegian broadcaster TV2 on Friday but didn't elaborate further. He was not immediately available for further comment.

However, Hans-Joergen Bonnichsen, former operational head of Denmark's intelligence agency, told the AP such information always could be disinformation because those who discuss such plans likely want others to hear.

PST said Thursday it had information about an imminent "concrete threat" based on "reliable information." The threat was unspecific about what the target might be, or when or where an attack could take place.

Pentagon Says Russia Firing Artillery Directly Into Ukraine From Within Its Borders

Things just got even more heated in Ukraine.

During a press briefing yesterday, State Department Spokeswoman Marie Harf claimed that Moscow is boosting its military shipments to the separatists in Ukraine.

"We have new evidence that the Russians intend to deliver heavier and more powerful rocket launchers to separatist forces in Ukraine and have evidence that Russia is firing artillery from within Russia to attack Ukrainian military positions," Harf told reporters.

Although the US still hasn't determined what brought down the two Ukrainian fighter jets planes on Wednesday — rebels have claimed responsibility saying they used man-portable, shoulder-fired missiles — US officials are confident that Russia has been firing across the border.

"For several days the Russians have been firing artillery into Ukraine," said Col. Steve Warren, a Pentagon spokesman. "This is clearly a military escalation."

This new information certainly makes it even more obvious that the Russians were behind the downing of Malaysia Airlines flight MH17 last week.

To be sure, Putin's denials were weak to begin with. But now that we know that in the face of international criticism he has decided to increase support to the separatists as opposed to help the effort to pull them back, there is no reason to treat him as anything but an enemy.

It is my hope that this new development will spark new debate in Europe on the need to levy tougher sanctions on Russia.

"Almost every European state has voluntarily handed over power to Mr. Putin, allowing him to play countries against each

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other," said Marietje Schaake, an influential member of the European Parliament. "We should choose for energy independency, for principles, human rights and rule of law. But that is not what we are doing now."

Though it took longer than many would've liked, the US has finally stood up for our principles, human rights and rule of law through the latest round of sanctions. They surely could go further and target Putin himself and this may very well happen if things continue as they have. But it is time that Europe at least catches up with the US.

The toll will be heavy for many European countries. For instance, Shell, the Anglo-Dutch oil giant, has its head office in the Hague and is one of the world's largest investors in Russian gas fields in Siberia. Thus far, Shell has declined to comment on whether they will reconsider their investment in light of the MH17 crash.

European nations must consider that there is so much more to lose than money at this point.

Standing up to Russia and Putin is a matter of national character, which is arguably more important than a nation's coffers. It's high time that Europe recognized this.

The Gitmo detainees swapped for Bergdahl: Who are they?

Together with the announcement that U.S. Army Sgt. Bowe Bergdahl was released after nearly five years of captivity came the news that five detainees at Guantanamo Bay were being transferred to Qatar.

A plane carrying the detainees left the U.S. Navy base in Guantanamo, Cuba, after the announcement that Bergdahl, who was captured by the Taliban in Afghanistan in 2009, had been exchanged for the five men.

Saturday's transfer was brokered through the Qatari government, a senior Defense official said. According to senior administration officials, Qatar agreed to take custody of the detainees and provide assurances they would not pose a threat to the United States, including a one-year ban from travel out of Qatar.

Two senior administration officials confirmed the names of the five released detainees as Khair Ulla Said Wali Khairkhwa, Mullah Mohammad Fazl, Mullah Norullah Nori, Abdul Haq Wasiq and Mohammad Nabi Omari.

They were mostly mid- to high-level officials in the Taliban regime and had been detained early in the war in Afghanistan, because of their positions within the Taliban, not because of ties to al Qaeda.

CNN profiled them two years ago, when their names first surfaced as candidates for a transfer as part of talks with the Taliban:

Khair Ulla Said Wali Khairkhwa

Khairkhwa was an early member of the Taliban in 1994 and was interior minister during the Taliban's rule. He hails from the same tribe as Afghan President Hamid Karzai and was captured in January 2002. Khairkhwa's most prominent position was as governor of Herat province from 1999 to 2001, and he was alleged to have been "directly associated" with Osama bin Laden. According to a detainee assessment, Khairkhwa also was probably associated with al Qaeda's now-deceased leader in Iraq, Abu Musab al Zarqawi. He is described as one of the "major opium drug lords in western Afghanistan" and a "friend" of Karzai. He was arrested in Pakistan and was transferred to Guantanamo in May 2002. During questioning, Khairkhwa denied all knowledge of extremist activities.

Mullah Mohammad Fazl

Fazl commanded the main force fighting the U.S.-backed Northern Alliance in 2001, and served as chief of army staff under the Taliban regime. He has been accused of war crimes during Afghanistan's civil war in the 1990s. Fazl was detained after surrendering to Abdul Rashid Dostam, the leader of Afghanistan's Uzbek community, in November 2001. He was wanted by the United Nations in connection with the massacre of thousands of Afghan Shiites during the Taliban's rule. "When asked about the murders, he did not express any regret," according to the detainee assessment. He was alleged to have been associated with several militant Islamist groups, including al Qaeda. He was transferred into U.S. custody in December 2001 and was one of the first arrivals at Guantanamo, where he was assessed as having high intelligence value.

Mullah Norullah Noori

Noori served as governor of Balkh province in the Taliban regime and played some role in coordinating the fight against the Northern Alliance. Like Fazl, Noori was detained after surrendering to Dostam, the Uzbek leader, in 2001. Noori claimed during interrogation that "he never received any weapons or military training." According to 2008 detainee assessment, Noori "continues to deny his role, importance and level of access to Taliban officials." That same assessment characterized him as high risk and of high intelligence value.

Abdul Haq Wasiq

Wasiq was the deputy chief of the Taliban regime's intelligence service. His cousin was head of the service. An administrative review in 2007 cited a source as saying that Wasiq was also "an al Qaeda intelligence member" and had links with members of another militant Islamist group, Hezb-e-Islami Gulbuddin. Wasiq claimed, according to the review, that he was arrested

while trying to help the United States locate senior Taliban figures. He denied any links to militant groups.

Mohammad Nabi Omari

Omari was a minor Taliban official in Khost Province. According to the first administrative review in 2004, he was a member of the Taliban and associated with both al Qaeda and another militant group Hezb-e-Islami Gulbuddin. He was the Taliban's chief of communications and helped al Qaeda members escape from Afghanistan to Pakistan. Omari acknowledged during hearings that he had worked for the Taliban but denied connections with militant groups. He also said that he had worked with a U.S. operative named Mark to try to track down Taliban leader Mullah Omar.

Wisconsin again tops nation in cranberry production

Once again, Wisconsin remains the nation's top cranberry producer, with second-place Massachusetts millions of barrels behind, the governor's office announced Thursday.

The state, in fact, produced 67 percent of the nation's cranberries.

In a production report released this week by the U.S. Department of Agriculture, Wisconsin cranberry growers set another record by harvesting 6.02 million barrels of cranberries in 2013, a 25 percent increase over the 4.83 million barrels the previous year.

The state's cherry and apple growers also rebounded from tough weather conditions in 2012.

"I commend all of our farmers for their efforts, hard work, and determination, particularly those who have faced extreme weather conditions over the past few years," Gov. Scott Walker said in a statement.

Wisconsin now ranks fourth in the nation in tart cherry production, harvesting 12.3 million pounds last year compared to 1.7 million pounds in a 2012 season that was hurt due to an unusually early spring and late freeze.

Apple growers also recovered, producing 41.7 million pounds in 2013, up 18 million pounds.

GOP leader: Don't bring border kids to Wisconsin

MILWAUKEE — Republican Assembly Speaker Robin Vos says Wisconsin should not be considered a site to temporarily house unaccompanied immigrant children who are crossing the U.S. border.

The Milwaukee Journal Sentinel reports Vos wrote to Department of Homeland Security Secretary Jeh Johnson on Thursday. The letter also was signed by

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largest export market for U.S. pork and the 8th largest export market worldwide for U.S. beef, according to the U.S. International Trade Commission.

Globally, Russia is now the second-largest agricultural importer after China among so-called emerging markets. Imports rose from \$7 billion in 2000 to \$33 billion in 2008, a U.S. Agriculture Department study reported.

Cease-Fire in Gaza Expires, and Strikes Resume

JERUSALEM — As a 72-hour truce in Gaza expired at 8 a.m. Friday, Palestinian militants fired barrages of rockets into Israel and the Israeli military responded with airstrikes, one of which killed a 10-year-old boy, according to relatives.

The renewed hostilities interrupted the indirect talks in Cairo, brokered by Egypt and backed by the United States, for a more durable cease-fire agreement. While the rocket fire signaled Hamas's refusal to extend the temporary lull and its desire to apply pressure for its demands to be met at the talks, the Israeli government said in a statement that "Israel will not hold negotiations under fire."

Israel had said it was willing to extend the truce unconditionally, but the Cairo talks, which began on Wednesday, appeared to have yielded few results.

After three days of quiet, the Israeli military said, at least 33 rockets and mortars were fired into southern Israel between 8 a.m. and 1 p.m. Some were intercepted by Israel's missile defense system, while others fell in open ground and a few landed short in the Gaza Strip. An Israeli civilian and a soldier were injured in one of the attacks, according to the military, and a building was damaged. The military also reported two launchings of rockets or mortar shells from Gaza before dawn.

In Gaza, Ibrahim Dawawsa, 10, was killed in a strike from an Israeli drone as he played in the yard of a mosque in the Sheik Radwan neighborhood of Gaza City, according to his brother, Zuheir, 19.

Sami Abu Zuhri, a spokesman for Hamas, wrote in an Internet posting on Friday morning that it did not accept an extension of the lull, adding, "We will continue negotiations." Islamic Jihad, a militant Palestinian faction that has taken part in the fighting alongside Hamas and is represented at the talks in Cairo, took responsibility for firing rockets.

Lt. Col. Peter Lerner, a spokesman for the Israeli military, said in a statement: "The renewed rocket attacks by terrorists at Israel are unacceptable, intolerable and shortsighted. Hamas's bad decision to breach the cease-fire will be pursued by the I.D.F. We will continue to strike Hamas, its

infrastructure, its operatives and restore security for the State of Israel."

The Israeli government statement said that Israel had informed the Egyptians that it was ready to extend the cease-fire by another 72 hours before the rocket fire resumed. "Israel will continue to act by all means to defend its citizens, while making an effort not to harm civilians in Gaza," it said. "Hamas, which violated the cease-fire, is responsible for the harm to Gaza's citizens."

Just at 8 a.m., as television correspondents stood on the beachside road in Gaza City to do their live reports, the first rocket was fired. The signature white plume of the Israeli interception was visible in the air for miles. A few more booms were heard in the next 15 minutes, but they hardly disrupted the trickle of donkey carts on the street.

People were out in the streets of Gaza City, and some stores were open, much as during the previous three days of cease-fire. Children roamed outside, men sat on sidewalks, and a line of a few dozen waited to buy bread at the Khouli bakery.

Farther north, in Jabaliya, where thousands of people have been sheltering in United Nations schools, the streets were teeming with people. An elderly man was walking with seven camels. Children balanced cartons of supplies on their heads, taking them from the market to the shelters.

In areas closer to the border with Israel, like Beit Lahiya and Beit Hanoun, the streets were almost deserted. In Beit Lahiya, half of the two dozen tall apartment buildings of the huge Al Nada complex had been destroyed by nearly a month of Israeli airstrikes, artillery and tank fire.

In Beit Hanoun, now a ghost town of toppled homes and rubble-strewn streets, Anas Kaferna, 25, and his brother and sister were tying mattresses to the top of a silver sedan and heading south. "I don't want to be the last one in town," Mr. Kaferna said.

Since their home was destroyed at the start of the ground invasion, the siblings had been sleeping at a maternity hospital where Mr. Kaferna worked as a security guard. But with the news that the cease-fire was over, they headed to Gaza City, although they did not know where.

"Now it seems the situation will get harder," he said. "Maybe yes and maybe no. I don't understand politics."

Hamas radio reported an Israeli airstrike in agricultural land north of Gaza City, which caused no injuries, as well as an airstrike in Jabaliya. It said artillery shells had hit the Nada complex in Beit Hanoun, as well as the cities of Rafah and Khan Younis.

The 72-hour truce came after 29 days of fierce fighting that left more than 1,800

Palestinians dead, many of them civilians. On the Israeli side, 64 soldiers and three civilians were killed. Israel said its military campaign, which began July 8 with an aerial assault and led to a ground invasion, was aimed at quelling rocket fire and destroying Hamas's network of tunnels leading into Israeli territory. Israel withdrew its ground troops from the Gaza Strip but left them on alert along the border and kept its air force on standby.

Hamas is demanding a lifting of the blockade on Gaza imposed by Israel and Egypt and an opening of all the border crossings to allow the free movement of people and goods in and out of the Palestinian coastal territory. Israel is demanding measures to prevent Hamas from rearming and, eventually, the demilitarization of Gaza.

A spokesman for Hamas's armed wing, the Qassam Brigades, said in a speech aired Thursday night on Hamas's television channel, Al Aqsa, that the Israeli forces had left in defeat.

"We gave a space for negotiations in order to agree on the demands of the Palestinian resistance and bring our people a better life of dignity," he said, warning, "We are ready to resume the gun battle again."

"We will not accept to end this battle without stopping the aggression, lifting the siege and the most important demand of building a seaport for Gaza, and we will never accept less than that," he said.

GIRL SWEEP AWAY IN 2004 TSUNAMI IS REUNITED WITH FAMILY 10 YEARS ON

A girl who was swept away in the Boxing Day tsunami in Indonesia almost 10 years ago has been reunited with her family, who had long believed she had perished in the 2004 disaster.

Raudhatul Jannah was four years old when the tsunami hit her home in West Aceh, carrying off her and her seven-year-old brother. Her parents spent a month searching for their children before giving up hope of ever finding the youngsters.

But recently the girl's uncle spotted Jannah walking home from school and was so moved by her resemblance to his missing niece that he made enquiries about her background.

He found that she had been rescued after the tsunami by a fisherman who gave her to his elderly mother to raise.

Jannah's parents visited the girl, who had been given the name Weni, in June and immediately knew she was their child, DPA reported.

"God has given us a miracle," Jannah's mother Jamaliah said. "My husband and I are

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addition to patrolling and searching for "foreign submarines," the Arctic flights were for "ensuring the security of sea navigation and carrying out search and rescue, and scientific missions," ITAR-TASS reported.

To some U.S. military officials, the excursions carry echoes of the Cold War, when Soviet nuclear bombers tested U.S. air defenses.

In a reminder that the surveillance is not one sided, a Russian fighter jet intercepted a U.S. spy plane in April about 60 miles off the coast of eastern Russia, in international airspace over the Sea of Okhotsk, north of Japan.

Tourist crashes drone into Yellowstone hot spring

A tourist has crashed a drone into Yellowstone National Park's world-renowned Grand Prismatic Spring, potentially damaging it, park officials said.

The crash into the park's largest hot spring came less than two months after the National Park Service banned the use of drones and small remote-controlled aircraft at all 401 national parks and monuments.

"People unfortunately sometimes treat hot springs like wishing wells. But this is the first unmanned aircraft," said park spokeswoman Amy Bartlett. "Grand Prismatic is one of our biggest hot springs, a highly visited spot, and you don't want anything entering it."

The crash happened Saturday, Bartlett said, and the pilot told park officials that it had happened and then left the area. Park rangers are now trying to track down the pilot to get more information about the size of the drone — they're often smaller than a pizza box — and exactly where in the spring it crashed.

Grand Prismatic is known for the bright multi-hued algae and bacteria coloring its edges, and the deep blue color at the center of its approximately 200-foot-wide pool. Visitors aren't allowed to walk up to the water's edge, and must remain on a boardwalk set back from the shoreline.

Bartlett said park rangers have been unable to see the drone from the boardwalk. They may have to fly over the spring in a helicopter so they can get a better look. She said rangers worry the drone's presence could damage the spring, but removing it might cause even more damage.

Because hot springs depend on water welling up from within the earth, anything that blocks or alters the waters' flow can change the spring's appearance. That means the drone might plug up the spring, but so could a rock accidentally dislodged by a ranger trying to retrieve the craft.

The park has not erected signs telling visitors about the ban on drones, but that

information is printed in the park newspaper given to visitors.

Bartlett said the park worker who was told about the crash by the drone's pilot apparently didn't recognize the gravity of the situation. Citing the ongoing investigation, she declined to provide further details about the incident.

"We would just like some more details from the person," she said.

Mystery of giant holes in Siberia may be solved

Huge, mysterious gaping holes in Northern Siberia may not be such a mystery anymore. One scientist has pinned down a cause and, spoiler alert, it's not aliens or weapons testing, as had been theorized.

The first hole discovered in the Yamal Peninsula, which is 260 feet wide, is likely a sinkhole caused by melting ice or permafrost, University of Alaska geophysicist Vladimir Romanovsky tells LiveScience.

But rather than swallowing the earth as it opened up, he speculates, the hole "actually erupted outside," tossing dirt around the rim. (One caveat: Romanovsky hasn't seen the holes himself, but he has spoken to Russian colleagues who have, notes PRI.)

He suspects natural gas caused pressure to build as the water collected in an underground cavity, and the dirt—which is reportedly piled more than 3 feet high around the edge of the crater — was eventually expelled.

Plants around the crater suggests the hole is several years old, but closer inspection is needed to determine the exact age. Romanovsky thinks climate change played a role, which means "we will probably see this happen more often now," he says. But questions remain, notes LiveScience: Where did the natural gas come from, and why is the hole so even and round?

Commuters tip train cars to help trapped man

SYDNEY (AP) — Dozens of people helped rescue a fellow commuter in Australia by pushing against train carriages to free the man whose foot had slipped between the platform and the train.

Closed-circuit footage released by the Western Australia State Public Transport Authority showed the man lost his footing while boarding the train at a station in the city of Perth on Wednesday.

A passenger alerted railway staff who stopped the train from leaving, local media said. When railway workers realized the man's foot was stuck in the 2-inch gap, they called on other passengers to help.

The footage showed dozens of people rushing to help tilt the carriages to free the man.

"It's really heartwarming I think, to find an incident like this where everyone pitched in," transport authority spokesman David Hynes said.

The man wasn't named, but local media reported that he was believed to have escaped injury and caught the next train.

Russia to ban all U.S. agricultural imports

Retaliating for U.S. sanctions over Ukraine, Russia will ban or limit all American agricultural products for up to a year, a Kremlin official said Wednesday.

All fruits and vegetables from the European Union will also be locked out, the country's agricultural and veterinary watchdog told RIA Novosti. Produce from Canada and Japan will also be blocked.

The complete list of banned products, to be announced Thursday, will be "very substantial," said Alexey Alekseenko, an assistant to the head of the Federal Service for Veterinary and Phytosanitary Surveillance.

The White House said the move would further harm Russia and its economy.

"Retaliating against Western companies or countries will deepen Russia's international isolation, causing further damage to its own economy," a spokeswoman told RIA Novosti.

Food prices in Russia would likely rise in the short term because of the import ban but not cause long-term damage, the country's agricultural watchdog predicted.

The ban is not likely to have a major impact on U.S. farmers and ranchers, said U.S. farm groups.

"It is unfortunate that the biggest losers in this will be Russian consumers, who will pay more for their food now as well as in the long run," Bob Stallman, president of the American Farm Bureau Federation, told *The Des Moines Register*.

Still, farm groups urged Russian President Vladimir Putin to rescind the decree he signed earlier Wednesday authorizing the year-long ban on all agricultural imports from countries that imposed sanctions on Russian companies, banks, politicians and oligarchs because of the conflict in Ukraine.

Last year, U.S. data show, Russia imported about \$1.3 billion in U.S. food and agricultural products. That accounted for just over 10% of all U.S. exports to the country.

Poultry was the top U.S. import, worth \$310 million, followed by tree nuts (\$172 million), soybeans (\$157 million), and live animals (\$149 million). Russia is also the 5th