

Black Publishers Convene In Bomb-Scarred Oklahoma City

OKLAHOMA CITY — The National Newspaper Publishers Association (NNPA) held its National Convention recently four blocks from the ruins of the Alfred P. Murrah Federal Building where 168 persons were killed in the bomb blast two months ago.

Guided by the host Tyson Resolves

NEW YORK - Heavyweight boxer Mike Tyson, who served three years in jail for the rape of a beauty pageant contestant, has settled a civil lawsuit filed by the same woman out of court, his lawyer said Thursday.

"The matter has been resolved ... it's confidential, not public," said attorney Nathan Dershowitz, who declined to give any details or indicate whether it was a monetary settlement.

Desiree Washington, a Miss Black America contestant, filed for punitive and compensatory damages against the former heavyweight champion for assault, battery and emotional distress after the 1991 rape in Indiana.

Tyson, who was released March 25 after three years in an Indiana prison for the rape conviction, made a controversial homecoming appearance

Florida High Court Upholds The Crossburning Ban

TALLAHASSEE, Fla. - The Florida Supreme Court Thursday ruled that cross burning is not protected by the constitutional guarantee of free speech and can be prohibited under state law.

In a 6-1 verdict, the court upheld a 1993 law that forbids placement or burning of a cross on someone's property. In doing so, it reversed a Jacksonville trial court's finding that the law was unconstitutional.

The lone dissenting justice said that, though contemptible, cross burning should not be barred by the law because the state had other ways to punish offenders that do not infringe upon their First Amendment rights.

The ruling came in response to a 1993 case in Jacksonville, in which a youth was charged with erecting a flaming cross on the

newspaper, Oklahoma City's nine-year-old, Ebony Tribune, NNPA delegates from around the nation, the Caribbean and Africa, learned of the large numbers of African American deaths and injuries in the bomb blast. They also learned of the black community's response to helping to provide help to

Lawsuit By Ex-Beauty Queen

Tuesday in Harlem, where he avoided questions about the case and spoke briefly about his Aug. 19 comeback bout with fighter Peter McNeeley.

"He wants to get on with his life and put that time, that phase, behind him and he figured the disposition that he was able to make was certainly worth it to him," Dershowitz said.

He would only say that the agreement was made "recently." He said the agreement had not yet been technically filed and that he expected it to take two weeks.

A trial on the lawsuit had been scheduled to start July 24 in federal court in Indianapolis.

Plans for Tyson's appearance in New York Tuesday had caused an uproar in the Harlem community and several local politicians and ministers on his original

survivors.

The informal but intensive "study" of Oklahoma began with the Philip Morris Companies Inc.-sponsored NNPA president's reception, at the picturesque Oklahoma State Capitol Rotunda. There followed three discussions-filled days in which most conversations always led

welcoming committee backed off from the event. Dozens of people marched Monday night to protest violence against women. Tyson was invited to attend, but he did not.

back to one aspect or another of the bomb blast.

"Most people are not aware of the large numbers of African American casualties in the bombing," Oklahoma Governor Frank Keating told an NNPA delegation that met with him in his office.

African Americans were significantly involved, both as victims and as rescue workers, the governor said.

The delegation leader, Lecia D. Swain, editor and publisher of the Ebony Tribune, reported that 38 victims or 22 percent of the 168 fatalities were Black. She

said 80 percent of the children killed were Black.

Ms. Swain explained that African Americans children were killed and injured in two day care centers in the area, one inside the federal building and the other in the YMCA next door.

Ms. Swain said that the 38 African Americans killed in the blast were members of local churches and their funerals weighed heavily on the Black community of some 94,000 in the Oklahoma City area.

A local religious leader, Rev. J.A. Reed, Jr., Pastor of the Fairview Baptist Church, led

concerned Black clergy in the creation of the Oklahoma City Christian Relief Fund. It has raised more than \$100,000 and distributed more than \$70,000 to families of victims of the blast.

Many of the visiting publishers sang the praises of the host publication, The Ebony Tribune, for its detailed coverage of the bombing as well as its willingness to share locally developed stories with other NNPA publications.

The Ebony Tribune's unique development and philosophy was also a source of interest to the visiting publishers.

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