

Somalis demonstrate against U.S. foreign policy

MOGADISHU, Somalia (AP) - Thousands of Somalis carried images of Osama bin Laden and placards criticizing American policy toward the Muslim world during a demonstration Sunday that the government tried to discourage.

Hundreds of members of the new police force stood by as Sheikh Ahmed Dhisow, an influential Muslim leader, told the crowd that Muslims were willing to grant peace to those who gave them peace but said "we will make those

who keep provoking Islam our enemy."

One of the placards read: "If America wants her women and children to live in peace, they should also give some peace to their Muslim and black communities."

Another, expressing widespread criticism of U.S. support for Israel, said: "Osama is only suspected, but (Israeli Prime Minister) Ariel Sharon is a known criminal, so why doesn't America want to arrest Sharon?"

U.S. officials say they hold

bin Laden, a Saudi dissident living in exile in Afghanistan, responsible for running an international terrorist network and for masterminding the deadly Sept. 11 attacks in the United States. U.S. officials have also blamed bin Laden's al-Qaida terrorist group for the 1998 bombings of two U.S. embassies in East Africa and for attacks on U.S. troops in Somalia in 1993.

The several dozen expatriate aid workers working for the European Union or U.N. agencies in Somalia

have begun pulling out of the country where the dilapidated minivans that serve as public transport are plastered with images of bin Laden.

Opponents of President Abdiqasim Salad Hassan have accused him and his government of receiving financial backing from bin Laden, a charge the government denies.

Deputy Prime Minister Osman Jama Ali Kalluun said Sunday that the government is ready to cooperate with the United States in the fight

against international terrorism.

"We have no relation with Osama bin Laden, and he will never be allowed to come to Somalia," he said, alluding to the possibility that bin Laden might seek refuge in the war-torn nation in the Horn of Africa if he were obliged to leave Afghanistan.

Until Abdiqasim and 245 legislators were elected at a peace conference in neighboring Djibouti in August 2000, Somalia had no central government since 1991 when

the country was plunged into chaos following the ouster of President Mohamed Siad Barre.

Sheikh Mohamud Sheikh Ibrahim Suley, another Muslim leader and rally organizer, said the gathering in this Muslim nation was not meant to support one man but to protest "malicious behavior against Islam in general."

Many participants expressed disbelief that a single man like bin Laden could have organized the massive attacks on the United States.

Government: Refugees killed 573 Tanzanians in three years

DARES SALAAM, Tanzania (PANA)-Refugees and illegal immigrants reportedly killed a total of 573 Tanzanians between 1998 and early this year in the country's western regions, government authorities said.

According to the Kagera regional commissioner, Tumaini Kiwelu, the killings occurred in Kagera and Kigoma, which host thousands of refugees from Burundi, Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) and Rwanda.

Kiwelu said a huge influx

of refugees from civil war-torn Burundi and the DRC had heightened social tensions between the local population and the aliens, leading to a spate of killings in the two regions.

The regional commissioner told a government delegation touring the western border regions that the refugees had not only been a burden to Tanzania but some of them have murdered local people.

Kagera region hosts 150,000 Rwandan refugees who fled their country during

the 1994 genocide. Kigoma houses 400,000 Burundian and Congolese refugees who have escaped raging civil wars in their respective countries.

Kiwelu told the government delegation that groups of illegal immigrants had recently entered Kagera region from Burundi, Rwanda and Uganda.

The illegal aliens, mostly pastoralists, are also alleged to have contributed to rising crime in Kagera region, which shares borders with (See *Refugees*, Page 18)

Annan

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terrorism proposed by Russia.

On the comprehensive convention, he said, "serious difficulties" remain on key issues such as defining terrorism and differentiating between terrorism and the right to self-determination and to combat foreign occupation. On the nuclear treaty, one of the key outstanding issues is whether it should apply to armed forces.

Only four of the treaties and one of the protocols have been ratified by more than 100 countries. The newest convention, on suppressing the financing of terrorism, hasn't taken effect because it needs 22 ratifications and only has four.

Ambassador Jeremy Greenstock of Britain, America's closest council ally, said every country needs to be asked not only whether they've signed and ratified the anti-terrorism

measures, but what they are doing to implement them, such as sharing information and watching the borders.

The Security Council can encourage - or mandate - these actions and that will be part of the debate when the council starts discussing possible actions next week, Greenstock said. Annan wrote in The New York Times that the United Nations "provides the forum necessary for building a universal coalition and can ensure global legitimacy for the long-term response to terrorism."

In another possible long-term action, The Guardian newspaper in Britain quoted a secret cable from a NATO ally as saying the U.S. administration is planning to overthrow Afghanistan's Taliban militia and replace it with a U.N.-backed administration.

Asked whether there were any such plans, Annan said, "No. Not yet."

Congo

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Interahamwe fled to neighboring Congo, then known as Zaire, to escape retaliation.

"There is a danger of resumption of a full-scale warfare against the Interahamwe," Onusumba said, adding "we have the means and capacity to launch an all-out military assault."

Onusumba said members of his delegation also discussed with Mugabe the forthcoming inter-Congolese dialogue that begins Oct. 15 in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, and which is expected to chart

Congo's political future after decades of corrupt and dictatorial regimes. The rebel delegation told Mugabe that Kabila's proposal to hold national elections soon after the dialogue wasn't practical

and encouraged the establishment of a three-year transitional administration to prepare Congo for democratic elections and integrate rebel forces into the national army, Onusumba said.

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