

INTERNATIONAL

African theologians diss western peers

LAGOS, Nigeria (AP) - Widening the growing global Anglican rift over homosexuality, Anglican bishops in Africa said Monday they would stop theological training of African clergy in Western institutions.

Bishops also were studying creation of a separate, "African" theology rejecting gay clergy and same-sex marriages, they said.

The African Anglican leaders, ending a six-day meeting, stopped short of calling for an outright split in the Anglican church as some had feared.

Africa accounts for about half of the world's 76.5 million Anglicans — and Nigeria's 17.5 million Anglicans are the biggest congregation outside England, where the church has its origins.

The African churches are the fastest-growing in the worldwide Anglican Communion.

Nigerian Archbishop Peter Akinola said the bishops will weigh proposals to build new theology institutions to train its priests on theology consistent with African culture. Top among the decisions reached was the resolution to end theological training for African clergy in Western institutions — perceived by the bishops to have been permeated by unwholesome concepts such as gay unions, which they consider contrary to the Bible and African culture.

"We need well-resourced, highly rated and contextually relevant theological institutions that can engage intelligently with our peculiar challenges from an African perspective," bishops said in a closing statement.

The global Anglican Church has been deeply divided by the election of a gay bishop by the U.S. Episcopal Church and the blessing of same-sex marriages by the Westminster diocese of Canada.

Most Rev. Peter Akinola, primate of the Nigerian church and chairman of the Conference of Anglican Provinces of Africa, is at the forefront of criticism of same-sex marriages and gay clergy.

The bishops, drawn from the 12 provinces of the Anglican church in Africa, also issued a separate statement on the report of the Windsor Commission, set up by the head of the Anglican Communion and Archbishop of Canterbury Rowan Williams, to consider the controversy over homosexuality. The African bishops welcomed the report's condemnation of same-sex marriage and the appointment of gay bishops and indicated that their future commitment to church unity will depend on the U.S. Episcopal Church and the Canadian Anglican Communion reversing their actions and repenting.

Iraqi abuse errors raise eyebrows

CAMP PENDLETON, Calif. (AP) - Working in a makeshift lab in a bombed-out building, an Army pathologist dipped her gloved hands into a decomposing corpse — and changed the lives of nine U.S. Marines. Running her fingers along a fragile, U-shaped bone in the throat of a dead Iraqi prisoner, Col. Kathleen Ingwersen felt a break. She concluded the man had been strangled — that Nagem Sadoon Hatab was the first victim of homicide in prisons the U.S. military set up in Iraq.

However, since the autopsy that pathologists considered surprisingly conclusive under difficult circumstances, the case has fallen apart.

Tissue samples that Ingwersen's team collected as evidence decomposed when they were left outside in 126-degree heat; Ingwersen said organs turned to "goo." The rib cage and larynx vanished, then resurfaced a year later at military labs on two continents. She conceded she doesn't know what became of the broken hyoid bone that strongly indicated strangulation.

Nine Marines faced courts-martial in Hatab's death but most of the cases were dismissed, in part because of the forensic breakdown. The sole conviction came in September, when a military panel convicted Marine Sgt. Gary Pittman of dereliction of duty and abuse of prisoners — but acquitted him of assaulting Hatab. He was sentenced to 60 days hard labor and demoted to private.

On Monday, prosecutors had their final chance to salvage the case when court-martial proceedings begin at this base north of San Diego for the last defendant.

Maj. Clarke Paulus, 35, faces up to 4-1/2 years in military prison if he is convicted on charges of aggravated assault, dereliction of duty and maltreatment.

During pretrial testimony, Ingwersen apologized for a case that has cast an unwanted spotlight on the military's coroner, the highly regarded Office of the Armed Forces Medical Examiner, and has underscored concerns that the demands of war may be stretching the small military medical examiner system too far.

Paulus was in charge of the jail at Camp Whitehorse in southern Iraq where Hatab was taken as a suspect in the attack on an Army convoy that killed 11 soldiers and led to the capture of Pfc. Jessica Lynch. Paulus is accused of ordering a subordinate to drag Hatab by the neck. Hatab died a short time later.

The flawed medical evidence has become a major asset for Paulus' defense. The military judge hearing the case has said the bungling may prompt him to bar all medical evidence.

Christopher Kelly, spokesman for the Armed Forces Institute of Pathology, which includes the AFME in Rockville, Md., said he could not comment on an ongoing case. But he said the medical examiner system is fully capable of handling its responsibilities in war.

Dr. Glenn N. Wagner, who directed the Institute of Pathology from 1999 until last year, said the military's medical examiner system — like much of the armed forces — was strained beyond its limits by operations in Iraq and Afghanistan. The working conditions in these war zones often increased the likelihood of error.

"You're put into a 'MacGyver' situation more often than not and you've got to work with what you've got," said Wagner, now San Diego County's chief medical examiner, referring to the 1980's TV character who solved seemingly impossible situations, often with little

more than a Swiss army knife.

Still, the forensic community holds the AFME in high esteem for work its pathologists do in extreme situations, said Dr. Michael Graham, president of the National Association of Medical Examiners and chief medical examiner for St. Louis, Mo.

"Given the conditions they're working under, it's miraculous they get anything done," Graham said.

The AFME has 13 staff pathologists, including Ingwersen, and a \$7 million annual budget.

Ingwersen, a military pathologist for 10 years, testified at a pretrial hearing in early October that Hatab's case was a "difficult and challenging mission."

"It was one of the poorest places to conduct an autopsy," testified Air Force Col. Abubakr Marzouk, a pathologist who observed the

procedure.

Hatab's body had been decomposing for four days when Ingwersen arrived, and she said the heat made her digital equipment malfunction. There was no ice to keep tissue samples cool.

As her team's flight out of Iraq was delayed, the tissue samples broke down, Ingwersen said.

The larynx arrived intact at Ingwersen's base in Germany — but soon was lost. Ingwersen said she intended to send it to Washington but more than a year later she found it had never left Germany. She blamed "a miscommunication with my assistant."

"None of that is Maj. Paulus' fault," said his civilian defense attorney, Keith Higgins. "The person with the cleanest hands ... in the missing evidence is Maj. Paulus."

Haiti

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"I think if (John) Kerry became president, he would bring peace. There would be a dialogue," he said of the Democratic nominee.

Aristide has accused the United States of committing a coup against him in February and kidnapping him aboard a U.S. chartered plane that took him to Africa. The United States said he went freely and denies the allegation. There has been an escalation of violence in Port-au-Prince since demonstrators marked the Sept. 30 anniversary of a 1991 coup against Aristide by taking to the streets to demand his return.

According to the National Coalition for Haitian Rights, the number of people treated for gunshot wounds at the capital's General Hospital rose from 114 in September to 127 from Oct. 1-26.



NEW MAN IN CHARGE

Somalia's newly elected President Abdulahi Yusuf (left) holds hands with his newly appointed Prime Minister Mohamed Ali Ghedi, after addressing the media in Kenya's capital Nairobi, Nov. 3. Somalia's new president chose academician Ghedi as prime minister on Wednesday, overlooking the powerful warlords and clan chiefs who have dragged the country through 13 years of civil war and anarchy.



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