

# Smugglers toss illegals off ship

SAN'A, Yemen (AP)—Smugglers taking illegal migrants from Somalia to Yemen forced hundreds of Africans overboard in stormy seas in an effort to make a fast getaway from security forces, officials said Monday. Thirty-one bodies have been found and nearly 90 people remained missing.

Passengers who resisted the smugglers were stabbed or beaten with wooden and steel clubs, then thrown into the water where some were attacked by sharks, the U.N. High Commissioner for Refugees said, citing survivors.

"Several recovered bodies showed signs of severe mutilation," UNHCR said. "Survivors also reported that several Ethiopian women and at least one Somali were raped and abused by the smugglers during the voyage from Bosaso in Somalia's Puntland region. Survivors also alleged that some Yemeni security forces confiscated their money once they reached shore."

Yemeni officials said several boats were involved in Thursday's incident. The dead and missing came from a single wooden boat that was carrying around 120 people, said an official from the local government in coastal Shabwa province.

Eight bodies were found Thursday, and another 23 were taken out of water over the past couple of days, said the official, who spoke on condition of anonymity because he was not authorized

to talk to the press.

Another 450 people forced out of other boats at the same time have been rescued, he said. The UNHCR put the number of dead at 29, with 71 missing.

It was the latest case of smuggler brutality involving boats carrying people across the Gulf of Aden from Somalia and the Horn of Africa. It brings the total number of dead and missing among people trying to reach Yemen so far this year to 264.

"We are horrified by this latest tragedy," said Erika Feller, the UNHCR's assistant high commissioner for protection. The victims are people "who are desperate to escape persecution, violence and poverty in the Horn of Africa," she said.

A similar incident occurred on Saturday, when smugglers forced 140 people into the water elsewhere along the coast. All the migrants were believed to have been rescued, Yemeni officials said. Two other boats carrying 330 Somalis and Ethiopians arrived in Yemen on Saturday, but no casualties were reported, the UNHCR said.

Since January 2006 at least 30,000 people have fled violence and hardship in Somalia and Ethiopia for Yemen, according to UNHCR. About 500 people have died and at least 300 are missing and believed dead.

Out of 88,000 registered refugees in Yemen, about 84,000 are Somali, UNHCR said.

## Turnbull

(Continued from Page 7) reduced, mostly volunteer staff.

In 2001, 15-year-old David Pinks told choir officials he had been abused by Frank Jones Jr., who directed the choir's counseling and summer camp and chaperoned members on trips for more than two decades.

Choir leaders — including Walter Turnbull and his vice president, Horace Turnbull — did nothing, Pinks and investigators maintain.

In late 2002, Jones was convicted of 24 counts of sexually abusing Pinks and sentenced to two years in prison.

While it is the policy of The Associated Press not to identify victims of sexual abuse by name, Pinks came forward last year in hopes of encouraging other victims not to feel ashamed.

In 2003, city investiga-



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— Walter Turnbull  
Boys Choir of Harlem Founder

tors concluded that the Turnbells "failed to report serious allegations of abuse" and continued to allow Jones to be near students.

Walter Turnbull said at the time that what happened to Pinks was "very unfortunate."

"We have done over the years all the things that we could to make sure that we did the best thing, the right thing," he said.

Born in Greenville, Miss., Turnbull studied music at Tougaloo College and moved to New York to become an

opera singer, eventually performing with the New York Philharmonic.

He founded the choir at the Ephesus Church in 1968 and built the after-school program into the 600-student Choir Academy of Harlem, which opened in 1993. The choir has released albums and been heard on the soundtracks of films such as "Jungle Fever," "Malcolm X" and "Glory."

Beyond its musical training, the choir provides educational and personal counseling each year to hundreds

of inner-city children ages 9 to 19.

City education officials evicted the group from the Choir Academy of Harlem, a public school, in February 2006. Susan M. Shapiro, a lawyer for the city, said the choir was evicted because it refused to make administrative changes after the abuse case.

The choir has been rehearsing at another Harlem church, but it was difficult for the group because most of their equipment was still at the academy.

"We're really not functioning on the high level that the Boys Choir is used to functioning on," Turnbull said in April 2006. Rangel said fundraising efforts to keep the choir going would continue.

"The boys choir is not going to die with the great doctor," he said.

## Your Horoscope Says... March 29-April 4

### ARIES

You are a superstar at work. Efficiency seems to be your middle name. The goals you set are the ones that others want to help you meet. As you go your charming way, don't forget to delegate tasks with a smile.

Soul Affirmation: I give my mind a holiday again this week.

Lucky Numbers: 43, 47, 51

### TAURUS

A relationship may be heating up. Make sure you know what you want, then go ahead. Minor challenges on the home front are easily dealt with. Be sure to give out a lot of praise this week. Sling it around everywhere.

Soul Affirmation: The widest outlook comes from the look within.

Lucky Numbers: 8, 10, 34

### GEMINI

You make important progress at work this week by seizing the initiative and letting your leadership abilities shine. What you do makes things better for everyone around you, so rock steady. Meetings and conversations go especially well.

Soul Affirmation: The word is in me. I bring it forth.

Lucky Numbers: 10, 31, 42

### CANCER

Pay attention to the details in your big bright beautiful picture this week. You'll handle everything that comes up if you keep your focus sharp. A grand social event is in store for the week.

Soul Affirmation: I am willing to make changes in my life.

Lucky Numbers: 5, 17, 19

### LEO

Things are going your way in wonderful ways this week. Happy news

may arrive from a distance, and on the home front, a romantic question may be answered. Friends are glad to be with you. All in all, a very pleasant week! Enjoy!

Soul Affirmation: Success is mine because I feel successful.

Lucky Numbers: 44, 51, 55

### VIRGO

Your social life gives big rewards during the week. However, give attention to e-mail contacts. Don't be afraid as your mental horizon expands into new areas. Give others a chance to really explain what they mean. Ask!

Soul Affirmation: You are gifted with the ability to give.

Lucky Numbers: 9, 28, 39

### LIBRA

Your relationships can receive a big boost from a trip that beckons. Business is also highlighted. Your strong mental energy is sustained through the week. Work it out by talking it out. Let peace be your watchword.

Soul Affirmation: This week is the week the Lord has made. I rejoice in it.

Lucky Numbers: 31, 48, 52

### SCORPIO

Get in touch with those who can help you achieve your goals. Place the accent on initiative. Romance, passion and work are singing in harmony this week, and this week you're being noticed. Smile for the camera.

Soul Affirmation: My love for myself is the most important love for me to have.

Lucky Numbers: 9, 35, 41

### SAGITTARIUS

Joy this week comes from love. You are especially attractive. Stage your week so that you spend time around people you want to attract. It is easy for

you to bring harmony into your relationships. Your ability to communicate is greatly enhanced. Use it to your best advantage.

Soul Affirmation: The success of others is the investment I make in myself.

Lucky Numbers: 30, 45, 46

### CAPRICORN

Are you spending money with little or nothing to show for it? This is because you're looking for something that money can't buy. Now is a good time to spend some of your emotional currency, and don't be cheap. You'll create a situation in which people will work hard to please you.

Soul Affirmation: Friendships are shock absorbers on the bumpy roads of life.

Lucky Numbers: 16, 50, 52

### AQUARIUS

You may like to go to war, but avoid an argument with a friend; it will slow down all the wonderful progress you've been making. Your patience will be tested this week, stay on task. Be who you are and end up more than you are.

Soul Affirmation: I smile, and trust in the powers beyond myself.

Lucky Numbers: 2, 20, 23

### PISCES

Skip it! Don't sweat the small stuff, it'll only bring you down. Don't run around inside your own head this week. Focus your awareness outside on something beautiful. Compromise is a key idea this week.

Soul Affirmation: Jewelry reflects the beauty of my feelings about myself.

Lucky Numbers: 40, 43, 49

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