

Allegations of Human Rights Violations at Guantanamo Bay

Havana, Cuba

Allegations of human rights violations at US Military base Guantanamo Bay arose today after a surprise visit by the International Red Cross. During a news conference the Red Cross announced possible violations of article 17 of the Geneva Convention. Lead inspector David Boucher observed one detainee apparently of North Korean descent who "didn't seem like he was walking on his own free will whether it be because of injury or otherwise." Upon inquiring about the detainee Red Cross officials were immediately removed from the premises by their United States military chaperones.

The United States Security Council

responded by denying the allegations calling them "incorrect and speculative." Officials strongly denied the use of torture at Guantanamo Bay. General Richard B. Myers asserted that "the Red Cross was not being fair." They are conducting an inquiry centered on establishing the prisoner's identity. The North Korea Council, for its part, is requesting for the Red Cross immediate access to the prisoner to assure that his basic rights are being respected. Members deplored the actions of the US claiming that they were denying the rights of others in order to protect the rights and privileges of their own citizens. They are presently "working as a nation" to put pressure on the US to banish all undemocratic actions.

Amnesty International reports that more than 650 people from 40 countries are being held without charge or trial in Guantanamo Bay. ♦

Asian Express



Philippe Bechalani, director of Cabinet of North Korea ponders.

Allégations de violation des droits de l'Homme à Guantanamo Bay

Des allégations de violation des droits de l'homme à la base militaire américaine de Guantanamo Bay ont été portées aujourd'hui par la Croix-Rouge internationale suite à une visite surprise. Au cours d'une conférence de presse, la Croix-Rouge a annoncé la possible violation de l'article 17 de la Convention de Genève. L'inspecteur en chef, David Boucher, a pu observer un détenu, apparemment d'origine nord-coréenne, qui : « ...ne semblait pas marcher par lui-même, que ce soit pour cause de blessures ou autre. » Au moment où ils demandèrent de l'information au sujet du détenu, les officiels de la Croix-Rouge furent immédiatement escortés à l'extérieur de la base par l'armée américaine. Le

Conseil de sécurité nationale américain a répondu en rejetant ces propos, les qualifiant : « d'incorrects et spéculatifs. » Les officiels ont fortement nié l'utilisation de la torture à Guantanamo Bay. Le général Richard B. Myers affirma que : « la Croix-Rouge ne jouait pas franc jeu. » Ils conduisent présentement une enquête afin de connaître l'identité du prisonnier.

Le Cabinet de la Corée du Nord, de son côté, exige de la Croix-Rouge un accès immédiat au détenu afin de s'assurer que les droits humains de base sont respectés. Les membres déplorent les actions des Etats-Unis, affirmant qu'ils renient des droits aux autres pour protéger ceux de leurs citoyens. Ils travaillent « en tant que nation » pour mettre de la pression sur les Etats-Unis afin de bannir toutes actions non-démocratiques. Amnistie Internationale rapporte que plus de 650 personnes de 40 pays sont détenus à Guantanamo Bay sans raison. ♦

Express d'Asie

China: AIDS Treatment Monopolies Must End

Ottawa, Canada



Nina Quandji, director of WHO, stares controversy in the face

At the World Health Organization yesterday, China accused the large corporations that distribute pharmaceutical drugs to HIV/AIDS patients in developing countries of overcharging and exploiting those who are in dire need of treatment. "There needs to be far more accessibility to drugs in developing countries instead of corporations that have a monopoly and gain profits from people who are dying" China said.

Despite these allegations, the United States said that HIV/AIDS is an issue that must be dealt with on a regional basis. "The United States is more interested in dealing with these issues in our own country than to focus elsewhere and we feel that responsibility lies within the individual regions."

Following this statement, the delegates agreed to treat each region on an individual basis, while at the same time emphasizing the need for "prevention, treatment and reconstruction," as outlined by Canada. ♦

African Press

US Threatens to Veto UN Investigation

Washington, USA

An anonymous leak to the press has shown that the United States is impeding the United Nations Security Council from investigating the allegations made by the Red Cross that an unidentified North Korean man is being tortured at Guantanamo Bay, threatening a veto.

In a press conference earlier in the day, the United States government denied the Red Cross' allegations and refused to comment, stating that it was a matter of national security that could not be discussed with press. ♦

African Press

Nuclear Weapons Threaten CODESA Talks

Cape Town, South Africa

Despite optimistic opening addresses by most parties in the CODESA talks, the discovery of nuclear weapons in South Africa could potentially endanger its progress. When President de Klerk was asked how the weapons got there, he admitted that he did not know and simply said that five inactive nuclear weapons had been "found." He continued to deflect the question of how these mysterious weapons even got into the country by speaking of South Africa's "renewed commitment to democracy," and even called the news a "distraction." He did say however that South Africa is very open to weapons inspectors coming into South Africa and that the weapons have been secured.

The European Community has placed new sanctions on South Africa, which Dr. Salim Ahmed-Salim said would cripple the country even further. ♦

African Press

Turmoil in Angola



Events surrounding Angola's government officials in the government, unfolded in a conspicuous manner. Early in the afternoon, the Angolan president was killed in a plane

crash. Later in the day, the American embassy in Luanda, the capital of Angola, was bombed. There were over 100 casualties and firefighters were not able to get to the site for an unknown reason. In response to the events, the American Department of Homeland Security raised the National Security level to Orange, or "High." As the day moved along, more Angolans were implicated, when the bank accounts of the Ambassador to the UN were publicly released. Within the past month, his balance has risen from approximately \$500,000 USD (which supposedly came from a \$50,000 USD/year salary) to an astounding \$6,883,908 USD. From March 8th to March 11th, 29 deposits were tracked to unknown sources, although it has been implicated that these deposits were from the accounts of those who have been killed in what is appearing to be genocide. ♦

North America News Wire

Pinochet Finally on Trial for Crimes Against Humanity

The Hague, Netherlands



Wednesday, March 10, 2004 the first international trial against former Chilean dictator, Augusto Pinochet was launched for crimes against humanity including murder, rape and torture. Many attempts have been made to try General Pinochet but only the International Criminal Court (ICC) in The Hague has succeeded in bringing this perpetrator through the international judicial system. Two prosecution witnesses have already testified in the trial against the former dictator. "Pinochet was supposed to lead and protect his people, instead he slaughtered them," declared ICC prosecution lawyer Gregg Whetton in his opening statement in the trial in which he is

focused on bringing General Pinochet to justice for the murders and disappearances of over 3,000 civilians.

On August 23, 1973, former President Allende appointed Augusto Pinochet to Army Commander in Chief. Less than a month later, General Pinochet led his army to execute a violent coup which overthrew President Allende, replacing him as head of state. This led to turmoil within Chile as support split between Dictator General Pinochet and former leader, President Allende. Tomorrow marks day two of the ICC trial against the former dictator, General Pinochet for crimes against humanity. ♦

South American Services

Vers un contrôle des armes légères

L'accessibilité des armes légères rend leur utilisation prédominante lors des conflits armés. Afin d'assurer un meilleur contrôle sur leur prolifération, l'Assemblée générale de l'ONU sur le commerce illicite des armes légères, tenue en décembre 2003, a adopté une motion favorable à une plus grande transparence dans leur vente et leur transport. Même si plusieurs pays sont d'avis que la tenue d'un registre exhaustif de leurs ventes et possesseurs s'avérerait une entreprise inefficace du fait de la difficulté de réalisation, la nécessité de politiques d'envergure nationale et internationale régissant ce problème semble s'imposer. En ce sens, le Liban, ayant adopté la mention concernant les armes légères sus mentionnée, compte profiter de la présente session pour rallier les membres de la Ligue Arabe à cette cause qu'il défend avec conviction. L'objectif visé serait de soutenir la coopération internationale dans ce dossier de façon à aider les pays avertis avec des troubles financiers à assurer le resserrement du contrôle du trafic d'armes légères aux frontières et aux douanes souhaité par l'entreprise. ♦

Asie-presse

United States Refutes Red Cross

At 1600 EST, the International Red Cross released a statement to the UN Security Council, North Korean Cabinet and the US Security Council. The Americans, with President George W. Bush missing, staunchly denied any guilt in the matter. According to Tom Ridge, Department of Homeland Security, "the Red Cross was out of line." Senior Advisor Karl Rove stated the prisoner "held no allegiance to any state" and therefore "international law does not apply." He later stated that "it doesn't matter who it is that speculates, it is still speculation." While officially stating that "the United States of America respects the Red Cross," Rove's words display that there is actually little respect for the work the Red Cross has done within the American Security Council. The North Koreans initially deplored the United States when learning about the news. A reliable source said that the United States would impede any UN attempt with a threatened veto. ♦

European News Wire