



### Top Stories

**Georgian spy plane shot down**  
Officials in Georgia have alleged that a Russian fighter jet shot



down a Georgian spy plane on Sunday. According

Russia, Abkhaz separatists shot down the Georgian spy plane with anti-aircraft weapons. Georgia has released video footage of the incident.

**Pyrotechnics at Ecuador nightclub rock concert trigger 15-fatality fire**

A nightclub hosting a rock concert in Ecuador's capital Quito has



been swept by fire ignited by pyrotechnics. At least 15 people are dead and 35 injured. The

nightclub was located around 500 metres from the city's main commercial centre, which is in the south of the city.

**British foreign secretary: 'President Mugabe persists in his ambition to steal the election'**



*Credit: Alan Heckman (CC-BY-SA)*

David Miliband, the British foreign secretary today said that "the constitutional crisis in Zimbabwe continues as President Mugabe persists in his ambition to steal

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the election." Miliband noted in his statement that "it is over three weeks since the elections were held but the Zimbabwe Electoral Commission is yet to announce the Presidential results."

**Getting even with the law: Wikinews interviews New York City's 'Jimmy Justice'**

Wikinews interviews 'Jimmy Justice' a civilian who resides in New York City (NYC), New York, who has been videotaping NYC police officers and city workers, breaking the law while on the job. He then posts the most "colorful" videos to YouTube for the world to see their violations.



*Credit: Cezary Piwowski (CC-BY-SA)*

### Wikipedia Current Events

- A federal grand jury in Las Vegas, Nevada indicts a man on charges of possessing the toxin ricin and on weapons charges.
- Ben-ami Kaddish, a former U.S. Army mechanical engineer, is arrested on charges of disclosing national defense information to Israel.
- The United States Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice says that former President of the United States Jimmy Carter was advised not to hold talks with Hamas.
- Zimbabwe churches claim that people are being tortured, abducted and some murdered in a campaign of political retribution against the Opposition Movement for Democratic Change.
- Earth Day is celebrated throughout the world.

### Wikipedia Current Events

- United States presidential election, 2008: Television networks and Associated Press project New York Senator Hillary Clinton as the winner of the Pennsylvania Democratic primary, 2008.
- Costa Rica rejects an application for political asylum by former Colombian Senator Mario Uribe following orders for Uribe's arrest on charges of ties with paramilitary groups. Uribe is then arrested.

**China, France attempt to repair relations in wake of protests**

After anti-France protests were held in major Chinese cities over the weekend, China and France are now attempting to smoothen relations. China has discouraged the actions of the "radical" protesters, and French President Nicolas Sarkozy sent a letter to a Chinese Olympic athlete who has gained national fame in China following a controversial incident in the Paris Olympic torch relay.

At a press conference on Tuesday, Chinese Foreign Ministry spokeswoman Jiang Yu said the demonstrations were "encouraging

and touching," but added that "we do not agree with some people's radical actions." She added that China should continue to harbor friendly bilateral relations with France.

The Chinese state-run newspaper China Daily expressed the government's views on the protests in an editorial, warning against "false patriotism" and encouraging tolerance of differing opinions. "Over-the-top nationalism is not constructive, but can do harm to the country," the English-language newspaper said. "If we want to improve things, we will have to encourage responsible patriotism."

Some Chinese protesters have called for a boycott of French goods, in particular the French retailer Carrefour, which Chinese bloggers accused of supporting the Dalai Lama. Carrefour denied this allegation, saying in an interview that "Carrefour has not given any direct or indirect support to any political or religious cause."

"Over-the-top nationalism is not constructive, but can do harm to the country." —China Daily

The protests in China were a reaction to pro-Tibetan demonstrations held in Paris on April 7, when the Olympic torch was making its journey through the French capital. Pro-Tibet activists disrupted the torch relay by attempting to extinguish the flame or otherwise halt the proceedings.

One of the more controversial incidents of the torch relay involved Chinese Olympic fencer Jin Jing, who was one of the athletes chosen to bear the torch. Protesters tried to wrestle the torch from wheelchair-bound Jin,

who is now regarded by many Chinese as a national hero because of the incident.

French President Nicolas Sarkozy sent a letter to Jin, condemning the attack she suffered and praising her courage. "I would like to express to you my deep feeling towards the way you were shoved in Paris on April 7 when you were holding the Olympic flame. You showed an outstanding courage, which honors you, and all your country," Sarkozy wrote in the letter. He also extended a personal invitation to her.

"This friendly move by President Sarkozy is appreciated by the Chinese people," said ministry spokeswoman Jiang Yu. The letter was personally delivered by French Senate President Christian Poncelet, who is scheduled to meet with Chinese President Hu Jintao and other Chinese leaders this week. Former French Prime Minister Jean-Pierre Raffarin is also scheduled to visit China.

### **UK Independence Party gains first MP**

The United Kingdom Independence Party (UKIP) has gained its first representation in the House of Commons today.

Dr. Bob Spink, MP for Castle Point, Essex has recently defected from the Conservative Party over an alleged attempt by local Conservatives to deselect him. He claims to have been "disenchanted" with the party for years and denounced Conservative policies, saying "I have been increasingly disappointed with the Tory party's failure to be honest with the public on a wide range of issues like pensions, crime, immigration and defence, which is why I voted against the Tory whip so often in

recent years and finally resigned the whip last month."

He said he was "delighted to join the UKIP team, helping to fight for Britain's interests in Europe and for better policy on the issues that really matter to people", adding that "UKIP provides an alternative that's not the BNP and a party that listens to the people."

He was welcomed with open arms by UKIP, party leader Nigel Farage saying he is "delighted to welcome the hard-working and deeply principled Bob Spink as UKIP's first member of Parliament," calling Spink "articulate, quite controversial and a bit of a character". One of UKIP's two peers, Lord Willoughby de Broke, added "I am thrilled that UKIP now has a representative in the House of Commons. I look forward to working with him to further UKIP's programme of leaving the European Union."

Dr. Spink has rejected ideas of holding a local by-election, saying on BBC Radio 4's Today programme "I was elected as Bob Spink. I work hard for my constituents and I will continue to do so. I am following to the letter every word that I promised them in my manifesto and I only wish the parties were doing the same, including the Tory Party." UKIP say they are confident he will retain his seat at the next general election.

### **German football: Lahm's contract offer withdrawn; Schlaudraff to Hannover**

Bayern Munich have withdrawn their contract offer to Philipp Lahm after contract talks between the club and player broke down. Lahm's contract as it currently stands will expire on June 30, 2009. Barcelona are one of the

clubs that are reportedly interested in Lahm.

"One thing is clear, even if he doesn't extend, he will stay with FC Bayern until June 30, 2009"  
—Karl Heinz RummeniggeSports Illustrated Website

"My plan is to leave Bayern before I'm past my peak. I played for two years at Stuttgart and I'm in my third year at Bayern, the biggest German club. The logical next step is to go abroad." —Philipp LahmESPN Soccer.net

Bayern Munich Forward Jan Schlaudraff will be leaving for Hannover on July 1st when the summer transfer window opens. It is uncertain if there is any fee involved with this transfer.

Schlaudraff never got going due to an early season injury and the fact that he was the 4th choice strike behind Luca Toni, Miroslav Klose and Lukas Podolski.

"I wish him the best of luck in Hanover. He's been highly professional in his time at Bayern."  
—Karl Heinz Rummenigge Bayern Munich website

### **Five injured after explosion in UK pub**

Five people have been injured in an explosion at a pub in Leeds, United Kingdom. The pub is situated in the Burmantoffs area outside St James's Hospital. One of the injured said that she "heard a bang and when I got to the main entrance the whole pub was gone." The pub was reportedly not in use at the time of the explosion.

A spokesperson from St James's Hospital commented on the incident. "I believe there has been damage to a pub which has closed down and is boarded up," she

commented. Another eyewitness said that "It was really loud and lots of people were screaming," when talking to the BBC.

Further eyewitness statements said that "it is lucky there are not more injuries. It could have been a lot worse," and "we [local residents] are being kept well away from the scene as I think there are fears of a second explosion."

### **Georgian spy plane shot down**

Officials in Georgia have alleged that a Russian fighter jet shot down a Georgian spy plane on Sunday. Colonel David Nairashvili of Georgia's air force told Associated Press that the spy plane recorded video of a Russian fighter before it was downed.

According to the foreign ministry of Russia, Abkhaz rebels shot down the Georgian spy plane with anti-aircraft weapons. The statement said that President Vladimir Putin expressed "bewilderment" that Georgian sent a spy plane into that area, which it said was in violation of a 1994 cease-fire agreement.

Georgia countered that the video, which they have released, shows a MiG-29, which is not in the arsenal of the Abkhaz separatists. They say that it must, then, be Russian and violating Georgian airspace. Abkhazia is still part of Georgia.

"It's a Russian aircraft. Georgia does not possess it, nor do Abkhaz separatists," Nairashvili said. "It's absolutely illegal for a Russian MiG-29 to be there."

In the statement by the foreign ministry of Russia, it said that the aircraft "was shot down by Abkhaz anti-aircraft weapons." A statement was also released by a

general from the Russian air force. He claimed that "the Russian air force has nothing to do with this. That's not our business."

The president of Georgia, Mikheil Saakashvili, said that he spoke with Vladimir Putin about the incident on Monday, asking him to stop Russian backing of separatists in Abkhazia and South Ossetia.

Garry Kupalba, the deputy defence minister of Abkhazia disputed Georgia's account. He said the spy plane was shot down by one of its L-39 jets, of which the Abkhazian military has several. He further said that Georgia was violating United Nations resolutions regarding Abkhazia by sending in the spy plane which he identified as a Hermes 450 drone.

However, military experts consulted by The New York Times and Associated Press, both say that the video shows a distinct twin-tail jet that closely resembles a MiG-29, though the markings could not be read. The L-39 has a single tail.

### **US President Bush meets with Canadian and Mexican leaders**

Canadian Prime Minister Stephen Harper, US President George W. Bush and Mexican President Felipe Calderón met yesterday at the Security and Prosperity Partnership of North America summit, held this year in New Orleans, Louisiana.

The first meeting was between Bush and Calderón. Afterwards, Bush noted that they "had a very long and very good discussion on a variety of issues. U.S. and Mexican relations are very important."

Bush congratulated Calderón. "I want to congratulate you and thank you for your strong

leadership," he said.

"We talked about trade, and how trade has been beneficial to both of our countries," continued Bush, describing the meeting before the speech. "When you and I grew up in our respective countries, the border region of Mexico and the United States was very poor. And today when you go down there, there's prosperity on both sides of the border," he said, claiming that the countries had been successful in combating poverty.

Mr. Calderón then took over. "Thank you very much, Mr. President. Thank you so much for your hospitality and for a very long and productive discussion we had today. As is fitting for the relationship that Mexico and the United States enjoy, we have been able to discuss a long list of issues today, because we have a very complex and rich relationship."

Later in the day Bush met with Canada's Prime Minister. "I don't know if the people of Canada understand the leadership role you took in Romania, but it was strong and effective," stated Bush in the joint press conference after the meeting.

Later in the press conference, Bush noted that he's "always interested in making sure that, if there's any bilateral tensions or bilateral issues, that I know of them, so that we can work collaboratively to deal with them."

Bush also mentioned other points from the meeting: "We also talked about the importance of trade between Canada and the United States, and Canada and Mexico, and the United States and Mexico. And I assured the Prime Minister that I'm a strong advocate for free trade. I believe it's in our nations'

interests that we continue to have a free trade agenda. All of us want to make sure we're treated fairly, and we can do that. And this summit comes at an opportune time to reaffirm the benefits of the trading arrangements between our three nations."

Calderón finished the press conference with, "we [the two leaders] have some important joint work going on, not just in this continent but around the world, including in Afghanistan. I appreciate your words about Bucharest, and I can tell you our armed forces look very much forward to working in partnership with your people in Kandahar."

### **Hillary Clinton threatens to 'totally obliterate' Iran if it attacks Israel**

United States presidential candidate Hillary Clinton warned Iran against an attack on Israel. "I want the Iranians to know that if I'm the president, we will attack Iran," the former First Lady said.

Clinton was speaking in an interview on ABC's Good Morning America television program.

"In the next 10 years, during which they might foolishly consider launching an attack on Israel, we would be able to totally obliterate them," Clinton said. "That's a terrible thing to say but those people who run Iran need to understand that because that perhaps will deter them from doing something that would be reckless, foolish and tragic."

"One of the things that we've seen over the last several years is a bunch of talk using words like 'obliterate,'" Barack Obama, said in a separate ABC interview. "It doesn't actually produce good results. And so I'm not interested

in saber-rattling."

Last night, on MSNBC's Countdown with Keith Olbermann, Hillary Clinton said US allies in the Middle East are "intimidated and bullied into submission by Iran." Here also, she warned that an attack on Israel would bring "massive retaliation" for Iran.

Clinton and Obama face off today in the Pennsylvania Democratic primary. With 158 delegates at stake, Pennsylvania is the largest of the remaining states and territories yet to decide.

### **1200 schools may be closed by UK teachers strike**

The BBC has reported that over 1200 schools will be fully or partially closed by the national UK teachers strike on Thursday. 43 schools in Norfolk are expected to be closed, while in Bolton, 56 schools are expected to be fully closed.

The majority of state schools in the city of Bristol have already announced their closure, although many of the schools for students age 16+ are expected remain open.

The Guardian reports that the strike, which is expected to take place on Thursday, will be the first national teachers' strike in 21 years.

John Dunford from the Association of School and College Leaders told The Guardian that:

"Most secondary schools will be partially closed; a thousand could close. It will be very, very difficult for schools which have been on holiday to organise themselves this week."

### **Getting even with the law: Wikinews interviews New York City's 'Jimmy Justice'**

A civilian known as 'Jimmy Justice' who resides in New York City (NYC), New York, the largest city in the United States, has been videotaping NYC police officers and city workers, breaking the law while on the job.

Since 2007, he claims to have caught "hundreds of officers and other city employees violating the law," and says he has them all on camera. He has posted his best confrontations with them to the video sharing website YouTube. As a result, Justice states that he has been asked to do a United States television show and Wikinews got an exclusive interview with him. For protection, Justice wished not to be called by his real name in fear of police retaliation.

Last year, Justice videotaped a police officer parking in front of a fire hydrant, but has only recently gained attention on social networking news sites such as Digg and reddit.com. So Wikinews contacted Mr. Justice, known as JimmyJustice4753 on YouTube, for an exclusive interview to find out what caused him to get revenge on the law.

On June 30, 2007, Justice caught officer E. Anderson of the NYPD, traffic division, parking directly in front of a fire hydrant while she went inside a restaurant to take a 15 minute lunch break.

"Do you think there is something wrong with parking a vehicle, blocking a fire hydrant,?" says Justice while following Anderson to her car after her meal.

"Mrs. Anderson I'm talking to you," says Justice as Anderson ignores him. "You parked your

vehicle blocking a fire hydrant. You are not allowed to do that. Somebody else would get a ticket for that. Why are you allowed to do it? You should be ashamed of yourself Mrs. Anderson."

By this time, the incident has gained the interest of people nearby the scene and passing it. One unidentified woman, who claims to be a retired NYC police officer decides to intervene stating that people "are not supposed to film any police, [or] anybody employed with the police department because of the terrorism." A short time later the woman walked off camera.

Since 2007 Justice says he has caught "hundreds of law enforcement officers and city officials" on "over 30 hours of video" violating laws from illegal U-turns in business districts to blocking bus stops and fire hydrants. Justice has only uploaded the "most colorful ones to YouTube" and recently, on April 8, 2008, Justice videotaped a NYPD tow truck officer blocking a hydrant while he also ate lunch inside a restaurant. According to NYC law, it is illegal for any vehicle to park within 15 feet of a fire hydrant and to park in front of a bus stop. It is also illegal for any person to make a U-turn in a business district. Fines for these violations can cost a driver up to US\$115.00 for each violation occurred.

When Wikinews asked Justice why he decided to start filming the violations made by officials he answered, "what bothers me is watching an officer write someone a summons and then commit the exact same violation with their official vehicle. I started making these videos to remind the officers (and complacent civilians) that

City employees have to abide by the same laws that they are paid to enforce. I plan on doing this and inspiring others to do this as well as a means of leveling the playing field against discourteous officers."

"In NYC, the traffic cops are notorious for their draconian indiscretion in handing out summonses to civilians for petty violations. Obviously the laws are not enforced as a matter of public safety, but rather to raise revenue," added Justice.

Justice makes little effort to get the violations on videotape saying "all I have to do to catch them is open my eyes."

"The problem with abuse of authority is rampant in New York City. I take my video camera with me on the way to work and on the way to social events and band rehearsals and when I see action it takes me less than 4 seconds to have the camera out and in record mode," states Justice.

His videos have drawn the attention of media and he has been featured on ABC's 'I-caught videos' and Inside Edition. Justice also states that the popularity of his videos have gotten the attention producers in Hollywood, California and as a result, there are plans for a television show.

Since Justice began getting even with officials and their violations, he states that there has been a positive change in the communities.

"The publicity my videos have received has effected positive change in the community, but we still have a long road ahead of us," added Justice.

As a result of his videos, at the

time the NYPD launched an investigation into the violations, but it is not known if any officers were charged or punished. Justice himself has never been arrested, but has been assaulted.

"I have never been arrested for this yet but they have threatened me with arrest. I have been spit on, cursed at, assaulted, and I had 2 cameras broken already," added Justice.

**Today in History**

- 1661 – Charles II was crowned King of England, Ireland, and Scotland at Westminster Abbey.
- 1827 – Irish mathematician and physicist William Rowan Hamilton presented his Theory of Systems of Rays.
- 1920 – The Grand National Assembly of Turkey, the Turkish unicameral parliament, was founded in Ankara in the midst of the Turkish War of Independence.
- 1923 – Gdynia was inaugurated as a Polish seaport on the coast of Gdańsk Bay, a southwestern bay of the Baltic Sea.
- 1961 – Dressed in his 1940s-vintage general's uniform, President Charles de Gaulle delivered a televised speech calling on the military personnel and civilians of France to oppose the Algiers putsch, a coup d'état attempt against him.
- 1968 – Students protesting the Vietnam War at Columbia University in New York City took over administration buildings and shut down the university.
- April 23 is 150th birthday of physicist Max Planck; Administrative Professionals' Day in Canada and the United States (2008); World Book and Copyright Day; Children's Day in Turkey; St George's Day in various countries.

**Quote of the Day**

We all were sea-swallow'd, though some cast again:  
 And by that destiny, to perform an act  
 Whereof what's past is prologue,  
 what to come  
 In yours and my discharge.

~ William Shakespeare ~

**Word of the Day**

- shanghai v
- 1. To force or trick (someone) into joining a ship which is lacking a full crew.

- 2. To abduct or coerce.

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