



Top Stories

Condoleezza Rice labelled "war criminal" by Australian demonstrators



Iraqi anti-war sympathizers heckle Secretary Rice during an address, leading to evictions and arrests.

United Nations General Assembly votes to establish UN Human Rights Council



Yesterday, the United Nations General

Assembly voted overwhelmingly to establish a United Nations Human Rights Council "to promote and protect fundamental rights, and deal with major human rights offenders," according to a press release.

Featured story

Photoessay: The Idiotarod: When Good Shopping Carts Go Bad



Zany race in Washington D.C. raises money for food and charity.

Wikipedia Current Events

•Six people have been charged in connection with Kenya's biggest fraud, which cost the government about \$600m.

Wikipedia Current Events

•Following out-break of bird flu in Israel, Europe bans imports of Israeli chicken; Ministry of Agriculture halts exports of unprocessed birds; Kibbutzim in south, heart of Israel put under closure; 4 people hospitalized in south found not to be infected with the disease.

•Thomas Lubanga, former leader of the Union of Congolese Patriots militia in the Democratic Republic of the Congo, becomes the first person arrested on behalf of, and then referred to the International Criminal Court for war crimes.

•The fourth global World Water Forum meets in Mexico City to address problems of water shortages and conflicts. Protesters claim the forum is a platform for further privatization of water supplies.

•The International Crisis Group warns that continued neglect of the Darfur conflict may lead to thousands more deaths and spillover into neighboring countries, further destabilizing the region.

New Zealand Department of Conservation leaves Raoul Island, minus one

The New Zealand Department of Conservation (DOC) made an emergency evacuation of staff from Raoul Island, the largest and northernmost of the Kermadec Islands, due to a volcanic eruption that occurred this morning at 8:21am (New Zealand Daylight Time)

A helicopter picked up the five available staff, but the missing staff member could not be found before it had to leave. The return journey is 2000km

The missing staff member failed to return "after going on a routine mission to check the water temperatue of the lake," according to Rolien Elliot, DOC Area Manager for Warkworth.

She said that when staff went to look for their colleague, where he was thought to be they "had to retreat due to further volcanic activity and the track being impassable with fallen trees and ash."

The blast had significantly changed the island's landscape.

"There's been about five hectares of native bush cleared and a lot of mud and evidence of boulders and rocks that have been thrown out of the crater itself," the helicopter pilot John Funnell said to One News

New Zealand boarding school closed due to gastro-enteritis outbreak

Nelson Boys College was closed today because of an outbreak of gastro-enteritis in its boarding houses.

About 40% of the school's boarding students have been hit with what is thought to be the highly contagious and violent stomach bug, Norovirus. The principal, Salvi Garguilo, says

the boys are being well cared for at the school, helped by Nelson Hospital.

They will stay isolated until they are no longer contagious.

Nelson College will reopen on Monday.

Remote New Zealand island evacuated as volcano erupts

The New Zealand Department of Conservation (DOC) began an emergency evacuation of staff from Raoul Island, the largest and northernmost of the Kermadec Islands, due to a volcanic eruption that occurred this morning at 8:21am (New Zealand Daylight Time). Six DOC workers were living on Raoul Island when it erupted.

Rolien Elliot, DOC Area Manager for Warkworth, said, "A helicopter has been sent to pick up the DOC staff that are based on the island, five of whom have been accounted for. One staff member is missing after going on a routine mission to check the water temperature of the lake We are monitoring the situation closely, with the safety of the staff being our top priority."

DOC staff on the island have been communicating with New Zealand using a satellite phone.

The last eruption occurred in 1964 (see photo), when workers had to be evacuated because of the possibility of continuing activity.

It takes two days' sailing for a Navy frigate to reach Raoul Island from Auckland.

First Gold for NZ: Commonwealth Games

Moss Burmester won the first gold medal for New Zealand in the 2006 Commonwealth Games, in

Melbourne yesterday. Burmester carried on the NZ tradition of winning the final of the 200m men's butterfly. His winning time was 1min 56.64 sec., a best by 0.25 sec., putting him in the top ten in the world.

Civilians killed in U.S. raid near Balad

A U.S. raid near Balad on Wednesday resulted in the deaths of between nine and 13 civilians. An Associated Press photographer recorded pictures of the bodies of two men, five children, and four covered corpses reported to be women. The victims had bits of rubble tangled in their hair and were covered in dust. Police Capt. Hakim Azzawi said in an interview with the Washington Post that 13 in total were dead, two men, five children, and six women. The U.S. military confirmed the attack but said only four people died — two women, a man and a child.

Family of the victims said the 11 dead people were wrapped in blankets and driven in three pickup trucks to the Tikrit General Hospital.

The US military said that the raid resulted in a "foreign fighter facilitator" being taken into coalition custody for questioning.

Police Capt. Laith Mohammed stated that the attack 50 miles north of Baghdad involved U.S. warplanes and armored vehicles, which flattened a house in the village of Isahaqi.

Ahmed, the brother of the dead man, told the Associated Press, "The dead family was not part of the resistance. They were women and children. The Americans have promised us a better life, but we get only death."

Today in History

1229 - Sixth Crusade: Holy Roman Emperor Frederick II declared himself King of Jerusalem.

1438 - Albert II of Habsburg became King of the Romans in the Holy Roman Empire.

1921 - The Polish-Soviet War, which determined the borders between the Republic of Poland and Soviet Russia, formally concluded with the signing of the Peace of Riga.

1922 - Mahatma Gandhi was sentenced to six years in prison for civil disobedience.

1965 - Cosmonaut Aleksei Leonov donned a spacesuit and ventured outside the Voskhod 2 spacecraft, becoming the first person to walk in space.

March 18 is Flag Day in Aruba (1976)

Quote of the Day

"The very essence of a free government consists in considering offices as public trusts, bestowed for the good of the country, and not for the benefit of an individual or a party." ~ John C. Calhoun

About Wikinews

We are a group of volunteer journalists whose mission is to create a diverse community where citizens from around the globe (including **you**) can collaborate to report the news on a wide variety of current events.

License

This work is licensed under the Creative Commons Attribution License. Articles were created by Wikinewsies.

To view a copy of this license, visit: <http://creativecommons.org/licenses/by/2.5/>

About Wikinews Print Edition

For more information about Wikinews Print Edition visit: <http://en.wikinews.org/wiki/Wikinews:Print>