

Hot Spot News

By : Nikie Alishahi



Mom to plead innocent in beating

SOUTH BEND, Indiana -- The woman caught on videotape repeatedly striking her 4-year-old daughter in the rear of a sport utility vehicle said she will plead not guilty to felony child battery charges.

Madelyne Gorman Toogood said Monday on CNN's "American Morning With Paula Zahn" that her attorney told her to plead not guilty when she appears in court Monday morning.

"I'm putting my trust in him," Toogood said. "That's all I can do." Her attorney, Steven Rosen, called the not guilty plea "a formality."

Toogood, 25, said her daughter, Martha, had been acting up at a Kohl's department store in Mishawaka where they were videotaped later, but she said, "There would be no excuse in the world why I did it."

She said she "was horrified and sick to my stomach and mortified" when she saw the tape of her striking her child.

"I know I hit Martha and I knew I pulled her hair, and I shouldn't have," Toogood said. But she said her daughter was checked by two doctors and was fine.

Indiana's Child Protective Services placed Martha with a foster family in St. Joseph County until it could be determined if a member of the child's extended family could take care of her.

As a condition of bail, Toogood will be allowed only supervised visits with Martha. She won't be able to visit her two sons, ages 5 and 6, without supervision, and the two boys will live with their father.

Though her husband is supporting her, the couple would be willing to separate if that means he can get custody of Martha, Toogood said Sunday in an interview with CNN.

"My hope is just to have Martha home, go to parenting classes, learn the right way to deal with it," Toogood said. "I just want my life."

Toogood said she comes from a community called Irish Travelers, which is known for the itinerant lifestyles of its members. She said her husband is licensed to do paving work, and the family moves around the country to take jobs.

She indicated that Irish Travelers often feel discriminated against and "that's why I was nervous" in the department store.

Prosecutor Maggie Jones said Sunday that she was not moved by Toogood's entreaties that the girl be allowed to stay with other family members.

"My sympathies do not go to Madelyne at all," Jones said. "These are the same family members who, after they witnessed the beating on videotape, refused to bring the child forward for medical assessment or medical treatment."

Jones said that the doctor's clean bill of health does not mean the girl was not abused. Bruises could have healed in the eight days the girl was gone, she said.

Toogood turned herself in Saturday to the Mishawaka Police Department - nine days after a store's surveillance camera recorded her apparently slapping and punching her daughter.

Toogood said her daughter "never had a mark on her," but she said she had a message for other parents.

"Don't raise your hand to a child. It ain't worth it."



Grenade explodes near U.S. Jakarta depot

JAKARTA, Indonesia -- An abortive grenade attack on a U.S. Embassy property in Jakarta has killed one of the attackers and resulted in the capture of another.

A grenade exploded in a car outside a U.S. Embassy warehouse in the center of Indonesia's capital before dawn on Monday, police said.

The incident came at a time of heightened security at U.S. embassies worldwide following what Washington called credible threats of terrorist attacks marking the anniversary of the September 11 terrorist attacks.



"It was a grenade which was to be thrown at a warehouse owned by the U.S. Embassy but exploded in the car," Indonesian National Police Chief Da'i Bachtiar told reporters.

He said there were three men in the car in addition to the man who died. The driver was captured and two escaped.

An embassy source confirmed the incident took place "near an unoccupied U.S. Embassy warehouse" and said the embassy was cooperating with police.



French troops land in Ivory Coast

ABIDJAN, Ivory Coast -- French troops have been sent to the volatile Ivory Coast to protect foreign nationals caught up in a military mutiny.

They will protect the nearly 19,000 French nationals living in the Ivory Coast, according to Janine DiGiovanni, a reporter for The Times of London in Abidjan.

The uprising began on Thursday when a group of soldiers -- protesting against an attempt to demobilise them -- attacked a police centre in Abidjan, triggering heavy fighting across the Ivory Coast.

Initially the rebels said they were loyal to the country's former leader,



General Robert Guei, who seized power in a military coup in 1999.

Guei, who lost power after elections in 2001, was killed in the fighting on Thursday.

On Sunday, a convoy of French troops headed north from Abidjan, intending to protect French and international citizens in Bouake.

French transport helicopters and a reported 100 extra French troops landed in Abidjan in the early hours of Sunday, reinforcing approximately 600 troops already based there.

France said it deployed the reinforcements to protect the nation's 20,000 French citizens and others in the international community.

Nearly 200 foreign nationals are at Bouake's International Christian Academy, including 100 American children and around 40 more U.S. staffers, said James Forlines, director of Free Will Baptist Foreign Missions, which has missionaries in the region.

Government troops claimed on Sunday to have already surrounded the city of Bouake and to be holding off from immediate attack.

The mutinous soldiers who launched their failed coup on Thursday remained defiant.



Blair to fight Iraq attack critics

LONDON, England -- British Prime Minister Tony Blair is facing a political battle with his senior ministers over Iraq.

Blair is holding a Cabinet meeting at which he will try to secure backing for a military strike against Iraq unless Saddam Hussein abandons ambitions to build and stockpile weapons of mass destruction.

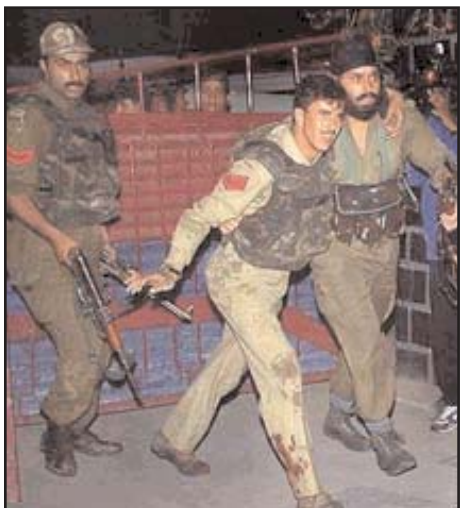
Monday's meeting comes 24 hours before publication of a dossier which the government says proves "beyond doubt" that Saddam has a biological and chemical arsenal.

At the weekend Blair's International

Development Secretary, Clare Short, broke ranks to declare that a Gulf War-style invasion of Iraq and its people would be wrong.

She said: "Each one of them is as precious as the 3,000 people in the twin towers. We can't sacrifice them to putting it right."

Speaking in a BBC television interview on Sunday, she added: "We cannot have another Gulf War. We cannot have the people of Iraq suffering again. They have suffered too much. That would be wrong."



Strike call as Kashmir violence worsens

SRINAGAR, Indian-controlled Kashmir - At least 19 people have been killed and as many as 20 were injured during weekend violence by suspected Islamic militants in Indian-controlled Kashmir.

In the latest incident, police and paramilitary troops were in a stand-off with two armed militants, dressed as policemen, who killed a security guard and then barricaded themselves in a compound in Srinagar housing families of policemen.

One of those militants, said to be from a group called Lashkar-e-Toiba, was killed by police early Sunday.

Security forces are now searching for the other gunman who is believed to have escaped.

At least two police officers were killed and eight wounded in the attack, police told the Associated Press Sunday.

The attack in Srinagar, the summer capital of India's Jammu-Kashmir state, sparked a 13-hour fight that ended Sunday, K. Rajindra Kumar, inspector general of police, said.

Separately, one soldier was killed and five others wounded in an ambush of a Border Security Force vehicle by suspected Islamic guerrillas near Bijbehara, a town 60 kilometers (40 miles) south of Srinagar, said Tirath Acharya, spokesman for the paramilitary force.



by: Steve Tataii.
My name is Steve Raza Tataii.

I was born in Tehran on September of 1949, and my family came from Saghez and Mahabad. After getting my high school diploma in Mathematics from Darolfonoon, came to U.S. to get my University degrees in 1971.

I had decided to support myself, and worked in restaurants in Texas, and California, then as crane engineer in Wyoming. Eventually, after working in different jobs, and going to a few colleges; decided to move to the Islands of Hawaii, and get my degree in the University of Hawaii, without moving around, and losing credits. Graduated in Math and Political Science in 1986, and turned down a job offer in Northern California, to stay and run for office in the 1988 Hawaii elections.

I faced many obstacles, stereotyping comments, hardships, and discriminations, but never gave up, and have run for State Offices since then, except once for this seat, U.S. Congress in 1992, facing the same Official.

I'm single, and have worked as a lecturer at the University, recently practicing Law as a "Self-Taught Freelance Lawyer" for the past few years. Not to make a career out of it, but to fight against corruption and discriminations as an extension of my Candidacy since 1988. Please read more details in my Web Page at: www.TataiiForCongress.com

I'm now your Democratic Candidate for U.S. Congress from Hawaii in the 2002 elections. Here are some of my goals in general, and truly believe; that other Colleagues in U.S. Congress can not fulfill them, and for

good reasons:

I would like to clarify many Misconceptions and Misquotes about the peoples of Iran, made by a few "Politicians"; who fail to properly address their negative remarks directed at their Political government Counterparts, using the TERM "Iranians" erroneously.

This is only one example of what ignorance and/or negative personal agendas can create against American peoples' best interest, and unfortunately against the peace loving peoples of Iran, Kurds & Persians in particular, not mentioning other peace loving minorities, all of which live in Iran as its citizens, a nation constituting over 75 million population. We, as Americans of Iranian origin are also affected, and resent to be misrepresented as such.

In addition to that: I believe; that my Victory as an American of Iranian Origin in the 2002 elections shall create a vehicle of mutual understanding between the governments of the United States of America, its Allies, and the Country of Iran of which a large number have migrated here, and are American citizens.

I also believe; that lack of a U.S. Congress Representative from Iranian background, shall most probably cause the continuation of the present status, clearly seen as an obstacle for peace and progress between the two nations for decades more to come. The present status does not appear to be in the best interest of the two "nations", and their "governments".

Therefore, I call upon all of my fellow Americans, and consequently: "fellow Iranian Americans", to support my Candidacy in this Great campaign for peace and progress.

Campaign contributions are tax deductible. .

I have a unique situation in my recent Primary. Although I received over 14,065 votes on yesterday's Primary, but the final confirmation of my victory will not be known for a while, since they imposed the Incumbent's challenge with me on the same Democratic ballots, even though due to her illness I did not get a single debate with her, which would have most likely caused her to lose "BIG TIME", therefore she obtained more votes in this unfairly set up election, but not to worry, because I have a case to gain back my Victory.

My opponent became very ill from chicken pox, and has remained in the intensive care unit to recover from pneumonia caused by the disease since August 30, 2002, reported to the voters 10 days later, and remains in

that condition to this day. By rights, the Hawaii Democratic party should have declared me the only qualified candidate immediately after the news of her serious illness at the age of 75, so that I could continue to the general election on November 5, 2002, and win easily, because my Incumbent opponent did not voluntarily withdraw from the race, pursuant to Section 11-117(b) of Hawaii election laws, leaving my Candidacy in limbo.

I have talked to a couple of attorneys to help me establish my automatic winning position, being robbed from me by the corrupt insider politicians. I really prefer to find an honest, and expert attorney from outside of Hawaii, without any possibility of conflict of interest in the matter, and wish to send this request through this article to any one of our expert fellow Iranian-American attorneys in California or beyond, to officially represent me on a contingency or pro bono basis, since the funds to hire an attorney is not available, but attorney's fees may be obtained after the case has prevailed, and I'm quite certain it will prevail.

I stand an excellent chance of prevailing, but can't just sit still and hope it'll happen, as I am a man of action, and must keep moving on this issue, since time is of the essence with the deadline to file a complaint on contest for cause in Primary Election with Hawaii State Supreme Court (HRS section 11-173.5) is on September 27, 2002. I also request for contributions from my fellow Iranians-Americans, to maintain my campaigning and pay for the initial legal fees and costs.

I hate to ask for contributions, but these are a must in my God Given chance to become a U.S. Congressman, and this chance must not be lost. I take this opportunity to thank all those fellow Iranian Americans who helped me to the best of their ability, especially Mr. Faramarz Ghafari, whose fund raising efforts has produced at least a thousand dollar I heard, and it is on its way to my mailing address.

People can send their contribution checks, written and mailed to:

Friends of Steve Tataii
P O BOX 11042

Honolulu, Hawaii 96828

as soon as it is possible.

Telephone: (808) 845-5716

E-mail: tataii2003congress@msn.com

TEHRAN INTERNATIONAL WEEKLY MAGAZINE IS PUBLISHED BY TEHRAN INTERNATIONAL WEEKLY MAGAZINE CORP.
AT P.O.Box 261394 ENCINO, CA, 91426-1394 A SUBSCRIPTION OF \$ 78 YEARLY PERIODICAL POSTAGE RATE PAID AT VAN- NUYS, CA. AND AT AN ADDITIONAL MAILING OFFICES. (USPS 018844-ISSN 15300986)
TEHRAN INTERNATIONAL WEEKLY MAGAZINE IS PUBLISHED WEEKLY EXCEPT FOR TWO ISSUES COMBINED INTO ONE AT LAST WEEK OF DECEMBER (51 ISSUES). POSTMASTER SEND ADDRESS CHANGES TO:
TEHRAN INTERNATIONAL WEEKLY MAGAZINE CORP. P.O.BOX 261394 ENCINO, CA. 91426-1394 USA