



IBRAHIM USTA/ASSOCIATED PRESS

Police officers and journalists Monday during a clash between the police and a militant in Istanbul. The militant was killed.

3 Die in Turkey in Shootout Between Police and Militant

By SABRINA TAVERNISE

ISTANBUL — Three people were killed and at least seven were injured in a shootout between the Turkish police and a militant in central Istanbul on Monday.

Turkey's interior minister, Besir Atalay, identified the assailant, Orhan Yilmazkaya, who was also killed, as a senior member of the Revolutionary Organization, a little-known group that he said was affiliated with the militant Kurdish group the Kurdistan Workers' Party, or P.K.K.

Turkey has been fighting the Kurdish separatist group since the 1980s. The group claims to be fighting on behalf of Turkey's oppressed Kurdish population. Turkey argues that giving Kurds more rights will encourage a movement to secede. It was not clear how the Revolutionary Organization was related to the P.K.K.

The battle began on Monday morning during a series of raids the police were conducting across Istanbul. In the Bostanci neighborhood, Mr. Yilmazkaya refused to surrender, and began firing on the police.

A police chief, Semih Balaban, and a civilian standing outside the security cordon, Mazlum Seker, were killed, Mr. Atalay said. Seven police officers were injured. A cameraman for NTV, Turkey's biggest private television station, was shot in the ear, though he survived.

"There was information that this terror organization was planning sensational attacks in the following days," Mr. Atalay said at a news conference. "Fact checks were completed. So, yesterday night, it was a serious operation."

Black smoke billowed from the

Sebnem Arsu contributed reporting from Istanbul, and Nazila Fathi contributed from Tehran.

window of a pink apartment building during the gunfight. Mr. Atalay said the building was only one of about 60 locations, including homes and offices, that were raided early Monday morning. About 40 people were detained, he said.

NTV quoted Senem Kandemir, a resident on the fourth floor of the building that was raided, as saying he woke up to gunfire at 5:30 a.m., and that fighting continued for about five hours. The apartment Mr. Yilmazkaya had rented had been empty for about a year, Mr. Kandemir said. Somebody moved in about 15 days ago, he said.

"There is a heavy gunpowder smell in the building," he said. "Dust is everywhere."

Reuters cited Gov. Muammer Guler of Istanbul as saying that the militants belonged to leftist and Islamist radical groups. Both have staged attacks in Turkey in the past. In 2003, a local group affiliated with Al Qaeda attacked a synagogue and a bank. And Kurdish militants associated with the P.K.K. occasionally bomb civilian areas.

In another police raid in Konya, a town in central Turkey, the police detained 13 men who were suspected of belonging to a radical Islamic organization. The police said they provided militants for attacks in Afghanistan. The group was believed to be training militants for jihad in Afghanistan, the state-run Anatolian News Agency reported.

Kurdish separatist violence was also reported near Iran's border with Iraq. Official Iranian news media reported that 10 police officers were killed Friday in an attack on their headquarters in the western Kurdish town of Ravansar in Kermanshah Province by members of the Party for Free Life of Kurdistan. The news reports said the police killed 10 militants in the fighting.



PHOTOGRAPHS BY ZACKARY CANEPARI FOR THE NEW YORK TIMES

In Pakistan's commercial capital, Karachi, a company that makes 2,000 fetish and bondage products operates next to a mosque.

KARACHI JOURNAL

Lacy Threads and Leather Straps Bind a Business

By ADAM B. ELLICK

KARACHI, Pakistan — In Pakistan, a flogger is known only as the Taliban's choice whip for beating those who defy their strict codes of Islam.

But deep in the nation's commercial capital, just next door to a mosque and the offices of a radical Islamic organization, in an unmarked house two Pakistani brothers have discovered a more liberal and lucrative use for the scourge: the \$3 billion fetish and bondage industry in the West.

Their mom-and-pop-style garment business, AQTH, earns more than \$1 million a year manufacturing 2,000 fetish and bondage products, including the Mistress Flogger, and exporting them to the United States and Europe.

The Qadeer brothers, Adnan, 34, and Rizwan, 32, have made the business into an improbable success story in a country where bars are illegal and the poor are often bound to a lifetime in poverty.

If the bondage business seems an unlikely pursuit for two button-down, slightly awkward, decidedly deadpan lower-class Pakistanis, it is. But then, discretion has been their byword. The brothers have taken extreme measures to conceal a business that in this deeply conservative Muslim country is as risky as it is risqué.

It helps that the dozens of veiled and uneducated female laborers who assemble the handmade items — gag balls, lime-green corsets, thonged spanking skirts — have no idea what the items are used for. Even the owners' wives, and their conservative Muslim mother, have not been informed.

"If our mom knew, she would disown us," said Adnan, seated on a leopard-print fabric covering his desk chair.

"Due to cultural barriers and religion, people don't discuss these things openly," Rizwan said. "We have to hide this information." Even customs officials were perplexed at how to tax the items, not quite sure what they were, they said.

Recently, when a curious employee inquired about the purpose of the sleep sack, a sleeping bag-like product used in certain kinds of bondage, she was told it was a body bag for the American military in Iraq.

Adnan Ahmed, a former air traffic controller who is now AQTH's chief operating officer, said the items were undergarments. When asked if he considered a red-hot puppy mask an undergarment, he had a straightforward,



AQTH, founded by Rizwan Qadeer, above, and his brother, Adnan, earns more than \$1 million a year in exports.

but honest reply: "No. It's just for joking."

Still, word of the business has at times escaped. Last year four "powerful guys" from a conservative Muslim group threatened to burn down the factory if it was not closed within a week. The brothers calmly explained that it was merely a business, and that the items were not used in Pakistan. The next day they bribed a local Islamic political organization to ensure their safety.

These days, the gravest danger is Pakistan's crumbling economy. The brothers idolize former President Pervez Musharraf, crediting their success to his industry friendly policies, like not requiring export licenses and banning trade unions. When Mr. Musharraf resigned last year, the brothers "didn't eat for three days," Adnan Qadeer said.

Since President Asif Ali Zardari took office, Adnan said, trade unions have been legalized and prices of some raw materials, including leather, have shot up, as have interest rates. The result: a 15 percent dip in AQTH's profits.

Echoing the pervasive fears of entrepreneurs across the country, the brothers are considering relocating to East Asia if Pakistan becomes more unstable — or if they receive another threat.

The shoddy factory seems like an ode to their humble upbringing. Adnan's executive bathroom has no toilet paper. Rizwan has no office. And their preferred lunch is Kentucky Fried Chicken.

Their inspiration for success came from their father, a civil servant who supported a family of six with a \$150 monthly salary.



CHIEN-MIN CHUNG/ASSOCIATED PRESS

On Oct. 1, 2000, the police detained a Falun Gong protester in Beijing. Now, some practitioners are represented by lawyers.

After 10 Years, China Presses Its Bloody War on Falun Gong

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gate Mr. Yu's death have been thwarted by the police and prosecutors, who refuse to allow an autopsy or even issue a death certificate.

Ms. Xu, who is a well-known poet and painter, was given a three-year term.

"I don't understand why this happened to them because they didn't do anything to break the law and they weren't promoting the group," Ms. Yu said.

According to former detainees and human rights organizations, Falun Gong detainees are frequently subjected to harrowing abuse, particularly those who refuse to swear off their faith. Bu Dongwei, 41, a longtime adherent who spent three years in a labor camp, said he was forced to share a room with about 30 people, most of them petty thieves and drug addicts who were encouraged to abuse the Falun Gong detainees.

Mr. Bu, a trained geneticist, left China in December and now lives in Los Angeles.

While the group's initial goals were official legitimacy and an end to persecution, the ceaseless campaign against them has radicalized many adherents, especially those living outside China.

In cities around the world, Falun Gong devotees — and their off-beat re-enactments of torture and gory visual aids — have become a common sight. The group has dedicated itself to the demise of the Communist Party, which has complicated the lives of adherents inside China.

Falun Dafa, the organization that oversees the movement from its headquarters in New York, is led by Li Hongzhi, a former grain clerk who began spreading his mystical brand of qigong in 1992 but fled China before the crackdown began. Once known for charismatic preaching, he has spent much of the past decade living a reclusive life in Queens.

David Ownby, the author of "Falun Gong and the Future of China," said that Mr. Li and his followers may have made a tactical mistake by massing in Beijing, but that the Communist Party erred by interpreting their actions as a threat to its rule.

"If either side had played their cards more intelligently, Falun Gong could have been co-opted by the government," said Mr. Ownby, who is a professor of East Asian studies at the University of Montreal. He added, "This horrific loss of life could have been avoided."

ONLINE: A RISKY, RISQUÉ BUSINESS

Meet the Qadeer brothers, their employees and designers of their fetish and bondage products: nytimes.com/world

ASIA

China: Verdict for Abbot Postponed



A Chinese court has indefinitely postponed delivering a verdict in the case of a Tibetan abbot charged with illegal possession of weapons and embezzlement, a lawyer for the abbot said Monday. The abbot, Phurbu Tsering Rinpoche, left, who is in charge of two convents in a restive area of Sichuan Province, was originally scheduled to receive a verdict on Tuesday. The delay came after several foreign news organizations, including The New York Times, reported on the case last week. The abbot, who faces up to 15 years in prison if found guilty on both charges, is being represented by two well-known Chinese human rights lawyers.

EDWARD WONG

AFRICA

Islamists Threaten to Kill Hostage

A group claiming to be Al Qaeda's North African wing has threatened to kill a British hostage in 20 days unless the British government releases Abu Qatada, a Jordanian-born Palestinian cleric being held on suspicion of inciting

World Briefing

terrorist attacks. The group, Al Qaeda in the Islamic Maghreb, posted the threat on an Islamic Web site, saying it "will kill the British hostage" if the cleric, whose real name is Omar Mahmoud Othman, was not freed. The hostage, who has not been identified, was one of four tourists kidnapped on the border of Niger and Chad in January; two of them were released last week, leaving the Briton and a Swiss man in the captors' custody. The Foreign Office said Britain would abide by a long-standing policy not to make "substantive concessions to hostage takers."

JOHN F. BURNS

THE AMERICAS

Peru: Asylum for Chávez Opponent

Peru has granted political asylum to Manuel Rosales, a Venezuelan opposition leader, Peru's foreign minister said Monday. Mr. Rosales, a former presidential candidate, surfaced in Peru last week after fleeing corruption allegations, which he says were politically motivated. Mr. Rosales won asylum less than a week after filing for it. A Venezuelan court issued an order last week. Venezuelan prosecutors say Mr. Rosales, who left his post as mayor of Maracaibo, cannot explain the source of \$60,000 he made during a previous term as governor of the state of Zulia.

(REUTERS)

UNITED NATIONS

Warning of Escalation in Darfur

The United Nations senior representative to Darfur, Rodolphe Adada, told the Security Council on Monday that the situation there had become "a low-intensity conflict in danger of a serious escalation," stressing the reduction of killings to a rate of 130 to 150 per month. Mr. Adada declined to characterize the conflict as a continuing genocide, a term that the United States has used. He said that though the United Nations was concerned about the dangers posed by Sudan's decision to expel aid groups from Darfur, "the solution relies on the government."

NEIL MacFARQUHAR

EUROPE

Russia: Officer Kills 3, Police Say

The head of a Moscow district police department went on a shooting rampage at a supermarket Monday just after midnight, killing three people and wounding at least six others, according to a police statement. The officer, Denis Yevsyukov, who was off duty, first killed a driver, who had given him a ride, then entered the supermarket and continued firing, killing a cashier and another man, the police said.

MICHAEL SCHWIRTZ