

Moderate leader killed by Beirut car bombing

BEIRUT, Lebanon — A leading Moslem moderate known for championing dialogue with Christians was killed May 16 by a car bomb explosion that also took the lives of at least 21 other people in west Beirut.

Sheik Hassan Khaled, the 68-year-old grand mufti (religious leader) of Lebanon's 700,000-member Sunni Moslem community, was being driven home on a crowded street when the blast occurred. Bodyguards, police escorts and civilians in the vicinity were also killed.

The day before, Khaled told a Beirut newspaper that "I am optimistic about a quick solution for Lebanon's crisis."

It was not immediately clear whether Khaled was the intended target of the bombing, which left a crater in the street more than 6 feet deep and 14 feet wide.

Just 100 yards from where the explosive-rigged auto was parked is the home of Selim Al Hoss, head of the Moslem Cabinet which rivals the Christian Cabinet of Gen. Michel Aoun in claiming to be the legitimate administration of the country.

No person or group immediately claimed responsibility for the bombing. The grand mufti had survived an attempt on his life in

1985 when a car bomb exploded as his motorcade traveled on west Beirut's sea-front highway.

The information agency of Lebanon's Maronite Catholic bishops said in a statement on Khaled's death that he was "known as a moderate Moslem leader who opposed the Syrian annexation of Lebanon."

"Last week he was summoned to Damascus but refused to go and asked to be excused for private reasons," the Catholic Center for Information said.

The Lebanese Christian leadership, including the bishops, have repeatedly called for the removal of the approximately 40,000-strong Syrian force based in the country. They blame the Syrians for the bulk of war-shattered Lebanon's problems.

The Christian-run radio station Voice of Lebanon said Khaled sought to save Lebanon but "his fate was to die for the sake of his principles, stands and conviction."

Khaled rejected violence and called for national reconciliation between the warring Moslem and Christian camps. He met frequently with leaders of all-types, including the Christians.



Bloodied Lebanese citizens are stranded in the stairwell of their heavily damaged apartment building after a car bomb exploded in Syrian-policed west Beirut Tuesday, May 16, killing 21 people, including Grand Mufti Hassan Khaled, spiritual head of Lebanon's Sunni Moslem community.



The Fajardo family re-enters the United States after being stranded in Canada for five months. The family, which had been residing in the United States as illegal aliens, unwittingly deported themselves by crossing the border to Canada during a visit to Niagara Falls.

Family allowed to re-enter U.S.

WASHINGTON (NC) — A Cuban family stranded for five months in Canada after unwittingly deporting themselves by taking a sightseeing trip to Niagara Falls was granted U.S. asylum and returned to the United States May 16.

Newlyweds Carlos Fajardo, 39, his wife, Bernaida, 33, and her two children from a previous marriage, Yoandys, 12, and Yordalys, 9, were granted asylum May 15 by the U.S. Immigration and Naturalization Service. The Fajardos, who had been living in the United States as illegal aliens, will eventually be eligible to apply for U.S. citizenship.

The family is expected to stay with

friends in Buffalo for a few days before returning to Miami, where Fajardo had worked as a boat builder, according to Sister Kathleen A. Rimar, a lawyer for Catholic Charities in Buffalo. She added that the family would be virtually starting their lives over again because their home was robbed in their absence.

In granting asylum, Benedict J. Ferro, the INS district director in Buffalo, issued a statement saying, Fajardo had "established a well-founded fear that he would be subject to persecution for his political beliefs if he were returned to his native Cuba."

Pontiff issues warning about theological dissent

By John Thavis
NC News

VATICAN CITY — Pope John Paul II said the church cannot tolerate "surreptitious" or "parallel" teachings that would contest and compromise basic truths of the faith.

The pope said theologians in particular are held to follow the church's magisterium, or teaching authority, which he said is being challenged today, especially in the area of Christian ethics.

The pope spoke May 18 to Italy's bishops, two days after the bishops deplored an open letter written by 63 Italian theologians. The letter, the latest in a series of recent challenges by European theologians, had criticized what it called "regressive" Vatican policies and argued for freedom of theological research, especially in ethical matters.

The pope appeared to endorse the bishops' action when he told them that they had given "clear witness" of their teaching authority "under the current circumstances."

He said the issue of theological and doctrinal dissent calls into question Christ's design when he established the church.

"In the light of this design, how could space be legitimately made for open or surreptitious forms of a parallel or alternative magisterium?" the pope asked.

"In fact, the truth of Christian ethics is too frequently endangered and challenged, not only on the level of practical behavior, but even at the doctrinal level, with grave

harm to Christian life and with the risk of compromising that which is most noble and important in the human being," he said.

The open letter by the Italian theologians was seen as supporting the so-called "Cologne Declaration" issued earlier this year by 163 German-speaking theologians. That declaration was later endorsed by a number of French- and Spanish-speaking theologians.

The Italian theologians, including two former presidents of their national association and five instructors at Milan's major seminary, expressed their "discomfort" at recent Vatican actions in teaching, disciplinary and institutional matters.

"Some, and they are more than a few, have the impression that the Catholic Church is being influenced by strong regressive pressures," the letter said.

The letter expressed concern that the doctrinal value of the Second Vatican Council was being diminished by church officials who would define it as a merely "pastoral" event. The letter urged protection of the universal church's "variety" as experienced in local churches, and as expressed in activities of bishops' conferences and the selection of bishops. It also called for protection of theological research from every "spirit of intolerance."

The letter was to be published in an upcoming issue of *Il Regno* (The Kingdom), a magazine run by the Dehonian religious order in Italy. Excerpts were made available in mid-May to Italian newspapers.

The Italian bishops' conference, which was meeting in a general assembly at the Vatican, quickly issued a response which said that despite the "tranquil tone" of the theologians' statement, its contents were "not in harmony with the correct way of acting and listening in the church."

It said the letter could be read in a way that could bring "profound alterations in the content of the Catholic faith and consequent divisions in church unity."

The debate heated up when *Jesus* magazine, published by the Society of St. Paul, an Italian religious order, supported the theologians' statement in an editorial to be published in its next issue.

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Diocesan Appointments

Bishop Matthew H. Clark has announced the following diocesan appointments:

Deacon Dominick Abballe, from parish deacon at St. Paul's Parish, Webster, to parish deacon at St. Patrick's Parish, Macedon.

Deacon Joseph Fox, to parish deacon at Holy Trinity Church, Webster.

Deacon Klaus Schulz, to additional ministry as spiritual assistant for the St. Patrick Fraternity of Secular Franciscan Order.

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