

World News Roundup

Rehabilitation

'Reintegration'

Obama will act for ex-convicts

WASHINGTON, Nov. 2, (Agencies): US President Barack Obama, who has made criminal justice reform a top priority of his last years in office, will announce actions on Monday to help formerly incarcerated people reintegrate into society.

The White House said the steps, to be unveiled by Obama at an appearance in Newark, New Jersey, would include up to \$8 million in federal education grants over three years for former inmates as well as new guidance on the use of arrest records in determining eligibility for public and federally assisted housing.

Obama is also directing the Office of Personnel Management to

take steps where possible to modify its rules in order to delay inquiries into criminal backgrounds until later in the hiring process.

"While most agencies already have taken this step, this action will better ensure that applicants from all segments of society, including those with prior criminal histories, receive a fair opportunity to compete for federal employment," the White House said in a statement.

Measure

It added that Obama was encouraged that Congress was considering a measure to "ban the box" for criminal histories for hiring by federal agencies and contractors, following the lead of some cities, states and private companies.

Noting that more than 600,000 people were released every year from state and federal prisons, the White House said: "Advancing policies and programs that enable these men and women to put their lives back on track and earn their second chance promotes not only justice and fairness, but also public safety."

Obama in July became the first sitting president to visit a federal prison. He has called on Congress to pass sentencing reform to help reduce the number of people serving long sentences for non-violent drug crimes.

With only 5 percent of the world's population, the United States accounts for about 25 percent of the world's prison population, according to the American Civil Liberties Union.

Obama has toured the country in a recent push for a criminal justice overhaul, he's worried publicly about the possibility of his daughters' teenage rebellion. He's mused about his own drug use as a wayward youth. He's told stories of being pulled over for speeding - and not always deserving the ticket.

In the national conversation about crime and punishment, Obama hasn't been afraid to identify with the people being policed, as well as with the police.

Shift

It's a remarkable shift in tone after decades of politicians worrying more about being labeled soft on crime than too hard on criminals. Previous presidents have talked tough on the topic and heaped praise on police. They've rarely woven in personal encounters with the law.

Obama, speaking to police chiefs in Chicago last week, praised police for their work but also called for "serious and robust debate over fairness in law enforcement." He used himself as an example.

"There were times when I was younger and maybe even as I got a little older, but before I had a motorcade - where I got pulled over," Obama told the crowd. "Most of the time I got a ticket, I deserved it. I knew why I was pulled over. But there were times where I didn't."

Such comments stand out from the history of presidential rhetoric in part because of Obama's place in that presidential history. Questions of racial bias in the criminal justice system are not merely academic for him, noted Marc Mauer, executive director of the Sentencing Project, a group that advocates for sentencing reform.

"He's the first African-American president and his life experiences are different than others. He's lived it - directly or indirectly - more than other presidents have. The empathy is there," Mauer said.

But Obama's comments also reflect the moment, Mauer noted. The current political conversation about crime, justice, race and violence in America largely has been driven by a course correction.

A push to overhaul sentencing laws has bipartisan support in Congress. Police killings of unarmed blacks have sparked outrage about racism and use of force in policing. All of this is playing out while crime rates overall are down.

The contrast is stark from the conversation in the late 1980s, when Massachusetts Gov. Michael Dukakis, the Democratic nominee for president, was pounded by ads all but blaming him for the crimes of Willie Horton, a convicted murderer who raped a woman while out on a weekend furlough.



Obama

Personnel

Management



Tom McDonald, chief of police in West Sacramento, California, poses for a photo in his office on April 20, 2015, in West Sacramento, California. (Inset): Chief Bernadette DiPino of the Sarasota Police Department sits for a portrait at her office on Sept 28, in Sarasota, Florida. (AP)

Policing

Sexual misconduct most prevalent complaints

Hundreds of officers lose licenses

OKLAHOMA CITY, Nov. 2, (AP): Flashing lights pierced the black of night, and the big white letters made clear it was the police. The woman pulled over was a daycare worker in her 50s headed home after playing dominoes with friends. She felt she had nothing to hide, so when the Oklahoma City officer accused her of erratic driving, she did as directed.

She would later tell a judge she was played outside the patrol car for a pat-down and then made to lift her shirt and pull down her pants to prove she wasn't hiding anything. She described being ordered to sit in the squad car as the officer towered over her. His gun in sight, she said she pleaded "No, sir" as he unzipped his fly and exposed himself to her with a hurried directive.

"Come on," the woman, identified in police reports as J.L., said she was told before she began giving the officer oral sex. "I don't have all night."

The accusations are undoubtedly jolting, and yet they reflect a betrayal of the badge that has been repeated across the US.

A yearlong investigation by The Associated Press has found about 1,000 officers who lost their licenses in a six-year period for rape, sodomy and other sexual assaults; sex crimes that included possession of child pornography; or sexual misconduct such as propositioning citizens or having on-duty intercourse.

The probe at once represents both the most complete examination of such wrongdoing and a sure undercount of the problem, limited by a patchwork of state laws. California and New York, for example, had no records because they have no

statewide system for revoking the licenses of officers who commit misconduct.

And even among states that provided information, some reported no officers removed for sexual misdeeds even though cases were discovered in news stories or court records.

"It's happening probably in every law enforcement agency across the country," said Chief Bernadette DiPino of the Sarasota Police Department in Florida, who helped study the problem for the International Association of Chiefs of Police. "It's so underreported and people are scared that if they call and complain about a police officer, they think every other police officer is going to be then out to get them."

Pursuit

The AP's review is based on a state-by-state pursuit of records on decertification, the process by which a law enforcement license is revoked. Though nine states and Washington, DC declined to provide information or said they did not track officer misconduct, decertification records from 41 states were obtained and then dissected to determine whether the cause of revocation involved sexual misconduct.

All told, the AP determined that some 550 officers lost their licenses from 2009 through 2014 for sexual assault, including rape, pat-downs that amounted to groping, and shakedown in which citizens were extorted into performing favors to avoid arrest. Some 440 other officers were decertified for other sex offenses or misconduct, including child pornography, voyeurism in the guise of police work

and consensual but prohibited on-duty intercourse.

About one-third of the decertified officers were accused in incidents involving juveniles. Overall, the victims were overwhelmingly women and included some of society's most vulnerable — the poor, the addicted, the young. Others had criminal records, sometimes used by the officers as a means for exploitation. Some were victims of crime who, seeking help, found themselves again targeted by men in uniform.

The law enforcement officials in these records included state and local police, sheriff's deputies, prison guards and school resource officers. They represent a fraction of the hundreds of thousands whose jobs are to serve and protect. Nevertheless, the AP's findings suggest that sexual misconduct is among the most prevalent complaints against law officers.

Cases from just the past year demonstrate the devastation of such depravity.

Advancement

In Connecticut, William Ruscoe of the Trumbull Police began a 30-month prison term in January after pleading guilty to the sexual assault of a 17-year-old girl he met through a program for teens interested in law enforcement. Case records detailed advances that began with texts and attempts to kiss and grope the girl. Then one night Ruscoe brought her back to his home. The victim told investigators that despite telling him no "what felt like 1,000 times," he removed her clothes, fondled her and forced her to touch him — at one point cuffing her hands.

In Florida, Jonathan Bleiweiss of

the Broward Sheriff's Office was sentenced to a five-year prison term in February for bullying about 20 immigrant men into sex acts. Prosecutors said he used implied threats of deportation to intimidate the men.

And in New Mexico, Michael Garcia of the Las Cruces Police was sentenced last November to nine years in federal prison for sexually assaulting a high school police intern. The victim, Diana Guerrero, said in court the assault left her feeling "like a piece of trash," dashed her dreams of becoming an officer, and triggered depression and flashbacks.

"I lost my faith in everything, everyone, even in myself," said Guerrero, who is now 21 and agreed to her name being published.

Experts on sex assault believe most victims never come forward, and said fears can be compounded if the offender is an officer. Diane Wetendorf, who started a support group in Chicago for victims of officers, recalls the stories of those who did go to authorities: Some women's homes came under surveillance or their children were intimidated by police. Fellow officers, she said, refused to turn on accused colleagues.

"It starts with the officer denying the allegations — 'she's crazy,' 'she's lying,'" she said. "And the other officers say they didn't see anything, they didn't hear anything."

The issue will be in the spotlight beginning Monday in Oklahoma City, where former Officer Daniel Hultzclaw is scheduled for trial, accused in the rapes, sexual battery or exploitation of 13 women, including J.L.



A fatal shooting was reported around 1:20 am on Nov. 1, near Wilson Hall, pictured here, and Gleason-Hairston Terrace on the campus of Winston-Salem State University in Winston-Salem, NC. School officials say one student is dead and another wounded after a shooting at Winston-Salem State University. (AP)



Curry



Shori

America

Witnesses describe scene:

Witnesses on Sunday described a terrifying scene on the streets of Colorado Springs, where a gunman armed with a rifle shot and killed three people before being fatally shot in a gunbattle with police.

Authorities have released few details about Saturday morning's shooting in broad daylight. The suspect and victims have not been identified, and police are looking for a motive.

A neighbor, Teresa Willingham, said she and her 7-year-old son heard three loud gunshots and saw a bicyclist lying face down in the street, his legs mangled and still intertwined in his bike.

"His last words were 'Please God, no,'" she said. "He was just at the wrong place at the wrong time."

A neighbor, Naomi Bettis, who lives across the street, said she saw a man in a green jacket with a rifle, walking down the street. She saw him go into a house across the street, and come out with a handgun. She said the man headed down the block, and the bicyclist came up.

Bettis said the bicyclist begged for his life, but the gunman kept shooting.

Bettis said the bicyclist collapsed outside a house. She later placed a bouquet of flowers, a candle and a note where the bicyclist was slain, saying "My thoughts are with you. Praying for the family. I'm sorry for your loss."

Matthew Abshire, who lives nearby, told The Associated Press that he heard gunshots, looked out his window and saw a man firing a rifle. He waited for the gunfire to subside before he came outside and started chasing after the gunman, who had a rifle in his right hand and a revolver in his left. Abshire stayed about 30 yards (27 meters) behind him until he said the gunman turned and aimed the gun in his direction, prompting him to dive onto a porch to hide.

"He walked calmly and collectedly. His demeanor was like he was having a stroll in

the park," Abshire said. (AP)

Bishop Curry inducted: Bishop Michael Curry of North Carolina was inducted on Sunday as the first black leader of the US Episcopal Church during a cere-



Prince Edward, Earl of Wessex, inspects the guard with Lt Kyle Allward as he arrives at Government House, in Halifax, Nova Scotia on Nov 1. (AP)

mony in the nation's capital where he called for economic and racial unity.

Curry, 62, was installed as the presiding bishop of the branch of the 80 million-member worldwide Anglican Communion at the Washington National Cathedral dur-

ing a morning service.

In an impassioned sermon, Curry called on people of all races, economic classes and beliefs to unite and conquer the world's challenges.

Curry also exhorted the church, with 2

Alert on Halloween suicide bomber suit

LOS ANGELES, Nov. 2, (RTRS): A soldier who tried to enter North Carolina's Fort Bragg US Army base dressed as a suicide bomber for Halloween prompted a security alert including a search for explosives, military media said on Sunday.

The unidentified soldier, wearing a costume that appeared to be an explosive vest, tried to pass a checkpoint on Saturday evening, the base said in a Facebook post, which has since been removed, according to Military.com. The post said the incident resulted in an emergency response that consisted of the gate being briefly closed as explosive technicians cleared the site, according to the military news website.

million members, to strive for a more just society: "We have been sent and called into this world not to settle for what is, but to dream and work for what shall be."

Curry's installation comes as US race relations have been strained over the past year. A series of high-profile killings of unarmed black men at the hands of white police officers has sparked renewed national debate over fairness in America's criminal justice system. In June, tensions were further inflamed when nine black parishioners of the Emanuel African Methodist Episcopal Church in Charleston, South Carolina, were shot to death by a white gunman in a massacre authorities said was racially motivated. The AME Church is an independent black Protestant denomination rooted in the Methodist Church with an Episcopal form of governance.

Curry was elected and confirmed the presiding bishop and primate in June at the 78th General Convention of the Episcopal Church in Salt Lake City, where church leaders also voted overwhelmingly to allow same-sex couples to wed in Episcopal services. Curry had served as the bishop of the Episcopal Diocese of North Carolina since 2000.

A native of Chicago, Curry assumed the post after Katharine Jefferts Schori, who ended her nine-year term as the first woman to lead the church. (RTRS)