

Three bodies found after days of unrest in Solomon Islands



The bodies of three people have been discovered at a burnt-out building in Honiara, the capital of the Solomon Islands, police said on Saturday, the first reported deaths after days of rioting in the remote city.

The charred bodies were discovered in a store in the Chinese district, which has been a target for looting and protests, agencies by Reuters and AP news agencies. The bodies were in rooms late on Friday.

Police and forensic teams had launched an investigation and were still on the scene but that the cause of the deaths was unclear.

More than 100 people had been arrested for rioting, police said on Saturday, as rioters began to assess the damage left by days of unrest.

An overnight curfew has been imposed on the remote capital after three days of violence that saw the prime minister's home come

under attack and swaths of the city reduced to smoking ruins. The 7pm (08:00 GMT) curfew (09:00 GMT) includes will remain in force until it is revoked by the Government Council.

Australian police officers, who arrived in the country last on Thursday following a request from the government, have joined their Solomon Islands counterparts on the streets to help enforce curfew and prevent rioting in the capital.

Some 20 officers from the Royal Papua New Guinea Constabulary have also flown to Honiara.

"Australia and Papua New Guinea are concerned about the violence that protests have taken in Honiara and jointly condemn the suspension of foreign aid to the country," Papua New Guinea minister for foreign affairs Simon Evon, and Australian foreign minister, Marise Payne, said in a joint statement.

Japan's new pandemic border restrictions disappoint residents stranded abroad

Earlier this month Japan lifted its entry restrictions to allow technical interns, foreign students and short-term business people to enter the country after closing its borders to almost all non-Japanese citizens following the outbreak of COVID-19. It was a welcome announcement for many people abroad, waiting in limbo for almost 18 months for the start of working or studying in Japan, that the new border rules have been a disappointment with completion of paperwork causing headaches for sponsoring organizations in Japan.

With more than 70 percent of the population fully vaccinated, the new border policy allows quarantine to be shortened from 10 days to three days. But the biggest obstacle facing non-citizens is the document submission process. New visa holders entering Japan are required to have a designated representative from the host company take charge of a person's overseas visa submission. The three-day quarantine requires a total of six documents to be submitted in advance by the host company, including proof of vaccination, a negative COVID-19 test upon arrival, an active plan covering four to 10 days and a written pledge guaranteeing that the person entering Japan is not carrying COVID-19.

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The West African returnees using film to flip script on migration

Dakar, Senegal — The last thing Ibrahim Ndiaye envisioned before waking up in a Moroccan hospital was receiving indignantly while watching her friend Khalifa in a wrong number — still away in the Mediterranean. The inflatable dinghy on which they had been trying to cross the sea had just capsized. Ndiaye was only one of a few who managed to make it back to home.

Ndiaye, who was only 21 at the time, had paid a woman more than one million CFA francs (about \$1,700) to secure her passage from Tangiers in Spain. She was hoping an annual university visa she arrived in Morocco.

"I have read a lot of pain," Ndiaye said. "I dreamt of traveling the world, and I did it, but not the way I wanted to."

Every year, thousands of people find themselves stuck in camps from different parts of sub-Saharan Africa in search of a better life and the conflict and persecution.

According to the International Organization for Migration (IOM), some 2 million people died or disappeared while trying to migrate to Europe in the first nine months of this year — more than 1.2 million were recorded on the route from Libya to Italy. Others died in makeshift labor camps or random places in remote parts of North Africa.

On average, more than half of those who attempt to cross the sea do not survive.

On Ndiaye's trip in 2018, far from other friends did she found herself in a camp. She was not in Morocco, then sent to Algeria where she was housed and sent to Niger. Eventually, she managed to return home with the help of the IOM.

Now, the 27-year-old, along with a number of other returnees, is helping to tell their story through a film project called "The West African Migration Film Festival," currently being held in 13 countries across West and Central Africa. It runs until December

18, when winners will be announced on International Migrants Day.

The film project was inspired by a grant that was made by European Union, said Ndiaye. "I was co-producer of La Maison Blanche, a documentary comparing the festival's main message: 'It is absolutely necessary that African returnees speak about their stories — that they tell their own experiences.'

For the first time, a special competition is being held for films by people such as Ndiaye who have returned to their home countries after years of migration.

The film, 'Senegal's First Step' (through 'My Foot'), was shot in a documentary setting last weekend in Dakar's Yémoussoukri outdoor venue was packed with children and young people.

"Senegal has the advantage of a Senegalese art critic who chose the film festival's jury," he continues, who also directed the film. "I would encourage anyone to see the film. It is not even my worst enemy," Dabo said.

There is also in the region a reflection on the returnees' experiences returning home. Fatah Guet Ndiaye, who directed the film, Monday, and she had to repeat a school year following her return as a migrant.

As a teenager, she had heard of a woman fleeing but heard for the Canary Islands, but had not seen back later in life when the captain got lost. Her parents were disappointed because they could not see her.

"I was scolded — they were right for a girl in her last year of high school to have a child and go to Spain — in a project with Senegal," she said.

As for Alassane Ndiaye, who says she was scolded by a filmmaker since she was a child, she is hoping the film festival will help her build a career in the industry that is not always realistic.

"When you're doing [such] a project, it's very difficult to say, 'Oh, who do you look for a regular job?'" she said. "But these are all linked to how well preparation you do and how to do with development and education."

Still, he wants to advise people about "what rights they want."

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Saudi unveils plans for Diriyah Square, which will host more than 450 global brands

Saudi Arabia's Diriyah Gate Development Authority (DGDA) has announced its future vision for the Diriyah Square project, which is set to be the largest and most advanced urban development project in Saudi Arabia. The project, which is set to be completed in 2025, will create a new urban center in the heart of Riyadh, Saudi Arabia. The project is set to be completed in 2025, and will create a new urban center in the heart of Riyadh, Saudi Arabia. The project is set to be completed in 2025, and will create a new urban center in the heart of Riyadh, Saudi Arabia.

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