

Hamas militants clash with Gaza gunmen at Health Ministry, three wounded

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THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

GAZA CITY, Gaza Strip —

Dozens of Hamas militants Sunday rushed to the aid of a Cabinet minister confronted by angry gunmen, sparking a shootout that wounded three people in the latest explosion of infighting in the Gaza Strip.

The incident showed how the new Hamas-led government is turning to its private army to impose

order as it battles the rival Fatah movement for control of Palestinian security forces.

The power struggle has grown increasingly contentious in recent days since Hamas announced it would form a security agency headed by a militant wanted by Israel. Palestinian President Mahmoud Abbas of Fatah vetoed the plan, leading to clashes and protests.

The two sides agreed

early Sunday to work to end the tensions, but the pledge quickly degenerated into new violence. Thousands of Fatah activists joined anti-Hamas protests in the West Bank, hours before the shootout at the Palestinian Health Ministry in Gaza.

The shootout came a day after Health Minister Bassem Naim, a top Hamas official, said he was cutting \$2 million from the monthly health budget to help alleviate a government

financial crisis by halting payments for patients seeking treatment abroad. Gaza's health care system is poor, and Palestinians routinely travel to Israel and other countries for treatment.

On Sunday, a group of men, some armed, burst into Naim's office and demanded he authorize a medical-care trip for a relative, Health

Ministry spokesman Khaled Radi said.

Naim's bodyguards — Hamas militants — called for backup from their colleagues, and a brief shootout wounded three people, witnesses and Palestinian security officials said.

After a 45-minute standoff, masked Hamas militants, joined by Palestinian

police, retook the building, arresting gunmen. Naim left surrounded by 10 militants.

The minister's reliance on Hamas gunmen — not the Fatah-dominated security services — illustrated the deep distrust between the sides.

Abbas, a political moderate has been trying to use his already considerable powers to marginalize Hamas.

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Invisible Children and how they were raising awareness, I wanted to be involved right away," Renfrow said.

Renfrow said there will be pictures and film taken of

the event, and participators will be writing letters to the children of Uganda, South Carolina senators and President Bush.

"I really do believe this event has the potential to end the war," Renfrow said.

The event at the State House will run from 8 p.m. Saturday to 5 a.m. Sunday.

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BOOKS • CONTINUED FROM 1

issue, set by the publishers," Preston said. "We had to find a way to address this concern on campus."

Preston said the executive officers decided giving students more time to buy textbooks would be the best way to help lower the cost.

Cheslie Fowler, an assistant manager at the S.C. Bookstore, said stores have been offering textbook reservations online "for years" and that offering the books through VIP is "nothing new."

Fowler said that both the S.C. Bookstore and Addam's Bookstore have books listed online, but

the University Bookstore gets more business because students can pay with their CarolinaCard and order ahead of time.

On Sunday, Addam's and the S.C. Bookstore's Web sites didn't have any listings for fall 2006.

"If the people are not going to use common sense to shop around they're going to pay more," Fowler said.

Preston agreed, though he was quick to add that the University Bookstore does offer price matching. If a student sees a textbook for a lower price at another bookstore, the University Bookstore will match that price. Students must specifically mention the

lower price.

Preston and SG are also working on a system that would post more class information online. Grade distribution and other information professors choose to post would be available to students before they signed up for a class, Preston said. He said the program has the support of the provost and college deans.

Preston said University Technology Services is working on a system to add the information that he said he hopes will be up in the fall.

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TOWERS • CONTINUED FROM 1

students that would have lived in the Towers will be to Columbia Hall, Capstone, Sims and the Roost," Fortune said.

Snowden resident Drew Hernandez, a first-year chemistry student, said he doesn't regret living in the Towers.

"I would probably still live in Snowden if I had to do it all over again," Hernandez said. "There are a lot of good people that live there so it's a good place to make friends. Granted, some of it's kind of nasty, but that's part of the experience."

Ernandez said students are mostly to blame for the negative aspects of living in

the Towers.

"The people there work really hard to keep it clean, but a lot of people treat it badly, which is why some parts can be foul," Ernandez said.

The closing and eventual demolition of the Towers has temporarily left USC with a shortage of rooms, causing the initial waiting list for housing to be 730 students long at the end of registration.

Kevin Tyner, a third-year criminal justice student, said he is on the waiting list and was told he most likely wouldn't get the assignment he was hoping for — if he got one at all.

"If I don't find someone to switch with me, I will

probably end up in a dorm that I would prefer not to live in," Tyner said. "I really don't know what I would do if I didn't get an assignment. I guess I would have to start looking for people to get an apartment with."

Fortune said the waiting list has shrunk to 350 students, but said many off-campus housing options are filled as well.

"I talk with private competitors frequently and most of them have waitlists as well," Fortune said. "College Suites, for example, has an existing waitlist, I have been told."

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TOURNEY • CONTINUED FROM 1

will be the chance to win golf and other sport items in a raffle. The cost of tickets will be \$5. USC sports memorabilia such as a football autographed by Steve Spurrier will be among the raffle prizes, Patty said.

"It's a nice escape from campus and a great way to relax and get some friends together to play a round of golf on a really beautiful course," Patty said.

Northwoods Golf Club is located at 201 Powell Road in Columbia. Directions are provided in a brochure available in the department's office in room 2012 of the Coliseum.

The event is sponsored by Eat More Tees on a course that has been home to two PGA tour events in the past, as well as the annual City Tournament in 1993 and 1994.

Sport and entertainment management students have volunteered to work the event as an opportunity to interact with faculty and be involved with events. The experience is a "good exposure to one aspect of the industry," Patty said.

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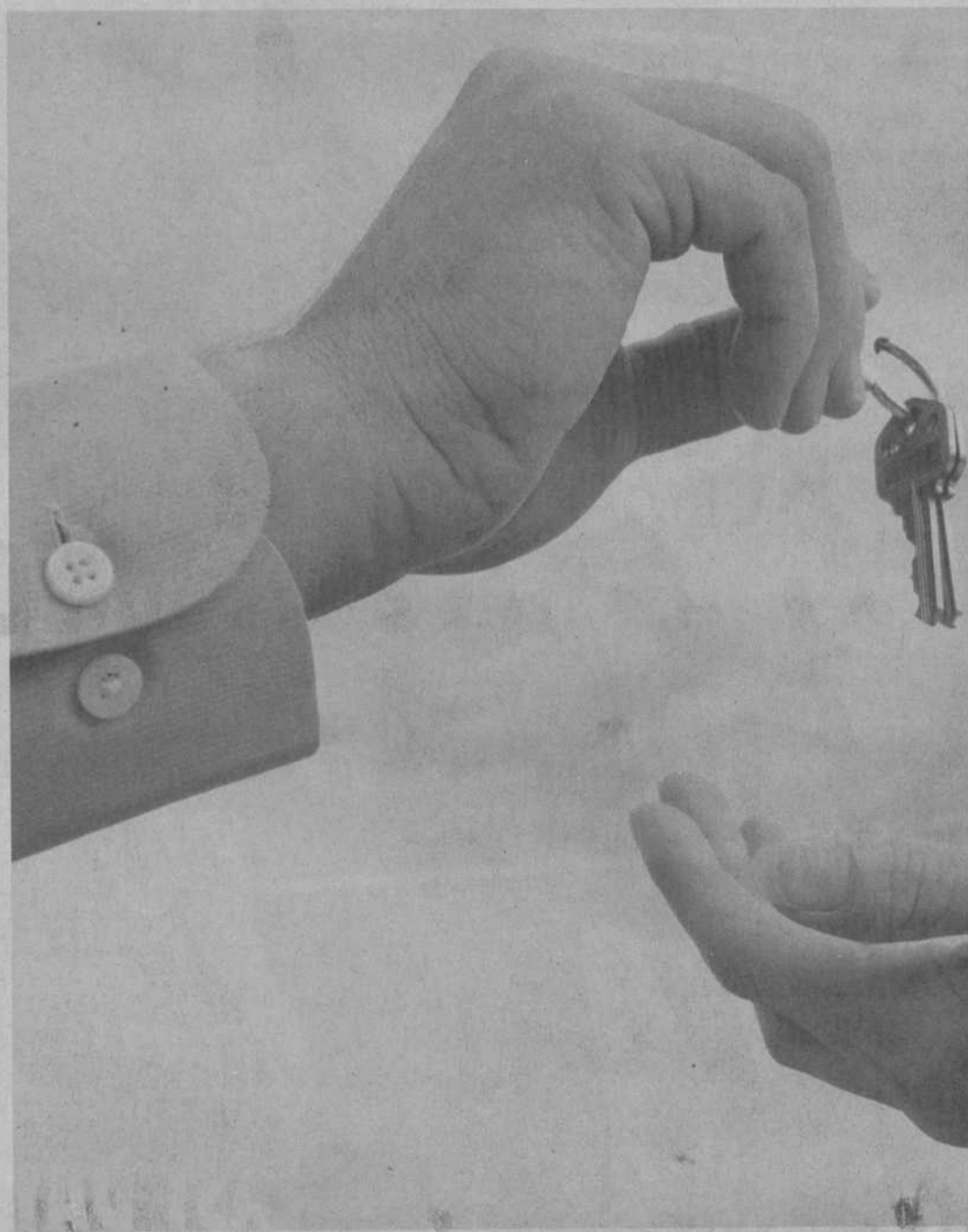
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