

[From the Washington Post, Jun. 13, 2004]

U.N.: SUDAN FORCES, MILITIAS EXECUTE CIVILIANS

(Nima Elbagir)

KHARTOUM, JUNE 13—A senior U.N. official said on Sunday she had “credible information” that Sudanese forces and government-backed militias had carried out summary executions of civilians in west Sudan.

Asma Jahangir, the U.N. special rapporteur on executions, also said after visiting conflict-stricken Darfur that members of the militia, which locals accuse of looting and killing villagers, were being integrated into the armed forces.

Independent rights groups have already accused the government and militia, known as janjaweed, of carrying out mass executions in the region where rebels launched an armed uprising in February 2003.

Fighting in the remote area has affected two million people and driven 158,000 people across the border into Chad, creating what the United Nations has said is one of the world's worst humanitarian crises.

“I received numerous accounts of the extrajudicial and summary executions carried out by government-backed militias and by the security forces themselves,” Jahangir told reporters.

“According to credible information, members of the armed forces, the Popular Defense Forces and various groups of government-sponsored militias attacked villagers and summarily executed civilians,” she said in Khartoum.

Rights groups have accused the government of arming the Arab janjaweed to drive out African villagers from their homes, in what U.N. officials have said is a campaign of ethnic cleansing. The government calls the janjaweed outlaws and denies any link.

“According to the information I collected, many of the militias are being integrated into the regular armed or the Popular Defence Forces. There is no ambiguity that there is a link between some of the militias and government forces,” Jahangir said.

But she said some criminal elements had taken advantage of the conflict.

Jahangir also travelled around other areas of Sudan, including Malakal in the south. The Sudanese government is close to reaching a final peace deal with southern rebels to end a separate 21-year-old conflict in that region.

“In my report, I will forcefully stress the question of accountability as a fundamental principle in addressing violations of human rights . . . The government of the Sudan must make every effort to end the culture of impunity,” she said.

**PAUL A. THEIS DIES: COMBAT PILOT, AIDE TO PRESIDENT FORD, GOP STALWART, AUTHOR, JOURNALIST AND PATRIOT**

**HON. SHERWOOD BOEHLERT**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 17, 2004

Mr. BOEHLERT. Mr. Speaker, I wish to advise my colleagues of the death of Paul A. Theis. He was one of our stalwarts, having served for many years as Director of Public Relations for the Republican Congressional Campaign Committee. President Ford held him in such high regard that he tapped him to become his Executive Editor, heading up the highly important speechwriting operation in the White House. In addition, Paul served in the

Agriculture Department as Deputy Undersecretary for Congressional and Public Affairs.

Paul Theis was many things, but above all a patriot and a gentleman as his legion of friends can attest. I count myself among them as we grieve the passing of this man of many parts. He was a novelist and completed “Devil in the House,” a story based on the House of Representatives, just a few months before he died. He also coauthored “All About Politics,” a non-fiction book published in 1972. Before that he served in the House as Administrative Assistant to the Hon. Oliver Bolton, Republican of Ohio. Earlier he had been a reporter for Newsweek magazine, covering the McCarthy hearings, and Army Times. During World War II he flew combat missions out of Italy as a B-17 bomber pilot earning the Air Medal and six battle stars. As a member of the Air Force Reserve after the war, he ultimately attained the rank of Major. For his military service, Paul was interred with full honors on April 20, 2003 at Arlington National Cemetery.

My condolences have been extended to his wife, Nancy, and his son, Mitchell, as they were by telephone by President Gerald R. Ford and President George W. Bush. He was a wonderful man and I was proud to have known him and to have been associated with him. I and countless others who knew him and loved him will sorely miss him. May he rest in peace.

Mr. Speaker, I enclose herewith the text of the eulogy given by Paul's son, Mitchell, at his funeral mass, and the text of the obituaries from the Washington Times and the Washington Post.

EULOGY FOR PAUL A. THEIS

(BY MITCHELL A. THEIS)

Reverend Fathers, thank you for celebrating this beautiful Mass of Christian Burial for my father, Paul Theis. Thank you for being such good priests and for being such an important part of our family's life.

I thank all of you here who came to honor my dad by your presence. My mother and I are deeply touched by your outpouring of sympathy and words of love for my father.

A couple of nights ago, mom and I were in the kitchen remembering some of our happiest times together with my father and some of his wonderful mannerisms and beliefs. We couldn't stop laughing as we recalled how he believed that three scoops of ice cream was “healthy” if you sprinkled wheat germ over it. Or how he always managed to wear one of his tattered old trench coats from his journalism days even though mom bought him a cashmere coat from Neiman Marcus and I got him one from Saks Fifth Avenue.

We recalled, too, his old Rolodex that he started over 60 years ago. Here it is! It looks like an organizational system used by a small business. It's so filled with cards that you can barely turn it. Believe me, my dad has a card on you or can locate a card that will help him find you within minutes.

He started writing cards on his friends that he grew up with back in the farming community of Carey, Ohio. His mom and dad ran a melon and wheat farm. And after the Depression they bought a furniture store.

His next set of cards was of his friends, like George Barsa, Frank Keenan and Bob Walsh; he had met them at Notre Dame University. Dad always was a Notre Dame Man and has stayed in touch with all of his college buddies. He just attended his 55th alumni reunion.

The next group of names that Dad wrote out for the Rolodex were those of his B-17

crew from World War II. The members of the crew were all barely 20 and they called Jerry Moran, the crew chief, “Pops” because he was 26 years old. If you heard Forrest Tolson tell their war stories, he'd have you believe that it was their crew alone that won the war. Believe me, Paul Theis, the old combat bomber pilot will be watching the WWII Monument dedication on the Mall this coming Memorial Day from a great vantage point! I salute the crew!

After the War, dad finished his BA at Notre Dame and his BS in the School of Foreign Service at Georgetown University. He got a job as a journalist at the Army Times and then at Newsweek covering the McCarthy hearings. These writing skills helped him get a job on Capitol Hill working as an Administrative Assistant for Congressman Oliver Bolton. Gene Cowen was the AA for Ollie's mother, Francis Bolton. They were the only mother-son Congressional team.

This was in the early 50's and many of you here recall the simpler days of handshakes and civility. This was the time that Sid Yudin started Roll Call and dad helped start the Inner Circle, a group of Administrative Assistants that met for background briefings with VIP's of the day. Unfortunately/fortunately, dad's boss had a heart attack and did not run for re-election, so he became the Public Relations Director for the National Republican Congressional Campaign Committee, writing speeches for congressmen and women. This is where he added hundreds of cards to his Rolodex. It was a perfect job for him and he stayed there for 16 years.

It was during this time where he met the woman who would sweet him off his feet. It was the end of him. His bachelor days were over.

It was following that blessed event that President Nixon resigned and President Ford asked him to be his Executive Editor—handling: Speechwriting, Messages, Correspondence and Research. There dad worked closely with Bob Hartman, Bob Orben, Milt Friedman, Jack Calkins and all the members of President Ford's team. On Monday, former President Ford called mom and me. We told him that we were certain a number of his old friends and supporters would be here at the funeral. He wanted everyone to know that he was here in spirit. Dad was always honored to work for such a fine man.

From the White House dad was appointed the Director of Congressional Relations for the Secretary of Agriculture, Jack Knebel. Dad and mom were to travel with Jack and his wife, Zee, to a number of foreign countries for the USDA.

Dad then moved on to the House Agriculture Committee where he and Tom Adams wrote the Ag Bad Newsletter.

In 1981, dad started Headliner Editorial Services and worked for clients from his home office. Mom left school teaching and was working at the White House so I grew up coming home from school and being greeted by my father.

He was always a master listener—calm, cool, collected and funny. One of my favorite examples of his type of humor occurred on the day that we had to put our dog, Badger, to sleep. On the way back home from the vets, dad turned to mom and me and said, “What are we going to tell the cat?”

Over the years, Mom and Dad, AKA “The Cheerleader” and “The Sage,” created an extended family that supports and sustains our world. Together, we affirm what is sacred, laugh at life's absurdities and discuss and debate the hot topics of our times. We are blessed beyond belief by such dear, dear family friends.

If you are a member of the Golden Owls, the select group in the National Press Club

who have been members for over 50 years, dad has a card on you in his Rolodex.

If you are a member of the old Capitol Hill Club or are "a regular" there then dad has an address card on you.

If you're a writer or staffer on the Bulletin for the Cosmos Club, dad knows how to get in touch with you. The Cosmos Club was a great joy to dad in these past few years. He certainly enjoyed working with the club's members and management.

If you were a member of the Knights of Columbus from St. Thomas Apostle, Dad knew where to find you. By the way, I want to thank the brother Knights for coming today to be part of Dad's funeral.

If you belong to the Hill Investment Club, thanks for making Dad think that he was a Big Investor.

Dad was an active and involved member of the District of Columbia Republican Committee for 25 years plus. He was always eager to see the two party system work here in our hometown.

Dad knew all of his neighbors and was the first to help out on any local project.

To our parish, he was a steady presence.

Simply put—Dad had your number! And I would guess that you had his.

He was a caring and loving husband, a real father in every sense of the word, a quiet, fun-loving friends and neighbor, a dedicated, loyal employee, a constant worker—he even finished his novel, despite the fact that it took him years, a devoted member of his Church and a true renaissance man!

Mom and I will continue to use this clunky Rolodex, to call you and to cherish your friendship.

Today, there is a new card written in God's Heavenly Rolodex. It can be found under the letter T. The name on it is Paul A. Theis.

The peace of Christ be with you Dad.

[From the Washington Post, Mar. 29, 2004]

PAUL A. THEIS; WHITE HOUSE AIDE

Paul A. Theis, 81, an author and former journalist who worked in President Gerald R. Ford's administration as a senior speechwriter and head of the White House editorial department, died March 24 at Washington Hospital Center of complications after heart valve surgery.

Mr. Theis joined the White House staff as executive editor shortly after Ford was sworn into office August 9, 1974. As head of the editorial department, he oversaw speechwriting, presidential messages, research and correspondence.

In 1976, Ford named him deputy undersecretary of agriculture for congressional and public affairs. Mr. Theis left that job after Ford's defeat later that year and worked about four years as a staff consultant to the House Committee on Agriculture and on President-elect Ronald Reagan's Agriculture Department transition team in 1980 and 1981.

In 1981, he started Headliner Editorial Service, a Washington-based firm offering editorial and speechwriting services for business, government and political clients. He headed the firm until his death.

Mr. Theis, a Washington resident, was born in Fort Wayne, Ind. He was a journalism graduate of the University of Notre Dame and received a bachelor's degree from Georgetown University's School of Foreign Service.

During World War II, he served in the Army Air Forces as a B-17 Flying Fortress combat pilot in Italy. His military decorations included the Air Medal.

He also served in the Air Force Reserve, attaining the rank of major.

Mr. Theis worked for Newsweek and Army Times as a Washington correspondent before serving as an executive assistant to Rep. Oli-

ver P. Bolton (R-Ohio) from 1955 to 1957. He served on the inaugural committees of Presidents Dwight D. Eisenhower and Richard M. Nixon.

He was a member of the D.C. Republican Committee for more than 20 years.

He was co-editor of "Who's Who in American Politics" in the late 1960s, co-wrote "All About Politics" (1972) and wrote the novel "Devil in the House" (2004).

His memberships included St. Thomas Apostle Catholic Church in Washington, the Knights of Columbus, National Press Club, the Capitol Hill Club, the Cosmos Club and the Notre Dame and Georgetown alumni associations.

Survivors include his wife of 32 years, Nancy Theis, and their son, Mitchell Theis, both of Washington.

[From the Washington Times, Apr. 8, 2004]

PAUL A. THEIS, 81, JOURNALIST, GOP OFFICIAL

Paul A. Theis, a former journalist and Republican Party official who served in the Ford administration, died of complications from heart surgery March 24 at the Washington Hospital Center. He was 81.

Born in Fort Wayne, Ind., Mr. Theis graduated from the University of Notre Dame with a bachelor's degree in journalism in 1948 and received a bachelor's degree from Georgetown University's School of Foreign Services in 1949.

He also attended American University's Graduate School of Communication from 1949 to 1952.

As a B-17 combat pilot in World War II, he served with the 15th Air Force in Italy, receiving the Air Medal and the European Theater Ribbon with six battle stars. He held the rank of major in the Air Force Reserve.

A former Washington correspondent for Newsweek and other publications, Mr. Theis served as public relations director of the National Republican Congressional Committee from 1960 to 1974.

He joined the White House staff in August 1974, shortly after Gerald Ford was sworn in as president. Mr. Theis led four divisions: speechwriting, presidential messages, research and correspondence. He also was a member of the D.C. Republican Committee for more than 20 years and a delegate to the Republican National Convention in 1984, 1988 and 1992.

His book "Devil in the House," was published in January. He also co-authored the 1972 book "All About Politics" with William Steponkus.

In January 1976, Mr. Theis was named by Mr. Ford as deputy undersecretary of agriculture for congressional and public affairs and served in that capacity during the remainder of the Ford administration. He then joined the House Agriculture Committee, where he served as a staff consultant from 1977 to 1981, and on President Reagan's Agriculture Department transition team from 1980 to 1981.

Mr. Theis in 1981 founded Headliner Editorial Service, a District-based firm offering editorial and speechwriting services for business, government and political clients. He led the firm until his death.

Mr. Theis was a member of the National Press Club for more than 50 years, the Capitol Hill Club, the Cosmos Club, and Notre Dame and Georgetown's alumni associations. He was a member of Our Lady of Victory Council No. 11487 Knights of Columbus and an active member of St. Thomas Apostle parish in the District.

He is survived by his wife of 32 years, Nancy; and a son, Mitchell Theis of the District.

THE HEMOPHILIA ASSOCIATION OF CAPITOL AREA'S 40TH ANNIVERSARY

HON. JAMES P. MORAN

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 17, 2004

Mr. MORAN of Virginia. Mr. Speaker. I rise today to recognize the Hemophilia Association of the Capital Area on their 40th anniversary. The Hemophilia Association of the Capital Area or HACA is a nonprofit organization that provides many needed services to persons with bleeding disorders such as Hemophilia and Von Willebrand's Disease and their families. HACA serves Northern Virginia, Washington, DC, and the Maryland counties of Montgomery and Prince Georges. HACA is a chapter of the Hemophilia Federation of America and the National Hemophilia Foundation, the two leading hemophilia patient organizations. HACA's mission is to improve the quality of life for persons with Hemophilia and Von Willebrand's disease and their families, to act as an advocate; to educate, to improve services to its members; to promote research and to raise necessary resources in financial and volunteer terms to fulfill this purpose.

Hemophilia is a blood clotting disorder where certain proteins are missing in the blood plasma, which prevents the body's blood from clotting properly. This can lead to prolonged bleeding episodes, which can result in severe joint damage and in some cases death. However, it is a myth that those with hemophilia can bleed to death from minor injuries or from bleeding out.

Recently, HACA has been under the stewardship of Executive Director Sandi Qualley. Sandi has worked tirelessly to improve services for those with bleeding disorders both nationally and in Virginia. HACA has an integral part of the successful grass roots movement to pass the Ricky Ray Hemophilia Relief Fund Act during the 1990s. Recently HACA has worked with other community members to launch a campaign to educate Congress on women and bleeding disorders.

HACA currently serves over 250 families through the metropolitan Washington, DC area. The organization provides an array of educational programs and services for its members. HACA provides financial assistance to deserving families. HACA also assists other nonprofit organizations that work with the hemophilia community with resources.

The HACA Blood Buddies Program works to match up young boys with hemophilia with older hemophiliacs who serve as mentors. Blood Buddies was established in 1998 to help facilitate an environment where individuals and families affected by bleeding disorders can gather to discuss issues, learn procedures, and build a community of support. The program's focus is to learn about current trends, community events, discuss social issues while building friendships, and mentoring young individuals through support.

I would like to take this opportunity to salute the Hemophilia Association of the Capital Area on their 40 years of service to the hemophilia community throughout the Nation and in the metropolitan Washington, DC area. I wish them many more years of superior work.