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Parliament looking at how to tackle organized crime

By MATTHEW LITTLE
Epoch Times Staff

PARLIAMENT HILL, Ottawa—Organized crime in Canada has grown steadily in recent decades, moving from the street to the boardroom

with new types of gangs emerging along the way. Now Parliament is looking into how to tackle these groups before they get too big and too entrenched to deal with.

It's a problem Parliament has been aware of for some time, and

has been looking into through the Committee on Justice and Human Rights for several weeks now, holding hearings with experts across the country leading up to a report and recommendations to be released by October.

But with a country as large as Canada and organized crime taking different forms in different regions, it is a complicated issue to resolve. In the prairies, Aboriginal gangs have grown rapidly, replacing family-based criminal

networks, while more established crime groups like the Hell's Angels, widely recognized as an outlaw motorcycle gang, and the Mafia operating in Quebec, have moved steadily to find legitimate business activities.

Police are hard pressed to challenge the growth of these criminal networks and their almost inexhaustible resources and lightning-quick adoption of the latest technology.

PLEASE SEE PARLIAMENT ON P3

Speaker's ruling forces compromise on Afghan documents

Government ministers could face confinement if deal not reached, says expert

By MATTHEW LITTLE
Epoch Times Staff

PARLIAMENT HILL, Ottawa—Government ministers could face forceful confinement if the government and opposition parties fail to find a compromise over documents in the Afghan detainees scandal, says a noted political scientist and expert on Parliamentary procedure.

Opposition parties scored a major victory in the battle over information regarding the transfer of Afghan detainees by Canadian forces

on Tuesday when House Speaker Peter Milliken ruled opposition MPs have an absolute right to order the production of documents surrounding the issue.

While one scholar suggests the ruling could trigger an election, another believes that's unlikely although other dramatic outcomes could see Prime Minister Stephen Harper take the matter to the Supreme Court.

The bitter dispute over whether Canadian forces knowingly transferred Afghan detainees to likely torture from Afghan forces erupted last November. That was when Richard Colvin, Canada's number 2 diplomat in Afghanistan, told a parliamentary committee that Afghan detainees transferred from Canadian forces to Afghan authorities were routinely tortured.

Opposition parties called for documents detailing the matter as well as a public inquiry but were routinely denied by the government citing national security issues.

PLEASE SEE AFGHAN ON P2

POLITICIANS BEHAVING BADLY



Deputies of Ukraine's Parliament fight during a Parliament sitting in Kiev on April 27, 2010. Fighting broke out and smoke bombs and eggs were thrown Tuesday as Ukraine's Parliament erupted into chaos as it ratified a bitterly controversial deal with Russia extending the lease of a key naval base. The deal signed last week by Russian President Dmitry Medvedev and his Ukrainian counterpart Viktor Yanukovich had been slammed by the pro-Western Ukrainian opposition as a historic surrender of sovereignty. SERGEI SUPINSKY/AFP/GETTY IMAGES

Fistfights break out in Ukrainian Parliament over Russian deal

Despite throwing eggs and smoke bombs, opposition members lose bid to block ratification

By ANDREY VOLKOV
Epoch Times Staff

KYIV, Ukraine—Ukraine's Parliament disintegrated into an all-out brawl on Tuesday, as politicians threw smoke bombs,

eggs, and fists at each other over the government's attempt to ratify last week's gas deal with Russia that the opposition calls "unconstitutional."

Under the agreement, Russia can keep a naval fleet in Ukrainian

waters in the Black Sea until 2047, 25 years beyond the original contract expiry date. In exchange, Ukraine will be able to buy cheaper gas from Russia, which the government says is essential to help the ailing economy.

Ukraine's opposition calls the deal "anti-Ukrainian," saying that pro-Russian President Yanukovich has sold the country's sovereignty, allowing a Russian "occupation."

PLEASE SEE FIGHT ON P5

Forbidden love: Canadian trapped in Saudi Arabia

By JOAN DELANEY
Epoch Times Staff

As the old saying goes, the course of true love never runs smooth. But for Nazia Quazi it has been a particularly rough ride.

Twenty-four-year-old Quazi's problems started when she began dating a man her Muslim parents didn't approve of.

PLEASE SEE LOVE ON P2



Nazia Quazi, 24, says she is being held against her will by her father in Saudi Arabia because he disapproves of her boyfriend. NAZIA QUAZI

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New law will let Swiss seize dictators' fortunes

By ANDREY VOLKOV
Epoch Times Staff

For decades, Switzerland's opaque banking system has been a haven for millionaire dictators of emerging nations.

However, under a new law soon to be passed, cash hoarded away by corrupt politicians will

be seized by Swiss officials and redistributed to aid agencies.

As soon as the law is passed, at least US\$4.6 million held in Swiss bank accounts by former Haitian dictator Jean-Claude "Baby Doc" Duvalier, will go to aid agencies involved in rebuilding the earthquake-hit country.

"With the law, cases such as ...

Duvalier will not happen again," Foreign Minister Micheline Calmy-Rey told the Associated Press.

Early this year, a Swiss court ruled that Duvalier's cash must be distributed back to his family because of a legal loophole. However, when the earthquake struck the country 12 hours after

the ruling, Swiss officials rushed through a decree blocking the transfer of the funds until the new legislation was passed.

Some of the world's most authoritarian rulers have in the past been drawn to Switzerland's secrecy laws to bank their private fortunes in Geneva.

PLEASE SEE SWISS ON P5

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