

## NEWS IN BRIEF

STORIES BY BECCA HELLER

GRAPHIC BY DANIEL VASILES



**BRAZIL**

THREE BRAZILIAN DOCTORS WERE CONVICTED FOR KILLING FOUR PATIENTS AND STEALING THEIR ORGANS, according to The New York Times. Two of the doctors were charged with murder as a result of removing both kidneys from the patients, while the third doctor, a neurosurgeon, was charged for authorizing the organ-harvesting by incorrectly declaring the patients brain-dead. The prosecutors asserted that the victims' organs were then sold as transplants to an expensive private clinic. Judge Marco Montemor, of São Paulo State, sentenced each doctor to 17 years and 6 months in prison, The New York Times reports.



**DENMARK**

A RECENT STUDY LED BY THE INSTITUTE OF CANCER EPIDEMIOLOGY IN DENMARK SUGGESTS THAT CELL PHONES AND BRAIN CANCER ARE NOT LINKED, BBC reports. The new evidence should potentially bring an end to the long-debated issue, following the researchers' reports that cell phone users are no more likely to develop brain cancer than anyone else. "These results are the strongest evidence yet that using a mobile phone does not seem to increase the risk of cancers of the brain or central nervous system in adults," said Hazel Nunn, head of evidence and health information at Cancer Research UK, to BBC.



**TURKEY**

ON OCT. 23, TURKEY WAS ROCKED BY AN EARTHQUAKE OF A 7.2 MAGNITUDE, MAKING IT THE WORST EARTHQUAKE TO HIT THE COUNTRY SINCE 1999. According to the International Business Times, the death toll has risen above 460, as the rescue efforts continue. 1,350 people have been injured and nearly 2,000 buildings have collapsed, the Daily Mail reports. The quake, however, also has had an unprecedented number of survivor stories. Rescue teams have pulled out nearly 40 people alive, including a two-week-old baby girl. As the country struggles to recuperate, desperate survivors have begun raiding aid shipments and nearly 200 people have escaped a prison in the city of Van, according to the Daily Mail.



**AUSTRALIA**

ON OCT. 22, A SHARK ATTACKED AND KILLED AN AMERICAN MAN OFF THE COAST OF A POPULAR AUSTRALIAN TOURIST SPOT ABOUT 12 MILES WEST OF PERTH. According to Reuters, the victim had been diving alone when he was attacked by a 10-foot-long great white shark. A police spokesperson reported to Reuters that the body was found with "obviously traumatic fatal injuries." The man has not yet been identified, but is believed to be about 32 years old. While sharks are common off of the Australian coast, attacks on humans are typically rare.

## The death of American-born Anwar al-Awlaki sparks debate

By Bryan Dooley  
STAFF WRITER

On Sept. 30, American drones flew into Yemen destroying a car and killing Anwar al-Awlaki, an American-born cleric allegedly involved in many terrorist attacks.

Samir Khan, a North Carolina native and editor of Inspire, al-Qaeda's English-language Internet magazine, was also killed, The New York Times reports. Both of their deaths sparked a debate over the killing of American citizens without charges and/or trial.

"I think one of the strengths of our democracy is when political decisions come up — such as this situation," said Associate Professor of Political Science Kyle Dell. "We have a public debate because we have rights and values written into our constitution."

According to the Washington Post, the American Civil Liberties Union has been fighting the Obama administration through our court system to prevent the killing of American citizens without due process of law. The ACLU objected to the attack in Yemen because, according to their interpretation of the Constitution, the killings violated al-Awlaki and Khan's rights under the Fourth and Fifth Amendments. The Fourth

guarantees safety against unreasonable seizure of a person and the Fifth Amendment guarantees due process of law.

"The attack goes against our policies, rights, and more importantly it exposes our hypocrisy," said Parveen Hasanali, assistant professor of religious studies. "It would be

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easier for Americans to identify al-Awlaki as the enemy, but the same principle can be applied to anyone across the board."

In addition to the debate surrounding the rights of American citizens, another side of the debate contends the U.S. should not have carried out the attack because it further erodes the position of the U.S. in world politics.

"It shows that we can make judgments on subjective analysis," said Hasanali.

The other side of the debate contends that the attack was the right thing to do.

"Although he did not physically take up arms against the U.S., he clearly incited people and convinced them to become

jihadi (a type of religious warrior)," said Robert Duncan, visiting assistant professor of political science. "To me he is fair game and I am weeping no tears for his loss."

Duncan notes that al-Awlaki was just one of many radical terrorists who have flocked to al-Qaeda's cause.

"The radicalization of young Muslim men is increasing, and it is frightening," said

Duncan. "Fortunately the Federal Bureau of Investigation has been pretty good at spotting this type of activity, and caught many of these people through sting operations."

Unfortunately, with the rise of radical terrorism, it's become impossible to fight the movement absolutely. Al-Awlaki's death is being celebrated as a big victory in the war on terrorism, but some feel that the hostility towards our country and rise of terrorism stems from a more systemic problem.

"If we do not address the issues, they keep coming back," said Joe Cole, visiting assistant professor of philosophy. "For example, 9/11 was a shock to us, but al-Qaeda had declared war against us because of our behavior."

Cole gave three issues with U.S. foreign policy to explain the anger al-Awlaki felt towards America.

"The issues result from: the presence of American troops in Saudi Arabia, which is the Islamic Holy land; the deaths of Iraqis in the 1990s as the result of our embargo and continuing to side with Israel over the interests of Palestine," said Cole.

Al-Awlaki's death is a small victory in the battle against extremism, but Cole feels we will not win the war until we examine the reasons behind its initial onset.