



STORIES BY CATHERINE SCHURZ  
GRAPHIC BY ALICIA HANCHOCK

**FRANCE**  
The French have committed to support Lebanon as the Middle Eastern country battles its Syrian opposition. French President François Hollande vows to be an active and positive force in the region, naming stabilization the primary objective.

**ISTANBUL, TURKEY**  
Kurdish prisoners were blasted with water cannons and sprayed with tear gas by Istanbul police. The prisoners were on a hunger strike at the time of attack. Doctors warn that the strikers will begin to die of starvation within the next week.

**PUERTO RICO**  
On Nov. 6, Puerto Rican voters upheld their status as a U.S. unincorporated territory via referenda, for the third time. Citizens of the territory were given the option of statehood, independence or free association. Should they opt out of their current status in the future, the U.S. Congress and President would hold the authority for a final decision.

**KUWAIT**  
Thousands of Kuwait Madhya Pradesh Tribals, Islamists, youth groups and liberals were flooded with smoke bombs and tear gas by Kuwaiti security forces while protesting existing election laws. A second, larger rally is planned for Nov. 11, the 50th anniversary of Kuwait's constitution. Election Day is scheduled for Dec. 1.

## Japanese tread radioactive water, attempt damage control

BY HAEJIN SONG  
STAFF WRITER

For over a year, Japan has fought an unrelenting enemy: the aftermath of the Fukushima Daiichi nuclear disaster.

On March 11, 2011, Japan faced three catastrophes: an earthquake, a tsunami, and then nuclear meltdowns and the dispersion of radiation from the Fukushima nuclear power plant.

Now, the nation struggles with the repercussions of these unfortunate events and they face the challenge of storing radioactive water, posing serious health risks to the Japanese people.

"It's a time-pressing issue because the storage of contaminated water has its limits," Yuichi Okamura, manager of the Water Treatment System Department at the Fukushima Daiichi nuclear power plant, told the Associated Press. "There is only limited storage space."

According to AP, Okamura helped devise steps to cool the overheating reactors by injecting water and using spent fuel pools.

"Water works well for this system since it has a very high capacity ... and can be treated if it is contaminated," said Angie Moore,

associate professor of geology. "However, when there is a reactor accident like at the Fukushima, the systems that prevent nuclear contamination of the cooling water have failed and there is direct contact between the water and the radioactive material."

Currently, about 200,000 tons of radioactive water, enough to fill more than 50 Olympic-sized

cooled the reactors successfully with recycled water. However, contaminated water continues to increase due to ground water seeping through cracks and into the reactor and turbine basements.

"They are working on a way to treat the contaminated water and reduce the hazard, but that's hard to do," said Associate Professor of Geology David Dobson.

plant, has tried to make space for more of these large storage tanks by cutting down trees.

The company predicts that the amount of water will triple within three years.

"There are pools of some 10,000 or 20,000 tons of contaminated water in each plant, and there are many of these," said nuclear engineer Masasahi Goto to news

to the harmful radiation and its effects of contamination.

"Japan has definitely become more self-conscious of the dire environmental and health consequences," said Erina Fujino, Japanese Early College at Guilford student. "Due to the warnings of radiation from the nuclear power plant, many people had to be relocated. And now, the nation has a new problem of over crowdedness."

In a news segment, CBS News correspondent Bill Whitaker went to the 12-mile exclusion zone surrounding the Fukushima Daiichi nuclear plant; a plant which is off-limits without a government pass.

About a mile away from the nuclear plant, Whitaker's Geiger counter — a device that detects radioactivity — can be seen reading 30.8 microsieverts when anything over 3.8 is considered unsafe.

"If you've been exposed to Cesium because you're a nuclear power worker, even after you're long dead and buried, your gravesite will be radioactive," said physicist Michio Kaku on CBS's "60 Minutes."

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Michio Kaku, physicist

swimming pools, are stored in gigantic tanks built around the nuclear power plant, reported news source Al Jazeera.

"We never expected high-level (radiation) contaminated water to turn up in the turbine building," Okamura said.

Okamura and his team utilized equipment that should have

"Even if they achieve what they think is a safe level of radioactivity to release, that will be a very unpopular idea," Dobson continued. "In the meantime, they have to keep building storage for more and more contaminated water."

Tokyo Electric Power Company, the company behind the Fukushima

source Al Jazeera.

"To bring all these to one place would mean you would have to treat hundreds of thousands of tons of contaminated water which is mind-blowing in itself," continued Goto. "It's an outrageous amount, truly outrageous."

Since the Fukushima Daiichi accident, many have been exposed