

World and Nation

Activists react to abortion decision

From Associated Press reports

WASHINGTON — Pro-choice groups Monday said the Supreme Court's abortion decision is a "giant step backward" that threatens the livelihoods and health of American women, but abortion foes cheered the ruling as "a victory for life."

"This is an outrage," said Judith Widdicombe, founder of Reproductive Health Services, the Missouri clinic involved in the court decision. "This is the beginning of a war. It will become our Vietnam of the 1990s."

"The court's decision is a victory for life, and the biggest winners today are the tiniest people of all — children within the womb," said Archbishop John L. May of St. Louis, president of the National Conference of Catholic Bishops.

The court stopped short of overturning its 1973 Roe vs. Wade decision that legalized abortion. But in allowing Missouri to restrict the use of public money, medical personnel and facilities in performing abortions, the justices gave states new freedom to restrict a woman's right to end a pregnancy.

People for the American Way, a nonpartisan constitutional liberties group, predicted "a state by state bloodletting that could be among the most painful in our history."

The court also appeared to invite further challenges to its landmark ruling. It said it will hear three new abortion cases next term.

The ruling "begins the process of restoring a fundamental right of the American people — the right to protect human life," said John Willke, president of the National Right to Life Committee.

"We are horrified," said Lori Schroyer, spokeswoman for the California Abortion Rights Action League. "Access to abortion is going to be limited to those of privilege. It will force people across state lines and into back alleys."

Kate Michelman, executive director of the National Abortion Rights Action League, said the ruling "is a giant step backward for this country and a tremendous loss of liberty for every American."

"Women's lives hang by a thread, and the justices this morning handed politicians a pair of scissors," she said.

Randall Terry, founder and director of Operation Rescue, whose members have blockaded abortion clinics across the country, said the ruling is the first step toward ending abortion nationwide.

"It's a faltering step under which children will continue to be murdered, but this decision indicates that Roe's days are numbered," he said.

Sen. Orrin Hatch, R-Utah, and a key abortion foe in Congress, called the ruling "a major victory for the pro-life cause" and said he remains "hopeful the court will soon overturn Roe outright."

Molly Yard, president of the National Organization for Women, said the series of votes that restored key provisions of a Missouri law restrict-

ing abortion shows "we are only one justice's vote away from complete reversal of Roe."

"This is the first of a one-two punch that will completely knock out abortion rights," she said.

NOW and the many other groups favoring abortion-rights for women said they will begin lobbying statehouses across the country and prom-

ised to make abortion a major issue in elections nationwide.

"Every person who stands for election in this country is going to have to answer," Yard said.

Norma McCorvey, who as "Jane Roe" brought the case that led to the 1973 ruling, said she was deeply dis-

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Exiled Chinese continue pro-democracy struggle

From Associated Press reports

HONG KONG — Two leaders of China's crushed pro-democracy movement announced Wednesday the establishment of an organization to carry on under a single banner the fight for freedom in their homeland.

Both men escaped to the West after the bloody June 4 crackdown in Beijing.

In a written statement issued from hiding, student leader Wu'er Kaixi and top dissident intellectual Yan Jiaqi called on "people who love freedom around the world" to support their movement.

They also renounced violence, saying the late Chinese leader Mao Tse-tung's adage that political power grows out of the barrel of a gun, "cannot lead China to true freedom, liberty and democracy."

"The movement for democracy has

grows out of the barrel of a gun, cannot lead China to true freedom, liberty and democracy."

who helped smuggle the two men to safety last month.

"It is unstoppable. Despite the unprecedented white terror, the Chinese student movement and the movement for democracy are still alive. At present China is shrouded in silence but that just means that a new and bigger storm is brewing."

Each of the two leads an organization that is illegal in China and both are wanted by Chinese police.

Wu'er and Yan also proposed that the Nobel Peace Prize be awarded to the students and citizens gunned down by the Chinese army as it cleared central Beijing of protesters on June 4.

One woman student leader, Chai Ling, has already been nominated for

the Nobel Peace Prize be awarded to the students and citizens gunned down to set aside Sept. 12 — 100 days from the June 4 invasion of Beijing — as a day of remembrance for the hundreds who died in and around Tiananmen Square.

It also sets June 4 as a day of national mourning for China.

The pair called for a public trial of those who ordered the crackdown — Chinese leader Deng Xiaoping, Premier Li Peng and President Yang Shangkun: "The massacre, carried out by the reactionary clique of Deng, Li and Yang was not just a crime against China's students and people but also a challenge against the basic principles of life and all humanity."

Wu'er and Yan said they met to discuss the new organization from June 27 to July 3. Although the statement did not disclose the location, Hong Kong activists said the pair were in Paris.

"The meeting unanimously decided that the June 4 massacre is not the end of the 1989 Chinese democratic movement but rather it is the beginning of a new consciousness of democracy in China," they wrote.

The purpose of the new organization will be to unify democratic forces inside and outside China, using the donations of overseas Chinese to fund the campaign, they said.

Chinese students and overseas Chinese have established dozens of organizations to promote democracy but their movement has been fraught with internal splits. Some groups are dependent on Taiwan for funds while others say they are independent.

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