

# White House moves to combat campus rapes

The Obama administration sets guidelines for colleges on how to respond to and prevent sexual assaults

By JENNIFER STEINHAUER  
The New York Times

WASHINGTON — Reacting to a series of highly publicized rapes on college campuses, the White House is increasing the pressure on universities to more aggressively combat sexual assaults on campus.

Administration officials released guidelines Monday that colleges should follow, including recommendations that administrators conduct anonymous surveys of sexual assault cases. The White House is likely to ask Congress for measures that would enforce the recommen-

datations. The guidelines are contained in a report by a White House task force that President Obama formed early this year. The report will also urge universities to better ensure that sexual assault reports remain confidential. Sometimes fears that reports will not remain confidential can discourage victims from coming forward.

The task force further found that many assault prevention training efforts are ineffective. It will recommend that institutions establish programs like those used at the University of New Hampshire and University

of Kentucky, which train bystanders how to intervene. Many advocates for such a crackdown may see the proposals as an inadequate response to a crisis, but the White House is hamstrung about what it can do without congressional action and has just begun its own attack on the issue.

A number of recent cases have focused attention on the problem and led to accusations that college and university officials are not doing enough to police sexual crimes committed by students. The resulting furor has led to calls that Washington — where Congress and the administration are already moving to crack down on sexual assault in the military — take similar action when it comes to colleges

and universities. The task force says that 1 in 5 college students has been assaulted, but just 12 percent of such attacks are reported.

"The American people have kind of woken up to the fact that we've got a serious problem when 20 percent of coeds say they've been sexually assaulted," said Rep. Jackie Speier, D-Calif. Lawmakers and the White House have condemned the assaults on campuses, but the federal government has largely left it up to college officials and the local authorities. Congress last year passed the Campus Sexual Violence Elimination Act, which requires domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault and stalking cases be disclosed in annual campus crime statistics.

But victims' advocates say that does not go far enough.

And a federal law from decades ago that requires colleges and universities to disclose information about crime on and around their campuses, including sex offenses, is rarely enforced, critics say.

Under the new crackdown, the White House will urge colleges and universities to conduct "climate surveys" in which participants anonymously report their experiences with unwanted physical contact, sexual assault or rape, and how their schools responded. Some lawmakers would like to see such surveys mandatory and to possibly make federal funds like Pell grants contingent on their being carried out.

## Detroit reaches deal with union

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

DETROIT — A tentative deal announced Monday on major aspects of a contract between Detroit and some of its unions could help speed up the city's long exit from bankruptcy.

The city and the Coalition of Detroit Unions, which represents more than 3,500 city workers, agreed in principle on "major aspects" of the five-year collective bargaining agreement, a court-appointed mediation team said. The coalition is comprised of the American Federation of State, County and Municipal Employees and 13 other civilian unions.

Terms of the deal were not released, but mediators said it will "provide an economically feasible agreement for the city as it emerges from bankruptcy."

When bankruptcy Judge Steven Rhodes approved the city's plan to pay \$85 million to UBS and Bank of America for pension debt, he urged the city and other creditors earlier this month to reach more deals. Since then, state-appointed emergency manager Kevin Orr and his team have reached agreements with Detroit's two employee pension funds and with other police and firefighters on retiree pension cuts.

Union members still have to ratify terms of the collective bargaining agreement. Plus, about 30,000 retirees and city employees will receive ballots to vote on pension deals.



NABIL AL-JURANI/The Associated Press

Security forces queue up to vote Monday at a polling center in Basra, Iraq.

## Militant attacks kill dozens as Iraq ramps up for election

By QASSIM ABDUL-ZAHRA AND SINAN SALAHEDDIN  
The Associated Press

BAGHDAD — Militants on Monday targeted polling stations across much of Iraq and a crowd of Kurds jubilantly dancing on the street as soldiers and security forces cast ballots two days ahead of parliamentary elections, officials said. The attacks, including a suicide bombing northeast of Baghdad, left at least 46 people dead.

The wave of attacks was an apparent attempt to derail the balloting process and discourage the rest of the country's 22 million registered voters from going to the polls on Wednesday in the first nationwide elections since the 2011 withdrawal of U.S. forces.

The early balloting for police and soldiers is meant to free up the 1 million-strong military and security forces so they can protect polling stations and voters on election day.

More than 9,000 candidates are vying for 328 seats in parliament, which

is widely expected to be won by an alliance led by Shiite Prime Minister Nouri al-Maliki, who is likely to seek a third four-year term in office.

The day's worst attack took place in the Kurdish town of Khanaqin, 87 miles northeast of Baghdad close to the Iranian border. A suicide bomber walked toward a crowd of Kurds performing a traditional dance and blew himself up, killing at least 25 and injuring 35, many of them in critical condition.

The Kurds were celebrating the appearance on TV of Iraq's ailing President Jalal Talabani, who has been in Berlin for treatment since a stroke in 2012. The nearly 80-year-old Talabani was seen sitting in a wheelchair smiling and waving his purple-stained index finger, flanked by clapping relatives. The purple stain signified that he had voted.

Besides army troops and police, also voting on Monday were hospital patients, medical staff and detainees.

Ahead, Iraqi expatriates in more than 20 countries will be able to cast ballots for a second day.

## Judge clears sale of widow's home over \$6.30 bill

The Pennsylvania woman disputes the county's claim that she was given notice

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

BEAVER, Pa. — A widow was given ample notice before her \$280,000 house was sold at a tax auction three years ago over \$6.30 in unpaid interest, a Pennsylvania judge has ruled.

The decision last week turned down Eileen Battisti's request to reverse the September 2011 sale of her home outside Aliquippa in western Pennsylvania.

"I paid everything and didn't know about the \$6.30," Battisti said. "For the house to be sold just because of \$6.30 is crazy."

Battisti, who still lives in the house, said Monday that she plans to appeal to Commonwealth Court. That court earlier ordered an evidentiary hearing, which led to last week's ruling.

Beaver County Common Pleas Judge Gus Kwidis wrote that the county tax clerk's bureau complied with notification requirements in state law before the auction. She had previously owed other taxes, but at the time of the sale she owed just \$235, including other interest and fees.

"There is no doubt

that (she) had actual receipt of the notification of the tax upset sale on July 7, 2011, and Aug. 16, 2011," the judge wrote. "Moreover, on Aug. 12, 2011, a notice of sale was sent by first class mail and was not returned."

The property sold for about \$116,000, and most of that money will be paid to Battisti if further appeals are unsuccessful. An attorney for the purchaser did not return a phone message on Monday.

Joe Askar, Beaver County's chief solicitor, said the decision right, based on the law. "The county never wants to see anybody lose their home, but at the same time the tax sale law, the tax real estate law, doesn't give a whole lot of room for error, either," he said.

Battisti said her husband handled the paperwork for the property's taxes before he passed away in 2004.

"It's bad — she had some hard times, I guess her husband kind of took care of a lot of that stuff," Askar said. "It seemed that she was having a hard time coping with the loss of her husband — that just made it set in a little more."

## Driving student, teacher killed in Ohio crash

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

WATERVILLE, Ohio — A teenage student driver and his instructor out for a lesson in their car on Monday ran a stop sign at an intersection and were struck by a minivan and killed, police said.

Their car, which apparently made no attempt to stop, was knocked off the roadway, flipped over and landed in a nearby house's front yard, police said.

An Ohio Highway Patrol preliminary

investigation indicates 16-year-old Joseph Franks was driving the car while 48-year-old Thomas Smith was instructing him Monday afternoon when they drove past the stop sign in Waterville Township.

Franks, who was from Swanton, and Smith, who worked for Key Driving School Inc. and was from Whitehouse, died at the scene. The minivan driver, 48-year-old Kathleen Woods, also from Swanton, was hospitalized with injuries not considered to be life-threatening.

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