

Anger flares over Mexican candidate accused of rape

MEXICO CITY (Reuters) — Scuffles broke out between rival protesters in the southern Mexican city of Iguala on Wednesday amid growing anger over President Andres Manuel Lopez Obrador's backing of a gubernatorial candidate accused of rape.

Video shared on social media showed one woman hitting another woman with a megaphone, bloodying her face, following a joint event between Lopez Obrador and Argentina's president, Alberto Fernandez.

The injured protester, Yolitzin Jaimes, was demonstrating against Felix Salgado, a gubernatorial candidate for the southern state of Guerrero and a member of Lopez Obrador's ruling MORENA party.

Biden CIA nominee to focus on 'authoritarian adversary' China

WASHINGTON (Reuters) — President Joe Biden's nominee to be director of the CIA, William Burns, told a Senate committee on Wednesday that he saw competition with China — and countering its "adversarial, predatory" leadership — as the key to U.S. national security.

Burns, 64, a former career diplomat during both Democratic and Republican administrations, is expected to easily win confirmation to be director of the Central Intelligence Agency. Burns has already been confirmed by the Senate five times for his stints as ambassador to Jordan and Russia and three senior State Department positions.

The Senate Intelligence Committee will likely vote on his confirmation late next week or the week after, to allow time for members to

"We came here to protest peacefully, to ask the president to break the patriarchal pact," Jaimes told Reuters by telephone.

Calls have been growing in recent weeks for the president to drop his support for Salgado over the rape allegation. Earlier this month, a group of female MORENA lawmakers, party members and supporters published a letter urging the party leadership to reconsider Salgado's candidacy.

Lopez Obrador says the calls are politically motivated.

The Guerrero vote is part of a raft of elections taking place in June that will determine whether MORENA and its allies can retain control of the lower house of Congress.

send more questions, a congressional official said.

Testifying to the committee, Burns outlined his four top priorities — "people, partnerships, China and technology" — if he is confirmed.

He called China "a formidable, authoritarian adversary," that is strengthening its ability to steal intellectual property, repress its people, expand its reach and build influence within the United States.

During questioning, Burns said that if he were a U.S. college or university president, he would recommend shutting down Confucius Institutes — Beijing-funded campus cultural centers that many members of Congress see as propaganda tools.

Burns was introduced at the hearing by bipartisan foreign policy heavyweights — former Secretary of State James Baker and former CIA director and Secretary of Defense Leon Panetta. He would be the first career diplomat to lead the agency.



KELOWNA: A local resident watches a forest fire burning on the edge of Kelowna, British Columbia, at dawn on July 19, 2009. Andy Clark/Reuters

Canadian river wins legal rights in global push to protect nature

By Jack Graham

Thomson Reuters Foundation

TORONTO — A river has won legal rights for the first time in Canadian history, in a move hailed by environmentalists as a new way to protect nature from humans.

The Magpie River in northern Quebec, which runs nearly 300 km (186 miles), was granted the rights this week by the local indigenous council and municipality.

Canada joins at least 14 other countries — from Bolivia to New Zealand — where rivers and ecosystems have won protection with "nature rights," just like those used to safeguard humans.

"We now understand the river as a person, not an object," said Yenny Vega Cardenas, president of the Montreal-based International Observatory on the Rights of Nature.

The Observatory — a nonprofit that helps mount environmental legal action — helped draft the resolutions with the Innu Council of Ekuanitshit and the Minganie Regional County Municipality in northeastern Canada.

She said the objectification of nature was "the origin of planet degradation" and that the nine new rights, which include the right to sue, would help keep the river safe long term.

The river already powers a hydroelectric dam, and provincial energy corporation Hydro-Québec has previously explored plans for more development, leading local environmental groups to seek more concrete protections.

Called Muteshekau-shipu in the Innu language, the river holds cultural significance for indigenous communities, and is well known internationally for whitewater rafting.

'The rising waters of this powerful movement'

"It's such an important step in

“It's such an important step in providing lasting protections for this world-renowned national treasure.”

— Darryl Knudsen, executive director, International Rivers

providing lasting protections for this world-renowned national treasure," said Darryl Knudsen, executive director of the nonprofit International Rivers.

"By declaring that this river has rights, it helps anchor efforts to protect the river in a recognition of the intrinsic value of nature, rather than looking at it as a natural resource," he told the Thomson Reuters Foundation.

Rooted in an indigenous respect for land, nature rights are being implemented worldwide through laws, judicial decisions, constitutional amendments and United Nations resolutions.

In May, the United Nations is set to negotiate a new global agreement on protecting nature in China. This is expected to include a commitment to protect at least 30% of the planet's lands and seas by 2030, an ambition backed by some 50 countries.

Knudsen said the new "rights of nature" trend could be a "step change" and that the Magpie River case "represents the rising waters of this powerful movement."

In New Zealand, the Whanganui River became the first river in the world to be declared a living entity with rights in 2017, and soon afterward India's Ganges and Yamuna rivers received similar protections.



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INVITATION FOR BID

BID NO: IFB-PAG-002-21
FOR: DESKTOPS, LAPTOPS, AND ACCESSORIES
BID SUBMISSION DEADLINE: 10:00 A.M., FRIDAY, MARCH 12, 2021
LOCATION TO SUBMIT: PAG PROCUREMENT OFFICE, 1ST FLOOR, ADMIN. BLDG.

The Port Authority of Guam (PAG) is issuing this Invitation for Bid for Desktops, Laptops, and Accessories. A PDF copy of the bid packet is available to download at www.portofguam.com, or a hard copy can be obtained at the PAG Procurement Office located on the 1st floor of the PAG Admin Bldg. from 8:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m., Monday through Friday, beginning Friday, February 26, 2021, until Friday, March 12, 2021.

Bidders must register their current contact information with PAG to ensure they receive any notices regarding changes or updates to the IFB. The Port will not be liable for failure to provide notice to any party who did not register current contact information.

The PAG reserves the right, in its sole and absolute discretion, to reject any and all bids, cancel in its entirety, or waive informalities and minor irregularities in the bids, which in its sole and absolute judgment, will under all circumstances best serve the Government's interests. This right to reject and/or cancel is pursuant to 2 GAR Div. 4 Procurement Regulations § 3115 (d)(2)(A). This project is funded by the Port Authority of Guam.

/S/ RORY J. RESPICIO
General Manager