

National news briefing National news briefing

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Body

Ohio Man takes plea deal in abduction case

Ariel Castro, the Cleveland man accused of imprisoning three women in his home, subjecting them to a decade of rapes and beatings, pleaded guilty Friday to 937 counts in a deal to avoid the death penalty.

In exchange for his plea, prosecutors recommended Castro be sentenced to life without parole plus 1,000 years. Sentencing was set for Thursday.

Castro, 53, said he understood that he would never get out of prison. He told the judge he was addicted to pornography and had a "sexual problem." He later said he had been a sexual abuse victim as a child, but the judge cut him off.

The deal comes more than a month after a statement issued on behalf of the women said they were "hopeful for a just and prompt resolution" and had "great faith in the prosecutor's office and the court."

- Associated Press

California Mayor to get therapy but will stay in office

Apologizing for "intimidating conduct," embattled San Diego Mayor Bob Filner (D) on Friday said he plans to enter a "behavior counseling clinic" for two weeks of therapy beginning Aug. 5. But he vowed to remain in office, even as he faced a flurry of calls from top Democrats to step aside, amid allegations he sexually harassed several women.

Filner apologized in general terms for inappropriate conduct toward women without acknowledging any specific behavior. "I apologize to the women I have offended," he said.

The **brief news** conference was halted temporarily by what appeared to be audio trouble. Filner restarted his remarks minutes later, but fielded no questions.

- Sean Sullivan

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