

Date and Time: Thursday, May 2, 2024 6:43:00PM EEST

Job Number: 223362272

Documents (100)

1. Good news from Gaza

Client/Matter: -None-Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language - Expanded Results

Narrowed by:

Content Type Narrowed by

News Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Jan 01, 2004 to

Dec 01, 2005

2. Sharon says Gaza raids will go on

Client/Matter: -None-Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language - Expanded Results

Narrowed by:

Content Type Narrowed by

News Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Jan 01, 2004 to

Dec 01, 2005

3. Israel targets militants after suicide bombing

Client/Matter: -None-Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language - Expanded Results

Narrowed by:

Content Type Narrowed by

News Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Jan 01, 2004 to

Dec 01, 2005

4. In protests across Middle East, throngs rail against Israel, U.S.

Client/Matter: -None-Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language - Expanded Results

Narrowed by:

Content Type Narrowed by

News Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Jan 01, 2004 to

Dec 01, 2005

5. Human-bomb mother kills four Israelis at Gaza checkpoint

Client/Matter: -None-Search Terms: Hamas



Search Type: Natural Language - Expanded Results

Narrowed by:

Content Type Narrowed by

News Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Jan 01, 2004 to

Dec 01, 2005

6. ISRAELIS KILL 2 JIHAD LEADERS; STRIKE IS PART OF LARGER DRIVE TO END ATTACKS ON ISRAEL

FROM GAZA

Client/Matter: -None-Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language - Expanded Results

Narrowed by:

Content Type Narrowed by

News Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Jan 01, 2004 to

Dec 01, 2005

7. At least 38 killed in string of violence around world

Client/Matter: -None-Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language - Expanded Results

Narrowed by:

Content Type Narrowed by

News Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Jan 01, 2004 to

Dec 01, 2005

8. WHY THE SHEIKH HAD TO GO

Client/Matter: -None-Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language - Expanded Results

Narrowed by:

Content Type Narrowed by

News Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Jan 01, 2004 to

Dec 01, 2005

9. Israel poised for return to Gaza as attacks escalate Period of calm on the brink of collapse

Client/Matter: -None-Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language - Expanded Results

Narrowed by:

Content Type Narrowed by

News Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Jan 01, 2004 to

Dec 01, 2005

10. WORLD DIGEST

Client/Matter: -None-Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language - Expanded Results

Narrowed by:

Content Type Narrowed by

News Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Jan 01, 2004 to

Dec 01, 2005

11. Sharon vows to step up assault on Gaza strip as death toll rises

Client/Matter: -None-Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language - Expanded Results

Narrowed by:

Content Type Narrowed by

News Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Jan 01, 2004 to

Dec 01, 2005

12. Ottawa modestly improves aid to peace process: MIDDLE EAST I A visit from Mahmoud Abbas drew an

additional \$12.2 million for the Palestinian Authority

Client/Matter: -None-Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language - Expanded Results

Narrowed by:

Content Type Narrowed by

News Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Jan 01, 2004 to

Dec 01, 2005

13. WORLD IN BRIEF

Client/Matter: -None-Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language - Expanded Results

Narrowed by:

Content Type Narrowed by

News Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Jan 01, 2004 to

Dec 01, 2005

14. Palestinians dissatisfied by releases; 400 prisoners freed by Israeli cabinet

Client/Matter: -None-Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language - Expanded Results

Narrowed by:

Content Type Narrowed by

News Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Jan 01, 2004 to

Dec 01, 2005

15. Israelis wonder whether anything can bring peace

Client/Matter: -None-Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language - Expanded Results

Narrowed by:

Content Type Narrowed by

News Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Jan 01, 2004 to

Dec 01, 2005

16. YOUR SAY

Client/Matter: -None-Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language - Expanded Results

Narrowed by:

Content Type Narrowed by

News Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Jan 01, 2004 to

Dec 01, 2005

17. First female on death mission

Client/Matter: -None-Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language - Expanded Results

Narrowed by:

Content Type Narrowed by

News Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Jan 01, 2004 to

Dec 01, 2005

18. Mother embraces murderous dream

Client/Matter: -None-Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language - Expanded Results

Narrowed by:

Content Type Narrowed by

News Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Jan 01, 2004 to

Dec 01, 2005

19. Suicide bomber hits Israeli mall

Client/Matter: -None-Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language - Expanded Results

Narrowed by:

Content Type Narrowed by

News Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Jan 01, 2004 to

Dec 01, 2005

20. MARTYR OR ADULTERESS?

Client/Matter: -None-Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language - Expanded Results

Narrowed by:

Content Type Narrowed by

News Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Jan 01, 2004 to

21. News in Brief

Client/Matter: -None-Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language - Expanded Results

Narrowed by:

Content Type Narrowed by

News Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Jan 01, 2004 to

Dec 01, 2005

22. Shelling of Jewish settlement in Gaza kills Israeli - American

Client/Matter: -None-Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language - Expanded Results

Narrowed by:

Content Type Narrowed by

News Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Jan 01, 2004 to

Dec 01, 2005

23. WORLD

Client/Matter: -None-Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language - Expanded Results

Narrowed by:

Content Type Narrowed by

News Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Jan 01, 2004 to

Dec 01, 2005

24. <u>Teenage bomber kills two Israeli police officers: Blast injures 16 others; Sharon hints he will have Yasser</u> Arafat killed

Client/Matter: -None-Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language - Expanded Results

Narrowed by:

Content Type Narrowed by

News Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Jan 01, 2004 to

Dec 01, 2005

25. Sharon: Golan withdrawal key to peace

Client/Matter: -None-Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language - Expanded Results

Narrowed by:

Content Type Narrowed by

News Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Jan 01, 2004 to



26. View on Iraq

Client/Matter: -None-Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language - Expanded Results

Narrowed by:

Content Type Narrowed by

News Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Jan 01, 2004 to

Dec 01, 2005

27. BURNING HATRED

Client/Matter: -None-Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language - Expanded Results

Narrowed by:

Content Type Narrowed by

News Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Jan 01, 2004 to

Dec 01, 2005

28. Middle East violence explodes; 11 Israeli soldiers and 22 Palestinians killed in deadliest 48-hour period

since this intefadeh began

Client/Matter: -None-Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language - Expanded Results

Narrowed by:

Content Type Narrowed by

News Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Jan 01, 2004 to

Dec 01, 2005

29. \$12.2m aid deal for Abbas; Martin outlines conditions to Palestinian leader

Client/Matter: -None-Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language - Expanded Results

Narrowed by:

Content Type Narrowed by

News Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Jan 01, 2004 to

Dec 01, 2005

30. Israeli cabinet backs release of 400 Palestinian prisoners

Client/Matter: -None-Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language - Expanded Results

Narrowed by:

Content Type Narrowed by

News Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Jan 01, 2004 to

Dec 01, 2005

31. Under orders

Client/Matter: -None-Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language - Expanded Results

Narrowed by:

Content Type Narrowed by

News Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Jan 01, 2004 to

Dec 01, 2005

32. LETTERS

Client/Matter: -None-Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language - Expanded Results

Narrowed by:

Content Type Narrowed by

News Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Jan 01, 2004 to

Dec 01, 2005

33. Sheikh Yassin fell victim to hatred he preached

Client/Matter: -None-Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language - Expanded Results

Narrowed by:

Content Type Narrowed by

News Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Jan 01, 2004 to

Dec 01, 2005

34. Israelis fire rockets near refugee camp

Client/Matter: -None-Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language - Expanded Results

Narrowed by:

Content Type Narrowed by

News Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Jan 01, 2004 to

Dec 01, 2005

35. 16 KILLED IN BUS BOMB ATTACKS; INJURY TOLL OVER 100

Client/Matter: -None-Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language - Expanded Results

Narrowed by:

Content Type Narrowed by

News Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Jan 01, 2004 to

Dec 01, 2005

36. A history of violence: Barbara Kay defends Neil French, the ad man who told it like it is

Client/Matter: -None-Search Terms: Hamas Search Type: Natural Language - Expanded Results

Narrowed by:

Content Type Narrowed by

News Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Jan 01, 2004 to

Dec 01, 2005

37. IN BRIEF

Client/Matter: -None-Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language - Expanded Results

Narrowed by:

Content Type Narrowed by

News Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Jan 01, 2004 to

Dec 01, 2005

38. Israeli Strike In Gaza Kills 5 Militants

Client/Matter: -None-Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language - Expanded Results

Narrowed by:

Content Type Narrowed by

News Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Jan 01, 2004 to

Dec 01, 2005

39. Isolated and Angry, Gaza Battles Itself, Too

Client/Matter: -None-Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language - Expanded Results

Narrowed by:

Content Type Narrowed by

News Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Jan 01, 2004 to

Dec 01, 2005

40. Canada gives Abbas \$12M in aid: Martin praises Palestinian leader

Client/Matter: -None-Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language - Expanded Results

Narrowed by:

Content Type Narrowed by

News Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Jan 01, 2004 to

Dec 01, 2005

41. As deadly as the male Insight

Client/Matter: -None-Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language - Expanded Results

Narrowed by:

Content Type Narrowed by

News Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Jan 01, 2004 to

Dec 01, 2005

42. Israel unjustifiably terrorizing Palestinian people

Client/Matter: -None-Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language - Expanded Results

Narrowed by:

Content Type Narrowed by

News Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Jan 01, 2004 to

Dec 01, 2005

43. Israel tanks push into Bethlehem New unrest grips Middle East as old foes exchange prisoners

Client/Matter: -None-Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language - Expanded Results

Narrowed by:

Content Type Narrowed by

News Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Jan 01, 2004 to

Dec 01, 2005

44. Abbas looks strong in Palestinian vote; Low turnout worries election officials

Client/Matter: -None-Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language - Expanded Results

Narrowed by:

Content Type Narrowed by

News Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Jan 01, 2004 to

Dec 01, 2005

45. Abbas declares victory in election; Exit polls give him about 65% of vote

Client/Matter: -None-Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language - Expanded Results

Narrowed by:

Content Type Narrowed by

News Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Jan 01, 2004 to

Dec 01, 2005

46. ABBAS DEDICATES TRIUMPH TO ARAFAT; PALESTINIAN VOTE CALLED FREE, FAIR

Client/Matter: -None-Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language - Expanded Results

Narrowed by:

Content Type Narrowed by

News Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Jan 01, 2004 to

47. Suicide bomber kills 2 police officers

Client/Matter: -None-Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language - Expanded Results

Narrowed by:

Content Type Narrowed by

News Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Jan 01, 2004 to

Dec 01, 2005

48. We don't forget, Ken

Client/Matter: -None-Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language - Expanded Results

Narrowed by:

Content Type Narrowed by

News Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Jan 01, 2004 to

Dec 01, 2005

49. International Briefs

Client/Matter: -None-Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language - Expanded Results

Narrowed by:

Content Type Narrowed by

News Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Jan 01, 2004 to

Dec 01, 2005

50. <u>SHOOTING OF GIRLS COULD STOP ISRAEL PULLING OUT FROMGAZA; SLAUGHTER OF INNOCENTS</u>

Client/Matter: -None-Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language - Expanded Results

Narrowed by:

Content Type Narrowed by

News Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Jan 01, 2004 to

Dec 01, 2005

51. How much longer ... how many more must die?; OPINION; Sharon is propelling his people towards an abyss of perpetual conflict and death

Client/Matter: -None-Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language - Expanded Results

Narrowed by:

Content Type Narrowed by

News Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Jan 01, 2004 to

52. Israel frees 398 Palestinian prisoners

Client/Matter: -None-Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language - Expanded Results

Narrowed by:

Content Type Narrowed by

News Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Jan 01, 2004 to

Dec 01, 2005

53. Woman killed in shelling by terrorists: GAZA I Attack on settlement comes hours before Yom Kippur, the holiest day of the year, begins

Client/Matter: -None-Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language - Expanded Results

Narrowed by:

Content Type Narrowed by

News Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Jan 01, 2004 to

Dec 01, 2005

54. Israel, Palestine a collaborative suicide

Client/Matter: -None-Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language - Expanded Results

Narrowed by:

Content Type Narrowed by

News Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Jan 01, 2004 to

Dec 01, 2005

55. Arafat Shrugs Off Warning He May Be Israeli Target

Client/Matter: -None-Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language - Expanded Results

Narrowed by:

Content Type Narrowed by

News Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Jan 01, 2004 to

Dec 01, 2005

56. GAZA on the day after

Client/Matter: -None-Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language - Expanded Results

Narrowed by:

Content Type Narrowed by

News Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Jan 01, 2004 to

57. A Lonely Peace Celebration for Sharon, Still the Warrior

Client/Matter: -None-Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language - Expanded Results

Narrowed by:

Content Type Narrowed by

News Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Jan 01, 2004 to

Dec 01, 2005

58. Fanatical mother of two who died a suicide bomber

Client/Matter: -None-Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language - Expanded Results

Narrowed by:

Content Type Narrowed by

News Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Jan 01, 2004 to

Dec 01, 2005

59. In the city of Bethlehem, disarray and desperate times

Client/Matter: -None-Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language - Expanded Results

Narrowed by:

Content Type Narrowed by

News Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Jan 01, 2004 to

Dec 01, 2005

60. <u>Arafat 'marked for death': Sharon; Israel 's prime minister withdraws promise not to harm Palestinian leader,</u> saying circumstances have changed

Client/Matter: -None-Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language - Expanded Results

Narrowed by:

Content Type Narrowed by

News Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Jan 01, 2004 to

Dec 01, 2005

61. 487 MERCHANT IVORY

Client/Matter: -None-Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language - Expanded Results

Narrowed by:

Content Type Narrowed by

News Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Jan 01, 2004 to

Dec 01, 2005

62. Rice Urges Israel and Palestinians to Sustain Momentum



Client/Matter: -None-Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language - Expanded Results

Narrowed by:

Content Type Narrowed by

News Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Jan 01, 2004 to

Dec 01, 2005

63. Are you ready? Tomorrow you will be in Paradise...

Client/Matter: -None-Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language - Expanded Results

Narrowed by:

Content Type Narrowed by

News Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Jan 01, 2004 to

Dec 01, 2005

64. <u>US democracy drive heartens the Islamists: If the US attempt to promote democracy in the Middle East</u> succeeds, it is Islamists who will get elected, writes Roula Khalaf

Client/Matter: -None-Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language - Expanded Results

Narrowed by:

Content Type Narrowed by

News Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Jan 01, 2004 to

Dec 01, 2005

65. Eight Palestinians killed in firefights with Israelis

Client/Matter: -None-Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language - Expanded Results

Narrowed by:

Content Type Narrowed by

News Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Jan 01, 2004 to

Dec 01, 2005

66. 14 are dead in collapse of Egypt building

Client/Matter: -None-Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language - Expanded Results

Narrowed by:

Content Type Narrowed by

News Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Jan 01, 2004 to

Dec 01, 2005

67. Arafat's likely successor described as pragmatist; Abbas helped negotiate accords with Israel

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language - Expanded Results

Narrowed by:

Content Type Narrowed by

News Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Jan 01, 2004 to

Dec 01, 2005

68. Death row Scot cleared of murder

Client/Matter: -None-Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language - Expanded Results

Narrowed by:

Content Type Narrowed by

News Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Jan 01, 2004 to

Dec 01, 2005

69. Palestinian carries tune and his people's hopes

Client/Matter: -None-Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language - Expanded Results

Narrowed by:

Content Type Narrowed by

News Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Jan 01, 2004 to

Dec 01, 2005

70. BUS HORROR SUICIDE BOMBERS ON REVENGE MISSION ARE AMONG DEAD

Client/Matter: -None-Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language - Expanded Results

Narrowed by:

Content Type Narrowed by

News Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Jan 01, 2004 to

Dec 01, 2005

71. International Briefs

Client/Matter: -None-Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language - Expanded Results

Narrowed by:

Content Type Narrowed by

News Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Jan 01, 2004 to

Dec 01, 2005

72. Day of the terrorist

Client/Matter: -None-Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language - Expanded Results

Narrowed by:

Content Type Narrowed by

News Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Jan 01, 2004 to

Dec 01, 2005

73. Our say

Client/Matter: -None-Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language - Expanded Results

Narrowed by:

Content Type Narrowed by

News Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Jan 01, 2004 to

Dec 01, 2005

74. Herald Sun EDITORIAL

Client/Matter: -None-Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language - Expanded Results

Narrowed by:

Content Type Narrowed by

News Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Jan 01, 2004 to

Dec 01, 2005

75. ARAFAT FEARS HE'S NEXT ON ISRAELIS' DEATH LIST

Client/Matter: -None-Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language - Expanded Results

Narrowed by:

Content Type Narrowed by

News Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Jan 01, 2004 to

Dec 01, 2005

76. FREED PALESTINIANS WARN RELEASE WILL NOT SECURE PEACE

Client/Matter: -None-Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language - Expanded Results

Narrowed by:

Content Type Narrowed by

News Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Jan 01, 2004 to

Dec 01, 2005

77. Abbas tells forces to try to halt attacks; Israel sees his order against militants as 'small but positive'

Client/Matter: -None-Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language - Expanded Results

Narrowed by:

Content Type Narrowed by

News Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Jan 01, 2004 to

Dec 01, 2005

78. Battles in Gaza City kill 8 Palestinians

Client/Matter: -None-Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language - Expanded Results

Narrowed by:

Content Type Narrowed by

News Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Jan 01, 2004 to

Dec 01, 2005

79. Now comes the hard part

Client/Matter: -None-Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language - Expanded Results

Narrowed by:

Content Type Narrowed by

News Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Jan 01, 2004 to

Dec 01, 2005

80. The Interregnum

Client/Matter: -None-Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language - Expanded Results

Narrowed by:

Content Type Narrowed by

News Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Jan 01, 2004 to

Dec 01, 2005

81. U.S., Israel must back Palestinian president

Client/Matter: -None-Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language - Expanded Results

Narrowed by:

Content Type Narrowed by

News Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Jan 01, 2004 to

Dec 01, 2005

82. TO LABOUR PARTY CONFERENCE, 2001: THE SHADOW OVER BLAIR; THE KALEIDOSCOPE HAS BEEN SHAKEN. THE PIECES ARE IN FLUX. SOON THEY

Client/Matter: -None-Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language - Expanded Results

Narrowed by:

Content Type Narrowed by

News Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Jan 01, 2004 to



83. The Queen finds a feathered friend at start of Canada trip

Client/Matter: -None-Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language - Expanded Results

Narrowed by:

Content Type Narrowed by

News Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Jan 01, 2004 to

Dec 01, 2005

84. AN EVIL MAN WE MUST BAN

Client/Matter: -None-Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language - Expanded Results

Narrowed by:

Content Type Narrowed by

News Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Jan 01, 2004 to

Dec 01, 2005

85. Dems' GM crop fears a lot of mumbo jumbo

Client/Matter: -None-Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language - Expanded Results

Narrowed by:

Content Type Narrowed by

News Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Jan 01, 2004 to

Dec 01, 2005

86. History paints an awful future

Client/Matter: -None-Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language - Expanded Results

Narrowed by:

Content Type Narrowed by

News Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Jan 01, 2004 to

Dec 01, 2005

87. Israeli PM links peace with Syria to pullout from Golan Heights

Client/Matter: -None-Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language - Expanded Results

Narrowed by:

Content Type Narrowed by

News Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Jan 01, 2004 to

Dec 01, 2005

88. America should open a dialogue with Islamists



Client/Matter: -None-Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language - Expanded Results

Narrowed by:

Content Type Narrowed by

News Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Jan 01, 2004 to

Dec 01, 2005

89. Comment & Analysis: Blood on their hands

Client/Matter: -None-Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language - Expanded Results

Narrowed by:

Content Type Narrowed by

News Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Jan 01, 2004 to

Dec 01, 2005

90. International Briefs

Client/Matter: -None-Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language - Expanded Results

Narrowed by:

Content Type Narrowed by

News Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Jan 01, 2004 to

Dec 01, 2005

91. Former settlements stormed: Buildings besieged, burned in a fury. Feverish crowds intent on obliterating

hated 'symbols of the occupation'

Client/Matter: -None-Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language - Expanded Results

Narrowed by:

Content Type Narrowed by

News Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Jan 01, 2004 to

Dec 01, 2005

92. Attacks spur Israeli assault on camp: Security cabinet approves large-scale operation against Jebaliya

Client/Matter: -None-Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language - Expanded Results

Narrowed by:

Content Type Narrowed by

News Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Jan 01, 2004 to

Dec 01, 2005

93. WORLD DIGEST

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language - Expanded Results

Narrowed by:

Content Type Narrowed by

News Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Jan 01, 2004 to

Dec 01, 2005

94. DOOM & GLOOM

Client/Matter: -None-Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language - Expanded Results

Narrowed by:

Content Type Narrowed by

News Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Jan 01, 2004 to

Dec 01, 2005

95. PM greets Abbas, offers \$12 million to Palestinians: Canada and the world must do much more at this

crucial moment, Martin says

Client/Matter: -None-Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language - Expanded Results

Narrowed by:

Content Type Narrowed by

News Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Jan 01, 2004 to

Dec 01, 2005

96. EPA: Mercury contaminates almost all lakes and rivers

Client/Matter: -None-Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language - Expanded Results

Narrowed by:

Content Type Narrowed by

News Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Jan 01, 2004 to

Dec 01, 2005

97. Blasts from the past Though the current wave of suicide bombings began in Lebanon in the 1970s, the act of

killing yourself for your beliefs has a cultural ancestry extending back to the Middle Ages

Client/Matter: -None-Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language - Expanded Results

Narrowed by:

Content Type Narrowed by

News Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Jan 01, 2004 to

Dec 01, 2005

98. ARAFAT'S DEADLY ARMY OF "ROSES";

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language - Expanded Results

Narrowed by:

Content Type Narrowed by

News Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Jan 01, 2004 to

Dec 01, 2005

99. QUICK NEWS

Client/Matter: -None-Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language - Expanded Results

Narrowed by:

Content Type Narrowed by

News Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Jan 01, 2004 to

Dec 01, 2005

100. <u>SHARON IS DRAGGING HIS PEOPLE TOWARDS AN ABYSS OF PERPETUAL WAR AND DEATH;</u>
YASSIN IS MORE DANGEROUS DEAD THAN ALIVE. HE WILL BECOME A GHOST AT

Client/Matter: -None-Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language - Expanded Results

Narrowed by:

Content Type Narrowed by

News Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Jan 01, 2004 to



Good news from Gaza

National Post (f/k/a The Financial Post) (Canada)

June 22, 2005 Wednesday

National Edition

Copyright 2005 National Post All Rights Reserved

Section: EDITORIALS; Pg. A20

Length: 756 words **Byline:** National Post

Body

This week, Israel and the Palestinian Authority (PA) reached agreement on a plan to destroy 1,600 homes belonging to Jewish settlers following their evacuation from the Gaza Strip this summer. As diplomatic milestones go, this one may seem modest. But given the ongoing terrorism, and the atmosphere of mistrust it has engendered, it counts as good news that the two sides have been able to agree on anything at all.

Israel's reasons for supporting the demolition of Jewish homes is obvious: If the structures were left standing, the *Hamas* banner would soon flutter above them, and the terrorists would cast the handover of Gaza as a military defeat imposed on Israel -- in much the same way as Hezbollah (more credibly) cast the 2000 Israeli withdrawal from southern Lebanon as a similar triumph. Of course, there would be no truth to this propaganda campaign: Having destroyed most of *Hamas*' infrastructure and killed many of its top leaders, Israel is leaving Gaza on its own terms. But in the war on terrorism, optics are important, and Israel is correct to ensure its withdrawal is not turned into a propaganda victory for its enemies.

It may seem odd that the Palestinians also support the demolition of Israeli homes in Gaza. But they have their own good reasons. The Gaza Strip is one of the most crowded places on the face of the planet, and so the Palestinian leadership is eager to replace the sprawling Israeli suburban-style communities with high-density apartment complexes. If the houses were left standing, moreover, it is likely they would simply become a prize to be fought over by terrorists and corrupt PA apparatchiks.

Going forward, there are many other obstacles that must be confronted. Most notably, how will Israel prevent a quasi-sovereign Gaza strip from becoming a haven for terrorists, as southern Lebanon became a haven for Hezbollah? Even now, with Israel maintaining complete control over who comes in and out of Gaza, terrorists attack nearby Israeli communities with crude, home-made rockets. If Israel relinquished control of Gaza's beaches, port facilities and airspace, <u>Hamas</u> would likely import all manner of missiles, anti-tank weapons and sophisticated explosives. Eventually, the threat would grow to the point that Israel would have no choice but to reoccupy Gaza.

In the short-term, Israel will therefore have no option but to retain control of all air, land and sea traffic into Gaza. Only once the PA has demonstrated that it can control the territory, and that it is committed to eradicating terrorism, should Israel hand over border operations to Palestinian officials.

But will that ever happen? Until now, efforts at peacemaking have largely been a one-way street, with Israel proposing to withdraw from Gaza and parts of the West Bank while the PA dithers over how hard a line to take

Good news from Gaza

against <u>Hamas</u> and its ilk. Just as worrying is the continuing drumbeat of hate propaganda against Jews in mosques and in the official Palestinian media. According to the Israeli watchdog group Palestinian Media Watch, there has been a decrease in hateful messages of late. But they have not been eliminated. This week, for instance, PA TV broadcast a dramatic presentation that encourages children to aspire to "martyrdom." In one segment, a child en route to such a fate tells his teary mother: "Don't cry, my mother! Let me go and fight for the sake of the homeland. The enemy stole our beautiful land ... We all must fight in order to redeem the lost paradise ... We lived in joy and happiness, until the foreign enemy came and expelled us from our land, and we became refugees in tents. But we will return, by Allah's will!"

The effect of this propaganda is borne out in such piteous scenes as the one that unfolded this week at a Gaza border crossing, where a distraught Palestinian woman was caught with a suicide vest containing 10 kilograms of explosives. The would-be terrorist, who had previously been burned in a domestic accident, was traveling to scheduled medical treatment at an Israeli hospital -- and some believe her aim was to blow up fellow patients, a particularly hideous mission.

Brainwashed by Palestinian propaganda, and exploited by terrorists -- who have apparently become so desperate for recruits that they are now preying on <u>female</u> burn victims -- she declared that "my dream was to become a martyr."

This week's agreement on Gaza is good news for the short-run. But while hateful attitudes are prevalent among Palestinians, there is little chance of creating a truly enduring peace.

Load-Date: June 22, 2005

End of Document



Sharon says Gaza raids will go on

Sydney Morning Herald (Australia)

October 4, 2004 Monday

First Edition

Copyright 2004 John Fairfax Publications Pty Ltd All Rights Reserved

Section: NEWS AND FEATURES; International News; Pg. 11

Length: 454 words

Byline: Ed O'Loughlin Herald Correspondent in Jerusalem

Body

The Israeli Prime Minister, Ariel Sharon, has said he will intensify a military raid that has driven deep into the northern Gaza Strip, killing more than 50 Palestinians, wounding hundreds, and devastating infrastructure.

Mr Sharon said he was determined to halt rocket fire on towns inside Israel and shelling of Jewish settlements in the Gaza Strip. He told the Israeli newspaper Yedioth Ahronoth the operation would last until the threat ended.

Since "Operation Days of Repentance" began last week a force estimated at 200 tanks and armoured vehicles and 2000 troops has bulldozed positions in and around the densely populated Jabaliya refugee camp, nine kilometres inside the heart of the northern Gaza Strip.

Israel has sealed off the entire enclave, home to 1.3 million Palestinians, and banned workers, journalists and humanitarian staff from entering or leaving.

The Islamic militant organisation <u>Hamas</u> said that 30 of those killed were militants and 20 civilians or children. Two Israeli soldiers and a <u>female</u> settler have also been shot dead since the operation began.

The bloodiest Israeli raid in at least two years began after a Palestinian mortar bomb killed a young Jewish-American settler woman in a Gaza settlement.

It was intensified the following day after another Palestinian missile killed a four-year-old boy and a two-year-old girl as they played in the street of the Israeli town of Sderot, the only big Israeli town in range of the crude home-made missiles.

Israeli Defence Force officials say the depth of the incursion is designed to match the range of the missiles and prevent their being fired at Sderot. Over the weekend, however, at least three more missiles were aimed at Sderot and at a Jewish settlement inside the Gaza Strip, causing no harm.

Israel has accused <u>Hamas</u> of using United Nations ambulances to smuggle arms and militants through the Gaza Strip. It has released film taken from an unspecified reconnaissance that shows two men loading what Israel says is a Qassam rocket into a van bearing a large UN logo. Israel reportedly plans to write to the UN to demand the dismissal of Peter Hansen, the commissioner-general of the UN Relief and Works Agency.

Sharon says Gaza raids will go on

At a weekend press conference masked <u>Hamas</u> fighters displayed new weapons and vowed to continue to fire missiles at Israel and the settlements despite the heavy response.

The group said it was developing a longer-range missile that would reach the Israel coastal city of Askhelon, some 15 kilometres north of the strip.

The intensifying conflict comes at a time of serious drift in the Middle East.

The United States is preoccupied with Iraq and its elections and the UN, European Union and other international players enjoy little influence.

Load-Date: July 17, 2007

End of Document



Israel targets militants after suicide bombing

The Australian

July 14, 2005 Thursday All-round First Edition

Copyright 2005 Nationwide News Pty Limited

Section: WORLD; Pg. 9

Length: 509 words

Byline: Abraham Rabinovich

Body

Jerusalem

ISRAEL has hinted it will resume targeted assassinations of militant leaders after an 18-year-old Palestinian detonated an explosive belt in the coastal resort of Netanya, killing four **women** and wounding scores of others.

In response to the first suicide bombing on its soil in five months, Israel reoccupied the West Bank town of Tulkarm, shooting dead a Palestinian policeman and arresting five Islamic Jihad activists it said were connected to the blast.

Israeli Defence Minister Shaul Mofaz ordered a "root canal" operation against Islamic Jihad, which has ignored a ceasefire that has been honoured by <u>Hamas</u> and most other Palestinian militant groups since February.

MATP

US Secretary of Defence Donald Rumsfeld said Iran could be behind the attack.

"I wouldn't want to suggest that I know about the attack today, but clearly that's been one of the stated and continuous purposes of Iran, to harm Israel," Mr Rumsfeld said.

Israeli officials indicated the policy of targeted assassinations of militant leaders, suspended for the past few months, might be resumed towards Islamic Jihad throughout the West Bank and Gaza Strip.

Israeli officials said the organisation had repeatedly attempted in the past few months to carry out attacks but that their efforts were thwarted, with 300 of its members arrested. Islamic Jihad was responsible for the last suicide bombing, which took place at a Tel Aviv nightclub on February 25, killing five people.

Although sharing the same Islamic ideology as *Hamas*, Islamic Jihad is smaller and more radical and does not share *Hamas*'s aim of becoming part of the political process.

The bomber, a high school student from a village near Tulkarm, detonated his 10kg explosive belt on a pedestrian crossing near a major shopping centre.

Two 16-year-old girls and two women, aged 31 and 50, were killed and 90 people wounded, with several in a critical condition.

In an apparently related incident, a car bomb blew up in the Israeli West Bank settlement of Shavei Shomron, causing no injuries except to the Palestinian driver -- who was found with one hand tied to the steering wheel.

Israel targets militants after suicide bombing

The suicide bombing was termed "idiotic" by Palestinian President Mahmoud Abbas.

"There is no rational Palestinian who can conduct such an act at a time when Israel is beginning its withdrawal from the Gaza Strip," he said. "This was a crime against the Palestinian people and those behind it must be punished."

But Israeli officials said while Mr Abbas may have good intentions, he had done nothing to crack down on the militants since his election six months ago and was becoming increasingly irrelevant.

A defence source said Israel had passed a message to the Palestinian Authority through US intermediaries that Israel would undertake the crackdown against Islamic Jihad in the absence of a response from the Palestinian leadership.

Prime Minister Ariel Sharon has ordered relative restraint in the past few months in the hope of being able to carry out the withdrawal from the Gaza Strip with a minimum of friction with the Palestinians.

Load-Date: July 13, 2005

End of Document



In protests across Middle East, throngs rail against Israel, U.S.

The Philadelphia Inquirer MARCH 23, 2004 Tuesday CITY-D EDITION

Copyright 2004 Philadelphia Newspapers, LLC All Rights Reserved

The Philadelphia Inquirer

Found on Philly . com

Section: NATIONAL; Pg. A11

Length: 653 words

Byline: Hannah Allam INQUIRER FOREIGN STAFF

Dateline: AMMAN, Jordan

Body

Outrage over the killing of <u>Hamas</u>' founder, Sheikh Ahmed Yassin, combined yesterday with a year of pent-up fury at the U.S.-led war in Iraq and exploded in protests throughout the Middle East.

Thousands turned out for demonstrations in Arab capitals as their governments denounced the helicopter attack that killed Yassin as he was returning home from morning prayers. Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak canceled plans to participate in a celebration today marking the 25th anniversary of the Egypt-Israel peace treaty, the first between Israel and an Arab country. Even members of the U.S.-appointed Iraqi Governing Council denounced Israel's action.

The protest showed the depth of hostility many in the Arab world feel toward the United States. Despite denials in Washington, many expressed certainty that the United States supported Yassin's killing.

"[Israeli Prime Minister Ariel] Sharon would never do this without getting a green light somehow from the U.S. administration," said Labib Kamhawi, a Jordanian political analyst.

"And from where did the Israelis get the helicopters and the rockets they used to kill the sheikh?" Ibrahim Tahir, 29, asked as he sipped tea in an Amman teahouse. "From America."

In Jordan, where more than half the population is of Palestinian origin, marchers thrust photographs of Yassin in the air and called for violence to supplant diplomacy. They pledged revenge, invoking Iraq as well as a Jenin refugee camp leveled by an Israeli incursion in 2002.

"All of us are Ahmed Yassin, from Amman to Jenin, from Baghdad to Jenin," thousands chanted in the Jordanian capital. "Raise your voices and be rid of the peaceful solutions."

Fareed Mohamed, 35, who left the Gaza Strip for Jordan three decades ago, said: "Sheikh Yassin was a symbol for our revolution. He was an Arab patriot, and we loved him for that."

In protests across Middle East, throngs rail against Israel, U.S.

Protesters in Egypt called for bloodshed in Israel. Sudanese in Khartoum flocked to an office of <u>Hamas</u> to offer condolences.

Students in Yemen skipped class to shout anti-American slogans. Lebanese protesters burned tires and Israeli flags. Dozens of young men in the Palestinian territories lined up to volunteer as suicide bombers, according to news reports.

"All these demonstrations are one, and the blood of Sheikh Yassin will be fuel to the resistance," said Essam el Arian, a spokesman in Cairo, Egypt, for the Muslim Brotherhood, the Middle East's oldest, most influential Islamic movement. "Our most important reaction now will be to centralize our support of Palestinian resistance groups and to defy the actions of America, Europe and Israel to create chaos in this region."

Most Arab leaders issued statements condemning Israel as "cowardly" for using a gunship to blast Yassin in his wheelchair as he left a Gaza mosque.

The Kuwaiti prime minister predicted more regional violence, and Jordan's prime minister said Yassin's death shelved peace prospects.

"By this crime against a disabled man, the Israeli government has thrown open the door for an unending war in the region," said Abu Emad al Rufay, Lebanon-based spokesman for Islamic Jihad. "Israel dared to do this because it has the green light from the U.S. government on one hand and the shameful silence of Arab leaders on the other."

Members of the Iraqi Governing Council sent a letter of condolence to Palestinian leaders.

"What an end for this great man who spent his life as a militant for the Palestinian cause," said Hatem al Hassani, assistant to council member Mohsin Abdul Hameed. "He wanted to give the Palestinians their rights, their dignity, their freedom. Instead, he went to God as a martyr."

Contact reporter Hannah Allam

at hallam@krwashington.com.

More Coverage

<u>Hamas</u>' founder: A freedom fighter to some, a mastermind

of terror to others. A10.

Arab reaction:

Yassin's killing brings an angry outcry in cities across the Mideast. A11.

Commentary:

Two views on how the death will affect peace process. A13.

Graphic

PHOTO:

NADER DAOUD, Associated Press

In protests across Middle East, throngs rail against Israel , U.S.

Jordanian <u>women</u> Ekram (left) and Leen shout slogans against the killing of <u>Hamas</u>' founder, Sheikh Ahmed Yassin, during a protest in Amman. About 500 Jordanians demonstrated against the Israeli killing of Yassin yesterday.

Load-Date: August 23, 2005

End of Document



Human-bomb mother kills four Israelis at Gaza checkpoint

The Guardian (London) - Final Edition

January 15, 2004

Copyright 2004 Guardian Newspapers Limited

Section: Guardian Foreign Pages, Pg. 17

Length: 811 words

Byline: Chris McGreal in Gaza

Body

A 22-year-old Palestinian mother of two small children, pretending to be disabled, killed four Israelis at a Gaza border crossing yesterday after duping soldiers into allowing her a personal security check rather than going through a metal detector.

The Islamic resistance movement <u>Hamas</u> and the al-Aqsa Martyrs brigade said the attack by Reem Riyashi, from Gaza City, was a joint operation in revenge for weeks of Israeli incursions into West Bank cities that have left about 25 Palestinians dead.

It was the first time *Hamas* had used a woman as a human bomb.

She left a videotaped message in which she was pictured in combat fatigues, holding an automatic rifle and with a rocket-propelled grenade in front of her. She said she had dreamed since she was 13 of turning "my body into deadly shrapnel against the Zionists".

"I always wanted to be the first woman to carry out a martyrdom operation, where parts of my body can fly all over," she said. "God has given me two children. I love them (with) a kind of love that only God knows, but my love to meet God is stronger still."

Mrs Riyashi detonated her 2kg bomb inside a building used to check thousands of Palestinians who cross each day from Gaza to work in a neighbouring industrial zone. The Israeli army said that when she reached the metal detector, the suicide bomber pretended to be crippled and said she had metal plates in her leg which would sound the alarm. She asked to be checked with a body search.

She was taken to an area where a group of soldiers and policemen was checking bags and was told to wait for a woman to come and search her in a cubicle. She then detonated the explosive.

The blast tore open the corrugated iron roof and sent shards of metal and glass ripping through the room. Soldiers used putty knives and pieces of plastic skirting board to scrape strips of flesh from the floor and walls.

All the dead were Israelis: two soldiers, a policeman and a civilian security worker. Seven other Israelis and about four Palestinians were injured.

The Gaza divisional commander, Brigadier-General Gadi Shamni, described the attack as a cynical abuse of his soldiers' attempts to treat **women** with dignity.

Human-bomb mother kills four Israelis at Gaza checkpoint

"We're doing our best to be humanitarian, to consider the problems associated with searching <u>women</u>. She said she had a medical problem, that's why the soldiers let her in, to check her in private because she is a woman," he said. "That's a very cruel, cynical use of the humanitarian considerations of our soldiers."

The attack came after months of relative quiet by the Palestinians which has seen few suicide bombings. An attack on Christmas Day by Islamic Jihad killed four Israelis. Last week, a teenage suicide bomber killed himself, but no one else. Prior to those attacks, there had been no bombings since October.

However, the spiritual leader of <u>Hamas</u>, Sheikh Ahmad Yassin, yesterday warned that other <u>women</u> would follow Mrs Riyashi's example.

Her family swiftly set up the traditional memorial tent near her home in Gaza City. Her relatives offered neither praise for her attack nor an explanation of why a mother with children just three years and 18 months old should choose to become a suicide bomber.

Her family is wealthy, whereas most bombers come from poorer backgrounds. She is the eighth <u>female</u> suicide bomber, but only one other had children.

At Mrs Riyashi's house, her brother-in-law, Yusuf Awad, was dismantling the main gate and moving out furniture in preparation for the arrival of an Israeli army demolition team, which usually blows up the homes of suicide bombers.

"I denounce her attack," he said. "I support peace. We don't accept <u>women</u> doing such things. She has two children. It is not right."

A <u>Hamas</u> official at a memorial service in the local mosque, who called himself Abu Jihad, said there would be more such **women** bombers.

"We should expect that more <u>female</u> martyr warriors will do this. It is allowed in Islam because <u>Hamas</u> saw that it is no longer easy to send a male warrior to attack them (the Israelis). This year will see a large number of <u>women</u> joining in the attacks," he said.

The Israeli military responded by immediately closing the Gaza crossings to Palestinians for several days.

"They're always trying to kill, even if they hurt themselves," said Lieutenant Ayelet Kadosh.

"What will happen is that while we are investigating the crossing will be closed and thousands of Palestinians will go hungry because they cannot go to work."

About 4,000 Palestinians work in factories in the sealed industrial zone connected to Gaza, many of them providing for extended families in Gaza where there is 70% unemployment.

A further 14,000 Palestinians cross from Gaza to Israel each day. The military swiftly ordered Palestinians out of the factories and, under heavy guard, sent them home.

Audio report from Chris McGreal: guardian.co.uk/israel

Load-Date: January 20, 2004



<u>ISRAELIS KILL 2 JIHAD LEADERS;</u> STRIKE IS PART OF LARGER DRIVE TO END ATTACKS ON ISRAEL FROM GAZA

Pittsburgh Post-Gazette (Pennsylvania)
October 6, 2004 Wednesday
SOONER EDITION

Copyright 2004 P.G. Publishing Co.

Section: WORLD,

Length: 877 words

Byline: STEVEN ERLANGER, THE NEW YORK TIMES

Dateline: JERUSALEM

Body

An Israeli helicopter strike killed two senior members of the radical group Islamic Jihad as they rode in a car in Gaza, Palestinians there said last evening.

The dead men were Bashir Al Dabash, 42, a brigade leader and one of Islamic Jihad's top officials in Gaza, the group said, and Zareef Al Araeer, who was said to be his bodyguard. Three bystanders were slightly wounded when one of the two missiles missed the militants' car near the Shifa hospital in Gaza City, where Al Dabash had been visiting a wounded fighter, Palestinians said.

Young <u>women</u> and children rushed toward the car, some brandishing remains and shouting, "Welcome to Ezzedine Al Qassam Brigade!" -- the military wing of <u>Hamas</u>.

In a separate action later last night, an Israeli aircraft fired a missile that killed at least two militants and wounded three others near the Jabaliya refugee camp in the Gaza Strip, witnesses and Palestinian security sources said. The men, from Al Aqsa Martyrs' Brigades, were preparing to attack Israeli forces, according to witnesses and army officials.

As the Israeli military presses on with its campaign to stop homemade missile strikes from the Gaza Strip on Israeli settlements and towns, the military is also using the opportunity to try to eliminate the leadership of Palestinian radical groups like *Hamas* and Islamic Jihad.

The campaign started Sept. 29, after two children in the Israeli town of Sederot were killed by a Qassam rocket fired by *Hamas*; since then, at least 70 Palestinians have died, at least 20 of them civilians, as well as one other Israeli civilian and two soldiers.

The Israelis say it is intolerable for their citizens to be subject to rocket attacks even as Israeli Prime Minister Ariel Sharon vows to withdraw unilaterally from the Gaza Strip, with its 1.3 million Palestinians and 7,500 or so Israeli settlers.

ISRAELIS KILL 2 JIHAD LEADERS; STRIKE IS PART OF LARGER DRIVE TO END ATTACKS ON ISRAEL FROM GAZA

But the Israeli campaign is also running into more -- and expected -- international criticism, from Egypt, on the 31st anniversary of the Yom Kippur war; from Russia, and even from the United States, as Secretary of State Colin L. Powell said he hoped that Israel's incursion, its bloodiest into Gaza in four years, would be ended quickly.

"The immediate problem right now is that Israeli built-up areas are being hit by rockets, and Sharon finds a need to respond to that," Powell said. "I hope it does not expand. And I hope that whatever he does is proportionate to the threat that Israel is facing, and I hope that this operation can come to a conclusion quickly.'

At the United Nations yesterday, supporters of the Palestinians pushed for a Security Council resolution demanding an end to the incursion. And in Washington, a senior U.S. official said the Bush administration hoped that the resolution would not be brought to a vote.

At a briefing yesterday, State Department deputy spokesman Adam Ereli declined to threaten a U.S. veto, but criticized the resolution as not being balanced. Frequently, the United States uses its veto to block resolutions it considers too one-sided in its criticism of Israel, but also has occasionally abstained to show its disapproval while permitting the resolution to pass.

But after British and German efforts to forge a compromise text failed, the United States did veto the resolution. John Danforth, the U.S. ambassador to the United Nations, said in New York that the Security Council "acts as the adversary of the Israelis and cheerleaders to the Palestinians."

Israel publicly appears to be in no rush to end its operation. Defense Minister Shaul Mofaz said Monday that "it will take time until we can be sure that we remove the threat" of the Qassam rockets. Other military officials say they are realistic and hope to reduce the number of rockets fired by 70 percent to 80 percent, and that they don't want to be stuck in Gaza indefinitely.

Perhaps to mute criticism, Israeli officials said indirect contacts about ending the operation had begun with Yasser Arafat's Palestinian Authority, but the Palestinians denied the suggestion.

Still, Arafat, and especially his government, have been quietly urging <u>Hamas</u> not to provoke the Israelis by firing the highly inaccurate Qassams, Palestinian officials have said. But <u>Hamas</u> is trying to show that it is fighting the Israelis even as it becomes more difficult to carry out suicide bombings inside Israel proper.

Other Israeli officials say they are working hard at public relations, not wanting the kind of unfair criticism, as they put it, that Israel received in the spring of 2002, with forays into the West Bank, including towns like Jenin, Nablus and Bethlehem.

The public relations effort included a fierce attack on the United Nations Relief and Works Agency, which aids Palestinian refugees, when an Israeli aerial drone photographed what Israeli officials said was a Qassam rocket being transported in a U.N. vehicle or ambulance. The Israelis called correspondents Friday night to draw their attention to the film, then protested to the United Nations and called for the dismissal of the head of the agency, Peter Hansen.

But Hansen, often critical of Israel, denied the charge and said the film appeared to show a folded-up stretcher, not a rocket, being placed into the vehicle, and promised to investigate.

Notes

The Associated Press contributed to this report.

Graphic

ISRAELIS KILL 2 JIHAD LEADERS; STRIKE IS PART OF LARGER DRIVE TO END ATTACKS ON ISRAEL FROM GAZA

PHOTO: Kevin Frayer/Associated Press: A Palestinian mourner shouts as he and others run with the body of Wafi Assaliyah along a street residents said was exposed to Israeli army fire during his funeral yesterday in the Jabaliya refugee camp, northern Gaza. Assaliyah, a civilian, was killed by an Israeli army tank shell during an operation in the camp on Monday.

Load-Date: October 6, 2004

End of Document



At least 38 killed in string of violence around world

Charleston Gazette (West Virginia) September 1, 2004, Wednesday

Copyright 2004 Charleston Newspapers

Section: News; Pg. P2A

Length: 945 words

Byline: The Associated Press

Body

In a wave of violence around the globe Tuesday:

- s A Web site purportedly showed the gruesome killings of 12 hostages in Iraq.
- s At least 10 died and dozens were injured in a Moscow suicide blast.
- s Suicide bombers blew up two buses in Israel, killing 16.

In Baghdad, Iraq, a gruesome video posted on a Web site purported to show militants beheading a Nepalese worker and shooting 11 others in the first mass slaying of foreign hostages during the Iraqi insurgency.

If confirmed, it would raise the number of foreign workers known to have been slain by extremists to at least 22 and would be by far the most ever killed at one time.

Previously, insurgents killed hostages in ones, and perhaps twos, as part of their campaign to force foreign troops and contract workers out of the country.

Interim Iraqi Prime Minister Ayad Allawi promised retribution. "The only solution with this unjust group is to make them face justice," he angrily told the Arab-language Al-Arabiya television station.

Also, in another hostage crisis, French officials held crisis talks in Paris and around the Arab world seeking to save the lives of journalists Christian Chesnot and Georges Malbrunot in the final hours before a Wednesday morning deadline set by kidnappers demanding that France rescind its ban on Muslim head scarves in French schools.

In Moscow, a woman strapped with explosives blew herself up outside a busy subway station Tuesday night, killing at least 10 people and wounding more than 50 in the second terrorist attack to hit Russia in a week.

Seven days earlier, almost to the hour, two Russian jetliners crashed within minutes of each other in what officials determined were terrorist bombings. All 90 people aboard were killed, and the investigation has focused on two Chechen **women** believed to have been passengers.

A militant Muslim Web site published a statement late Tuesday claiming responsibility for the subway bombing on behalf of the "Islambouli Brigades," a group that also claimed it caused the jetliner crashes with suicide teams in retribution for Russia's war with Islamic rebels in Chechnya.

The veracity of neither claim could be confirmed.

The statement said Tuesday's bombing was a blow to Russian President Vladimir Putin "who slaughtered Muslims time and again."

Putin has firmly refused to negotiate with the rebels in predominantly Muslim Chechnya, saying they must be wiped out

In Beersheba, Israel, Palestinian suicide bombers blew up two buses Tuesday, killing 16 passengers and wounding more than 80 in an attack that ended a six-month lull in violence.

The buses exploded into flames just seconds apart and about 100 yards away from each other in the center of Beersheba - the deadliest suicide strike in nearly a year.

Israel had attributed the lull to its separation barrier, arrest sweeps and widespread network of informers.

The <u>Hamas</u> militant group claimed responsibility, issuing a leaflet in Hebron - the closest Palestinian city to Beersheba - saying it was avenging Israel's assassinations of two of its leaders earlier this year.

Israeli Prime Minister Ariel Sharon met with his security advisers to plan a response, expected to include a military operation in Hebron.

Just hours before the attack, Sharon presented his hardline Likud Party with the most detailed timetable yet for Israel's withdrawal from the Gaza Strip.

Despite the bombings, Sharon promised to push forward with the Gaza pullout, while insisting Israel would keep fighting terrorism "with all its might."

"This [the attack] has no connection to disengagement," he said, referring to his program to separate Israel from the Palestinians.

In Washington, Secretary of State Colin Powell condemned the bombings and offered condolences to Israeli Foreign Minister Silvan Shalom, and State Department Spokesman Richard Boucher said <u>Hamas</u> must be put out of business.

White House spokesman Scott McClellan said President Bush had been briefed.

"There's simply no justification for the killing of innocent civilians," McClellan said.

Israeli officials said the bombings proved the need for the barrier now under construction between Israel and the West Bank.

The section between Hebron and Beersheba has not been built.

"We should go ahead speedily now and finish construction of this fence," government spokesman Avi Pazner told The Associated Press.

The barrier, which Israel says is necessary to keep out suicide bombers, has been widely condemned internationally because of the hardships it imposes on Palestinians.

Palestinian analyst Hani al-Masri agreed with the Israeli assessment of the lull in suicide attacks.

He told AP that it resulted from Israel's assassination of <u>Hamas</u> leaders and the difficulties of infiltrating posed by the barrier.

At least 38 killed in string of violence around world

"But now, the military operations [attacks] are a way for <u>Hamas</u> to increase its popularity among Palestinians," he said, noting that until Tuesday, the Islamic group had not carried out its promise to avenge Israel's killing of its founder and his successor.

It had been nearly six months since Israelis last experienced the scene of charred buses, mangled bodies and screaming sirens that played out in Beersheba on Tuesday.

The last suicide bombing in Israel took place on March 14, when 11 people were killed at the port of Ashdod.

Tuesday's attack was the deadliest since a <u>female</u> suicide bomber killed 21 people nearly a year ago in the northern city of Haifa - an attack that prompted Israel to assassinate Sheik Ahmed Yassin, the spiritual leader of <u>Hamas</u>, and his successor, Abdel Aziz Rantisi.

Israel's rescue service said 30 of the wounded in Tuesday's attack were in serious condition. Police said the death toll of 16 did not include the bombers.

Load-Date: September 1, 2004



WHY THE SHEIKH HAD TO GO

The Sun March 23, 2004

Copyright 2004 NEWS GROUP NEWSPAPERS LTD

Section: MIDDLE EAST ERUPTS AFTER TERROR CHIEF'SEXECUTION; OPINION

Length: 245 words

Byline: Lord Greville Janner, Vice President, World Jewish Congress

Body

SHEIKH Ahmed Yassin was the terrorist mastermind behind years of *Hamas* atrocities.

Just as Britain seeks to rid the world of Osama Bin Laden and of his cronies in Afghanistan, so the death of Yassin should be seen as a major victory in the free world's war against terror.

Sir John Stevens has warned a terrorist attack against London is "inevitable".

The Madrid bombings have shown how vulnerable we all are.

For years, Israel's citizens have been living with the fear and hideous reality of terrorist attacks. Suicide bombers, indoctrinated and trained by <u>Hamas</u> and other terrorist organisations, have constantly destroyed the lives of Israel's people, killing hundreds of innocent men, <u>women</u> and children.

British police and security services are focused on how to deter, to prevent and to combat terrorist attacks here. Equally, the job of Israel's democratically-elected government is to seek to protect their citizens. Every day, Israeli families wait with deep concern for the return home of their children. All expect their Government to do all in its power to keep them safe.

So it should be no surprise when that Government removes the area's terrorist mastermind. Israel is taking antiterrorist action which we are already using in Iraq and Afghanistan. We should understand the deep problems of our proud, democratic, Western ally.

We should hope and pray the end of Yassin marks the beginning of a real move towards peace which both peoples need so desperately.

Load-Date: March 24, 2004



<u>Israel poised for return to Gaza as attacks escalate; Period of calm on the</u> brink of collapse

Sydney Morning Herald (Australia)

July 18, 2005 Monday

First Edition

Copyright 2005 John Fairfax Publications Pty Ltd All Rights Reserved

Section: NEWS AND FEATURES; International News; Pg. 9

Length: 527 words

Byline: Ed O'Loughlin Herald Correspondent in Gaza

Body

The nominal Israeli-Palestinian ceasefire was on the brink of final collapse as Israeli tanks and troops massed for a threatened reinvasion of the Gaza Strip.

Israel's Deputy Defence Minister, Zeev Boim, told Israeli radio yesterday that a "large-scale operation in Gaza" was "a matter of hours" away if the Palestinian Authority did not crack down on militants who have begun a renewed missile bombardment of neighbouring Israeli towns and Jewish settlements.

The invasion threat follows days of escalating attacks that cost the lives of six Israelis and at least 10 Palestinians.

The collapse of the "period of calm" signed by both sides in February would also end hopes for a peaceful transition should Israel honour its pledge to begin removing its troops and 8000 settlers from Gaza in a month's time.

The Prime Minister, Ariel Sharon, repeated his stand at the weekend that "disengagement" was in Israel's interest and would take place unilaterally, regardless of militant activity.

But powerful elements within Israel's security establishment say that no withdrawal should take place under fire, and want to repeat massive tank and helicopter raids that killed more than 200 Palestinian militants and civilians in Gaza last year.

The latest escalation was triggered last Tuesday when a suicide bomber killed five Israelis, four of them <u>women</u> or girls, in the coastal city of Netanya. Claiming responsibility, the militant group Islamic Jihad said it was retaliating for continuing Israeli operations that had killed about 40 Palestinian militants and civilians and arrested hundreds more in spite of the "period of calm".

In response, Israeli raids in the West Bank killed a Palestinian policeman and a militant, prompting the larger Islamic group *Hamas* to launch the latest in a series of bombardments of Israeli communities bordering Gaza.

A 22 year-old Israeli woman was killed when a homemade missile struck an agricultural co-operative, and the Israeli Defence Force responded with a series of air strikes and ground raids that killed at least six militants in the West Bank and Gaza.

Israel poised for return to Gaza as attacks escalate Period of calm on the brink of collapse

Another Palestinian was reportedly shot dead for throwing stones at Israeli troops in the West Bank and a <u>Hamas</u> leader was killed by sniper fire in southern Gaza yesterday.

Israeli and Palestinian authorities are also faced with the threat of unrest among their own people. Two Palestinian teenagers were shot dead in Gaza last Friday in the crossfire between <u>Hamas</u> militants and Palestinian police who had been sent to prevent them firing missiles at Israel. A Palestinian police officer was seriously injured.

A few kilometres to the south, several Israeli police and protesters were injured as right-wing Jews clashed with security forces who have sealed off southern Gaza settlements scheduled for removal next month.

The Palestinian President, Mahmoud Abbas, appealed on the radio at the weekend for all militant factions to halt their attacks on Israel and return to the ceasefire agreed last February.

But Mr Boim dismissed the statements. "I do not think anyone is relying on Abu Mazen," he said, referring to Mr Abbas. "No one thinks he is going to confront the terrorism."

Graphic

PHOTO: Troops massing ... an Israeli officer speaks to troops at an army staging area near Kibbutz Mefalsim, just outside Gaza. Photo: AP/Emilio Morenatti

Load-Date: July 17, 2007



WORLD DIGEST

St. Louis Post-Dispatch (Missouri)

May 24, 2005 Tuesday

FIVE STAR LATE LIFT EDITION

Copyright 2005 St. Louis Post-Dispatch, Inc.

Section: NEWS; Pg. A9

Length: 536 words

Byline: FROM NEWS SERVICES

Body

MEXICO

Fox again declines to apologize for remark

President Vicente Fox again refused to issue a formal apology Monday for a remark about blacks that some people construed as racist. But he accepted an invitation from a U.S. civil rights activist to meet with blacks in New York.

After meeting with Fox, the Rev. Al Sharpton said Fox still needed to apologize for saying Mexican migrants take jobs that "not even blacks" want in the United States. But he also said he would join Fox in pushing for U.S. migration reforms that would favor Mexican workers.

"I think we had a very frank and very blunt discussion," Sharpton told reporters. "We didn't throw chairs at each other, but we didn't bar any holds either."

The two discussed ways in which blacks and Hispanics could work together to help strengthen both communities, Sharpton said.

WEST BANK

Palestinians delay elections set for July

The Palestinian Election Commission said Monday that parliamentary elections scheduled for July 17 will be delayed because it needed more time to prepare for the vote. The move threatens to inflame a dispute between the militant group *Hamas* and the ruling Fatah party.

The election commission said it would need at least two months from the time a new election law was ratified to prepare for the vote. The law is being held up by a dispute between Palestinian leader Mahmoud Abbas and parliament over how many legislators should be chosen in district elections and how many from party slates.

<u>Hamas</u> hopes for more gains after strong showings in three rounds of municipal elections since December. It has insisted the parliament vote be held as scheduled. Before Monday's announcement, <u>Hamas</u> spokesman Mohammed Ghazal accused Fatah of using logistics as a pretext to delay the vote.

INDIA

WORLD DIGEST

Police increase security after theater bombings

Police increased security at movie theaters Monday after weekend bombings that killed at least one person and wounded 50 at two cinemas in New Delhi showing a film condemned by Sikh religious leaders.

The bombs struck 15 minutes apart Sunday night at two theaters showing the Hindi-language film "Jo Bole So Nihal" ("Anyone Who Calls Out to God Will Be Blessed"). Sikh leaders say the film offends their faith by showing a Sikh character chased by scantily clad <u>women</u>.

On Monday, every theater that had been showing the movie in New Delhi and at least seven in Bombay, the country's moviemaking center, pulled it off their screens.

EGYPT

Foreigners will be free to observe election

Foreigners are free to observe voting in Egypt's first multicandidate presidential election in September, but the government will not accept international monitors having any role in the process, Prime Minister Ahmed Nazief said Monday.

He promised Egypt would hold free and fair elections and said television cameras would broadcast the event to the world.

Just back from a meeting at the White House with President George W. Bush, Nazief briefed President Hosni Mubarak on the talks. "There may be observers and not monitors," Nazief said, without elaboration. His office said later that meant outsiders were welcome to come and watch the voting but that Egypt would not grant responsibility to any outside monitoring authority.

Load-Date: May 24, 2005



Sharon vows to step up assault on Gaza strip as death toll rises

The Guardian (London) - Final Edition
October 4, 2004

Copyright 2004 Guardian Newspapers Limited **Section:** Guardian Home Pages, Pg. 2

Length: 696 words

Byline: Chris McGreal in Gaza City

Body

Ariel Sharon said yesterday that an assault on the Gaza strip that has claimed more than 60 lives and injured 250 people - the bloodiest of the intifada - will be expanded until it puts an end to *Hamas* rocket strikes against Israel.

At least eight people were killed yesterday, most of them insurgents. But the dead also included a 13-year old boy and a deaf and mute man shot in his home by an Israeli sniper.

About 2,000 troops backed by 200 tanks, armoured vehicles and helicopters have reoccupied swaths of northern Gaza in order to carve out a six-mile wide buffer zone along the border. Israeli forces have also for the first time entered the Jabaliya refugee camp, where most of the fighting of the past five days has taken place.

Mr Sharon said Operation Days of Penitence, launched after a <u>Hamas</u> rocket fired from Gaza killed two children in the Israeli town of Sderot last week, will not end swiftly.

"It is necessary to bring about a complete end to the firing of rockets on Sderot and other towns that border the Gaza strip. The current situation cannot continue," the prime minister told Israel radio. "We have to expand . . . the areas of operation in order to get the rocket launchers out of the range of Israeli towns."

Mr Sharon said the assault would not affect his plan to withdraw all Jewish settlers and Israeli military bases from the Gaza strip by the end of next year. But the UN agency for Palestinian refugees said the reoccupation could contribute to a further collapse of difficult conditions in Gaza.

Thousands of people have been trapped for days with no water or electricity, and the chronically ill without access to hospitals.

The death toll continued to rise yesterday. The army killed at least four Palestinian fighters in missile strikes. One was against a group of men who had just fired a rocket into Israel, and a 16-year-old youth with them. Another missile targeted two Islamic Jihad activists in Jabaliya.

More than 30 tanks and bulldozers moved into an area north-east of Jabaliya to demolish houses, factories and a kindergarten, following days of destruction in northern Gaza. Last night the Israeli air force fired two missiles at militants in Gaza city, wounding three people, witnesses said.

The Palestinian leader, Yasser Arafat, declared a state of emergency in Gaza and called on the international community to "stop these inhumane and racist crimes". But the Palestinian prime minister, Ahmed Qureia, urged

Sharon vows to step up assault on Gaza strip as death toll rises

<u>Hamas</u> and similar groups "to think about the higher national interest and not give Israel excuses to continue the aggression against our people in Gaza".

The US urged Israel to avoid civilian casualties but said it had the right to defend its citizens against terrorism.

So far though the Israeli military has avoided the scale of civilian casualties that forced it to curtail its assault on Rafah camp in southern Gaza in May, when a high proportion of those killed were children and <u>women</u> shot by Israeli snipers, and a tank fired a shell into a peaceful demonstration.

The fighting in Gaza has prompted a fresh confrontation between Israel and the UN after the military said one of its spy drones spotted a UN ambulance being used to transport a <u>Hamas</u> rocket. Israel said its ambassador to the UN, Dan Gillerman, would demand that the UN dismiss the head of its Palestinian refugee agency, Peter Hansen.

But Mr Hansen said the grainy Israeli video showed UN ambulance workers carry ing a stretcher, not a rocket. He said it was not the first time the government had "propagated falsehoods" against the UN Relief and Works Agency (UNRWA).

"A few months ago, two cabinet ministers declared in public that UNRWA ambulances were carrying body parts of fallen Israeli soldiers. When challenged to produce the evidence backing up this claim, or to retract the statement and offer an apology, the ministers in question were not able to provide any response and have remained silent."

In May, Mr Gillerman told the UN security council that an Israeli shell fired into a peaceful demonstration in Rafah had mostly killed gunmen. In fact, the dead were children or unarmed adults.

Battlefield Gaza, page 14

guardian.co.uk/israel

Load-Date: October 5, 2004



Ottawa modestly improves aid to peace process: MIDDLE EAST I A visit from Mahmoud Abbas drew an additional \$12.2 million for the Palestinian Authority

The Vancouver Sun (British Columbia)

May 28, 2005 Saturday

Final Edition

Copyright 2005 CanWest Interactive, a division of CanWest Global Communications Corp. All Rights Reserved

Section: NEWS; Pg. A5

Length: 525 words

Byline: Terry Pedwell, Canadian Press

Dateline: OTTAWA

Body

OTTAWA -- A six-hour visit to Canada by Palestinian President Mahmoud Abbas on Friday prompted the federal government to modestly improve its aid to the Middle East peace process, and to help the Palestinian Authority boost its economy and build infrastructure.

Prime Minister Paul Martin announced an additional \$12.2 million in aid after meeting with Abbas, who paid a brief visit to Ottawa for the first time since being elected in January.

Calling it a "down payment" on Canada's commitment to fostering peace in the region, Martin suggested any additional money would be conditional on Abbas following through on promised reforms.

"President Abbas must take firm measures against violence and terrorism, and should vigorously pursue the [corruption] reform program that he has launched," the prime minister said.

Martin's statements echoed U.S. President George W. Bush, who praised Abbas on Thursday for taking steps to end violence and reform his government.

Bush predicted that Palestinians will reject candidates of the militant group <u>Hamas</u> in coming parliamentary elections.

Martin went further, referring to *Hamas* as a terrorist organization that is hurting the peace process.

"Hamas are terrorists," Martin said.

"You're not going to have a multi-party system that's going to function unless people are prepared to lay down their arms."

"Terrorism and democracy are simply incompatible."

Ottawa modestly improves aid to peace process: MIDDLE EAST I A visit from Mahmoud Abbas drew an additional \$12.2 million for the Palestinian Authority

Canada's refurbished aid package includes money for judicial reform, monitors for elections, housing support, border management and a scholarship fund for Palestinian refugee **women** in Lebanon.

While the amount has been described by officials as "modest," it gives hope to Palestinians that their lives can be improved, Martin said as he stood beside Abbas.

"What we can do is to provide [the Palestinian] people, and in fact the people of Israel, with great hope that peace is there," Martin said.

Most of the money will be spent on judicial reform and housing.

Martin pledged \$5 million for promoting impartiality among judges and training in human rights, through a project launched by the University of Windsor in Ontario.

Another \$5 million will support housing infrastructure projects in the West Bank and Gaza.

"This project will provide the Palestinian Authority with Canadian know-how, and provide badly needed assistance to Palestinians through improving living conditions and generating employment," Martin said.

"This is all part of encouraging the Canadian private sector -- especially the vibrant Palestinian-Canadian community -- to increase the role they will play in helping the Palestinian economy to recover and to grow."

Canada will also send a 50-member delegation to observe elections expected later this year.

As well, Canada's border service agency will provide technical aid to the Palestinian Authority to improve security and the flow of goods at border crossings. Another \$500,000 will go to a scholarship fund for Palestinian refugee **women** in Lebanon.

Conservative foreign affairs critic Stockwell day was quick to criticize the aid package, accusing Martin of failing to usher in a new era of Canadian leadership in the Middle East peace process.

Graphic

Colour Photo: Fred Chartrand, Canadian Press; Prime Minister Paul Martin watches as Mahmoud Abbas, President of the Palestinian Authority, responds to questions.

Load-Date: May 28, 2005



WORLD IN BRIEF

The Atlanta Journal-Constitution

June 17, 2005 Friday

Home Edition

Copyright 2005 The Atlanta Journal-Constitution

The Atlanta Journal-Constitution

Section: News;; Briefs Length: 552 words

Byline: JEFFRY SCOTT

Body

EU constitution put on hold

European Union leaders decided Thursday to put their planned constitution on hold after French and Dutch voters rejected it, the Irish foreign minister said. Dermot Ahern said leaders meeting in Brussels, Belgium, agreed that a "period of pause and reflection" must follow the rejection of the EU's blueprint for closer integration of the 25-nation bloc.

Schoolkids freed in Cambodia; 1 killed

After a six-hour standoff, police overpowered gunmen who had burst into an international school near Cambodia's famed Angkor Wat temples and were holding dozens of toddlers and demanding money. A 3-year-old Canadian boy was killed by the gunmen, who said he cried too much.

No ties with *Hamas*, Israel urges Europe

Israel has protested rising European contacts with <u>Hamas</u>, urging the European Union to keep the group on its list of terror groups, after three senior <u>Hamas</u> members said their group had been talking regularly to EU diplomats.

Aruba wants youths held 8 more days

Citing "serious grounds," Aruba Attorney General Caren Janssen asked a judge to detain for eight more days the three youths jailed as suspects in the case of missing Alabama teen Natalee Holloway. Judge Bob Wit will decide today whether Joran Van Der Sloot, 17, and brothers Deepak Kalpoe, 21, and Satish Kalpoe, 18, will remain in jail, according to reports published in today's edition of Antilliaans Dagblad, a Dutch daily newspaper.

Saudi pact averts nuclear inspections

WORLD IN BRIEF

The U.N. atomic watchdog agency approved a deal to keep nuclear inspectors out of Saudi Arabia. The Saudis qualified for a "small quantities protocol" --- an agreement that already applies to 75 other nations and puts the onus solely on the nation to report its status to the International Atomic Energy Agency.

At least 21 killed in Guatemala mudslide

A rain-sodden hill gave way and buried houses in a rural Guatemalan town, killing at least 21 people. Forty others were injured in the landslide in San Antonio Senahu.

Nancy Reagan OK after fall in London

Former U.S. first lady Nancy Reagan slipped and fell in her London hotel room and was taken to a hospital for examination and released, her chief of staff said. Mrs. Reagan, who turns 84 on July 6, was on a private vacation of about 10 days to Britain.

Female pilot expects flak in Saudi Arabia

A Saudi woman who recently obtained her pilot's license in Jordan said she had been hired by a private aviation company to fly commercial planes. Capt. Hanadi al-Hindi, 27, said she expected an angry reaction when she arrived back in Saudi Arabia on Saturday. Conservatives believe <u>women</u> should be confined to home or jobs that do not entail mixing with men.

Indonesian latest to contract bird flu

Indonesia became the latest Asian nation to record a human case of bird flu. A poultry worker on the island of Sulawesi tested positive for the H5N1 strain of the virus, the health ministry said.

Russia: Chechen killed U.S. newsman

Russian prosecutors claim to have solved the slaying of U.S. journalist Paul Klebnikov, the editor of Forbes magazine's Russian edition who was gunned down outside Forbes' Moscow offices in 2004. They said the killing was ordered by Khozh-Akhmed Nukhayev, a former deputy prime minister in Chechnya's separatist government who was the subject of a critical book by Klebnikov.

Graphic

Associated Press Parents and security officials rush young students to safety outside a Cambodian school.

Load-Date: June 17, 2005



Palestinians dissatisfied by releases; 400 prisoners freed by Israeli cabinet

The International Herald Tribune
May 31, 2005 Tuesday

Copyright 2005 International Herald Tribune

Section: NEWS; Pg. 5

Length: 554 words

Byline: Steven Erlanger

Dateline: JERUSALEM:

Body

The Israeli cabinet's decision to approve the release of 400 Palestinian prisoners fulfilled a long-delayed promise made in February to the Palestinian president, Mahmoud Abbas, but drew immediate Palestinian criticism.

The Israeli prime minister, Ariel Sharon, said in a statement Sunday that despite failures to deal with terrorism as Abbas promised, he recognized the need to support Abbas and those Palestinians competing with <u>Hamas</u>, the radical Islamic faction that Israel and the United States consider a terrorist group. Sharon also cited his own promises made at the Sharm el Sheikh summit meeting in February.

The New York Times

Sharon said critics of the proposed pullout of Israeli settlers from Gaza who argue that it will strengthen terrorism also "understand the need to strengthen the principal moderate element" in the Palestinian Authority and to "honor our commitments."

The 400 prisoners, who will be released in about a week, are likely to include some who have more than one-third of their terms to serve.

But none of those to be released were convicted of killing or planning to kill Israelis, Sharon said.

That disappointed Palestinians, who have been eager to secure the release of some of the 360 longer-term prisoners who were jailed before the 1993 Oslo accords that set up the Palestinian Authority.

About 7,000 Palestinians are in Israeli custody.

The Palestinian minister for prisoners, Sufian Abu Zaydeh, said: "This one-sided step does not meet the minimum of our demands. Our priority is to release young prisoners, the <u>women</u>, the elderly, the sick and political leaders like Marwan Barghouti" who was sentenced to five life terms for conspiring to murder Israelis.

Saeb Erekat, another Palestinian minister, said the decision was "not enough" and called on Israel to keep another of its promises and hand over to Palestinian security forces three West Bank cities: Bethlehem, Qalqilya and Ramallah. Israel says the Palestinians are not keeping their commitments to disarm wanted militants in those cities.

Palestinians dissatisfied by releases; 400 prisoners freed by Israeli cabinet

Three members of Sharon's Likud Party voted against the prisoner release: Benjamin Netanyahu, Danny Naveh and Yisrael Katz. Netanyahu said that the Palestinians had failed to take promised action against <u>Hamas</u> and militants, and that given warnings from the military about "the strengthening of <u>Hamas</u> and the ineffectuality of the Palestinian Authority, I see no reason to give them a prize."

Two Palestinians were killed by Israeli troops in the West Bank over the weekend. One was shot about 20 yards, or 18 meters, from the Tomb of the Patriarchs in Hebron, a regular site of Israeli-Palestinian tension, after he reportedly ran toward Israeli soldiers with a knife and said he was going to kill them. Soldiers fired into the air, and then shot and killed him. An Israeli Army spokesman said letters to his family were found on him, saying he wanted to die a martyr.

The other Palestinian was killed, and two more were wounded, in a shootout near Jenin.

In Gaza, a Palestinian died when the rocket-propelled grenade he was trying to fire exploded prematurely. Two more militants from the Fatah-linked Al Aksa Martyrs Brigades died and three were critically wounded in a blast in an orchard in Gaza City when a Palestinian bomb exploded prematurely, a Palestinian security official told Reuters.

Load-Date: May 31, 2005



Israelis wonder whether anything can bring peace

USA TODAY March 23, 2004, Tuesday, FINAL EDITION

Copyright 2004 Gannett Company, Inc.

Section: NEWS;

Length: 855 words

Byline: Michele Chabin; Special for USA TODAY

Dateline: JERUSALEM

Body

JERUSALEM -- Cafe Caffit, a fashionable bar-restaurant, usually is packed with diners at dinner time. Not so on Monday night, after a missile fired by an Israeli helicopter killed Sheik Ahmed Yassin, founder of the militant group *Hamas*.

Like most of the other establishments that line trendy Emek Rafaim Street in southern Jerusalem, Caffit was nearly deserted.

"You can see for yourself," owner Gabi Altaratz said, surveying his nearly empty restaurant. "Only four tables out of the 45 tables are occupied."

A year and a half ago, a terrorist carrying more than 40 pounds of explosives tried to blow himself up as he entered Cafe Caffit. An observant waiter spotted the bomb's wires and pounced on the Palestinian and prevented a catastrophe. "Things were slow after that, too, but they rebounded," Altaratz said with a weak smile.

Even though his business has been targeted by terrorists, Altaratz said he opposed Yassin's assassination, mostly on principle. "Personally, I'm against killing of any kind and would have preferred to see Yassin rot in jail."

Then, recalling that Israel released Yassin from prison in the 1990s -- at a time when it looked like Israelis and Palestinians might actually make peace -- Altaratz said he is no longer confident that peace is attainable: "I'm not sure that the Palestinian people really want peace. I'm not sure there is a solution to this mess."

According to preliminary opinion polls conducted Monday, an overwhelming majority of Israelis support the assassination of Yassin. In one survey, conducted Monday by the Channel 3 cable network, 82% of those polled said they favored the killing. Only 16% opposed the attack. The remainder were undecided.

Sam Lehman-Wilzig, an Israeli political scientist and media analyst, said the survey results did not surprise him, given Yassin's repeated calls for Israel's demise.

"<u>Hamas</u>' underlying ideology is the destruction of the state of Israel. This means that it's not an issue of how much the Palestinians want Israel to concede. Nothing less than national suicide on the part of Israelis will satisfy **Hamas**," Lehman-Wilzig said.

Israelis wonder whether anything can bring peace

The assassination, he said, was meant not only to thwart Palestinian violence but also to help Israeli Prime Minister Ariel Sharon win some political points at home. Sharon, a longtime supporter of Israeli settlements in Palestinian areas, recently announced that he intends to unilaterally withdraw Israeli troops from Gaza, which Israel has occupied since 1967. He also plans to dismantle Israeli settlements there.

"Israelis fear that the Palestinians will view a Gaza withdrawal as caving into to terrorism, (so) Sharon needs to show that if we get out of Gaza, it will be under our own conditions," Lehman-Wilzig said.

Although many liberal Israelis support Sharon's plan to leave Gaza, they also oppose political assassinations of Palestinian militants. Peace Now, the largest group in the "peace camp," hastily organized a demonstration in Tel Aviv to express its disapproval.

On Emek Rafaim Street, where Palestinian bombers have blown up a cafe and a public bus in the past year, the mood was more somber than defiant. Fewer people than usual were on the street, and those who did venture out did not appear to linger.

<u>Female</u> soldiers camped out at checkpoints on either end of the long, narrow road occasionally pulled over motorists and checked their identity cards. Private security guards sat outside every restaurant, in accordance with government security procedures introduced in response to the Palestinian uprising that began in September 2000.

Waiting to board a bus, Netanel Uzana, 14, said he supported the Yassin assassination.

"I was excited when I heard about it. Yassin was a terrorist. He ordered his people to blow up cafes and buses. The world is safer without him," Uzana said.

But Chani Hinker, an educator in her 50s, said she feared that "a lot of innocent Israelis and Palestinians will pay the price for this assassination." Hinker said Yassin's killing was "a sign of arrogance by the state of Israel. There will be even more terror attacks."

In her airy, top-floor apartment around the corner from Emek Refaim Street, Mallory Serebrin, a ceramics artist in her 30s, couldn't decide whether the killing will do more harm than good. "It was a good thing to knock out Yassin, the source of the terrorism. But you have to wonder whether it will lead to an even greater escalation of violence," Serebrin said. "One thing's for certain," she added. "We can't continue to go on like this."

Serebrin ticked off the ways she tries to avoid places likely to be targeted by terrorists. "After the latest bus bombing down the street, I stopped taking the bus. I was an hour away from being on that bus."

When she walks down any street in Jerusalem, Serebrin said, "I wonder if the bus going by will blow up next to me, or if the cafe I'm passing by will blow up. I question all of my choices. Should I walk on a side street or take the main road?"

Despite the constant fear, she said she hasn't changed her routine. "I still go everywhere I want to go," she said. "But these days, I do a lot more walking."

Graphic

PHOTO, B/W, Suhaib Salem, Reuters; PHOTO, B/W, Adel Hana, AP; In Gaza City: Thousands take part in the funeral procession of Sheik Ahmed Yassin, founder of <u>Hamas</u>. He was killed Monday in an Israeli attack. <>Heavily armed: *Hamas* members attend Yassin's funeral Monday.

Load-Date: March 23, 2004



YOUR SAY

Herald Sun (Melbourne, Australia)

April 21, 2004 Wednesday

Copyright 2004 Nationwide News Pty Limited

Section: OPINION; Pg. 18

Length: 529 words

Body

Contempt for peace

THE Butcher of Beirut, Ariel Sharon, is at it again. Clearly, the destruction of Palestine is the objective of Sharon and Israel generally.

Since becoming leader in 2001, Sharon has shown nothing but contempt for peace, constantly destabilising the region.

The Berlin-style wall on Palestinian land, the murder of civilians and the assassination of political figures have contributed to the destruction of the peace process.

How long will it be before the world steps in and stops Israel from going too far?

Brian Jones,

East Brighton

Killing in self defence

THE usual complaints have begun about the killing of *Hamas* leader al-Rantissi.

Sure, it would have been better if the Palestinians had been kind enough to hand over al-Rantissi and other terrorists.

Unfortunately, the Arab/Islamic world has a nasty habit of nurturing and glorifying their terrorists, which the hypocritical UN and EU seem to ignore.

Israel tries to protect citizens by destabilising terror groups such as <u>Hamas</u>, a group committed to Israel's destruction.

I wonder if there would be complaints about the killing of Osama bin Laden if that opportunity were to arise?

Mary Werther,

Camberwell

US must act in Mid-East

YOUR SAY

YET again Israel carries out a political assassination, this time recently-elected <u>Hamas</u> leader Abdel-Aziz al-Rantissi.

Yet again, Israel's actions are condemned by all except the United States.

On this occasion, British Foreign Secretary Jack Straw declares the killing to be wrong and unhelpful to peace and even our Foreign Affairs Minister, Alexander Downer, describes the actions as provocative and counter-productive.

When will these influential members of the coalition of the willing demand that the US play an active role in stopping political assassinations?

Such actions do nothing other than strengthen the resolve of those determined to follow their leaders into martyrdom.

Of course, there is no simple solution to this complex issue but for however long Israel continues to receive the tacit approval of the United States, the level of violence will escalate.

Ian De Landelles.

Canberra, ACT

Silent and condemning

SO Kofi Annan and the civilised West condemn the assassination of Abdel-Aziz al-Rantissi.

This is the same Kofi Annan who sat on his hands and allowed 800,000 innocent Rwandans to be slaughtered some 10 years ago. What did Annan and the rest of the West have to say about the latest suicide bombing at the Erez border, which killed a soldier and wounded three people?

That's right, nothing.

Deborah Wiener,

Melbourne

Anniversary of genocide

ON April 15, we remembered the 10th anniversary of the Rwandan genocide, when Hutus slaughtered 800,000 Tutsi men, <u>women</u> and children. The UN was there as a peacekeeper but told them not to get involved and removed them.

It sounds familiar, doesn't it? The United Nations never gets involved when it's "internal".

Remember how long it took them to do something about the ethnic cleansing of Moslems in Kosovo?

On this 10th anniversary of the Rwandan genocide, we should all hang our heads in shame.

Michael Scotts,

McCrae

Load-Date: April 20, 2004



First female on death mission

Geelong Advertiser (Regional Daily)

January 16, 2004 Friday

Copyright 2004 Nationwide News Pty Limited All Rights Reserved

Section: WORLD; Pg. 31

Length: 265 words

Byline: MIDDLE EAST Gaza Strip, Thursday

Body

ISRAEL closed a Gaza industrial park after a Palestinian bomber killed four Israelis nearby -- the first time the Islamic *Hamas* sent a woman on a suicide mission.

The aftermath of yesterday's attack meant further hardships for Palestinians.

The impoverished Gaza Strip depends on jobs in Israel for much of its income. In a routine security move, Israel closed the crossing after the attack, turning workers away, and also shutting down the Erez industrial park where 6000 Palestinians work.

Israel Radio reported that workers could cross into Israel today, but the industrial park would remain closed.

Brigadier General Gadi Shamni, the Israeli military commander in Gaza, indicated that Israel would hit back.

"I imagine that we will know how to respond at the time, place and method of our choosing," he said.

The army said four of the seven wounded in the attack were Palestinians.

There was widespread speculation that one of the <u>Hamas</u> goals in the attack was to focus blame on Israel by increasing hardships in Gaza. Late yesterday, Palestinian militants fired two mortar rounds at the empty industrial park, but they fell short.

However, Rami Mansour, 39, a Palestinian who works at an Israeli-owned garage in the industrial zone, was angry that militant groups put his income in jeopardy.

"No one is supporting the (Israeli) occupation, but if you want to fight you have to think of others," he said.

Palestinian Prime Minister Ahmed Qurie declined to condemn the bombing, saying that continued Israeli attacks and restrictions on the Palestinians were leading "to more escalation on both sides".

Load-Date: January 15, 2004



Mother embraces murderous dream

Canberra Times (Australia)
January 17, 2004 Saturday
Final Edition

Copyright 2004 The Federal Capital Press of Australia Pty Limited

Section: A;

Length: 863 words

Body

In the video she left before she died, Reem al-Riashi said she had dreamed of becoming a "martyr"; that she wanted pieces of her body to fly like "deadly shrapnel". In the end they were spongingup her body parts from the floor, indistinguishable from the pieces of flesh of the four other people she murdered on Wednesday when she detonated her suicide bomb belt.

The mother of two was buried on Thursday with a chilling pledge from her hardlineIslamic group that she would not be their last *female* "martyr".Riashi was only the second Palestinian mother to become a suicide bomber. She left behind two children: Mohammed, three, and Doha, two. "God gave me two children and I loved them so much," she said in her videotaped suicide message. "Only God knew how much I loved them." Now her children are motherless.

She died just a day after Tom Hurndall, the unarmed British peace activist, who was shot in the head by an Israeli soldier just a few miles south in the Gaza Strip last April, and left in a coma for nine months. Riashi was 22, the same age as Mr Hurndall. He died trying to rescue Palestinian children trapped in the line of fire. Riashi died in order to kill and maim.

Her family disowned her for what she did. "I condemn it," her brother-in-law said. "I support peace." Some said they saw her husband sitting, crying. He did not know what she was going to do. She talked her way past an Israeli security check at a border crossing out of the Gaza Strip, then set off her explosives, killing two Israeli soldiers, a member of the military-style border police, and an Israeli civilian.

Some time before 9.30am, when Riashi detonated her bomb, she arrived to queue at the border crossing for Palestinianworkers into an industrial complex on the Israeli side of the border. Some 3000 Palestinianscross to work in the complex every day. This week Israelis were describing it as a symbol of cooperation between Palestinians and Israelis. But it is a symbol of another sort for the Palestinians trapped inside Gaza. Desperate for work, they have to queue for hours in narrow spaces between metal bars to be allowed in to the industrial area. It was Riashi's first time queuing here. She claimed she had come to apply for an ID card with a magnetic strip, which would allow her to cross every day to work in the complex. She was faking a limp to get past security, and witnesses said one woman had helped Riashi, believing she was disabled. Riashi thanked the stranger, then warned her to back away.

The Israeli Army's brigade commander in Gaza, Major Gadi Shamni, said when she reached the front of the queue, Riashi told the Israeli soldiers manning the security check that she had a metal implant in her leg, which she feared would set off the metal detector. Because she was a woman, the soldiers sent for a *female* soldier to check her, and asked her to step inside and wait.

Mother embraces murderous dream

Suddenly there was an explosion. Under her clothes, Riashi was wearing a vest packed with explosives, and once inside the room she set them off. The room was full of people: Israeli soldiers and security guards, and Palestinianswaiting to cross. Seven were wounded, four of them Palestinians. One Palestinian woman said she saw the woman ahead of her in the queue, who had just gone into the room, with blood pouring from her legs.

In the upmarket neighbourhood of Gaza City where Riashi lived, the mood was sombre. There was the usual tent for mourners, but little of the mood of defiance and even celebration that usually comes after a suicide bomber's death. Riashi's brother emerged from her funeral prayers in the local mosque, but he would not say anything. At the house where she lived, they were taking the furniture out before the Israeli army got there. The army demolishes the homes of suicide bombers, a practice condemned by internationalhuman-rights groups as collective punishment because it is the bombers' relatives who suffer. What prompted a mother of two small children to abandon them and carry out such a terrible deed remains unknown. Gaza is a pressure cooker, where millions of Palestiniansare trapped in a small coastal strip, with mass unemploymentand poverty. But Riashi'sfamily was well off. There were rumours of a disagreementbetween her husband and the family, even that he had not been at home for some time. In the video she left behind, Riashi said she had dreamed of becoming a "martyr"since she was 13. Swathed in a green sash and headband of the militant group <u>Hamas</u>, clutching a machine-gun and smiling, she said, "I always wanted to be the first woman to carry out a martyr attack, where parts of my body can fly all over. That is the only wish I can ask God for." She was not the first Palestinian woman to carry out a suicide bombing, but she was the first to do so for <u>Hamas</u>. <u>Hamas</u> said it had sent a <u>female</u> bomber for the first time because Israeli security had created "obstacles" for male bombers, and that there would be more use of this new tactic.

It was the first suicide bombing since Christmas Day, and the first from <u>Hamas</u> in months. In recent weeks the talk from <u>Hamas</u> has been of a possible cease-fire. Now it seems the killing is back.- TheIndependent

Load-Date: October 30, 2004



Suicide bomber hits Israeli mall

The Toronto Star

July 13, 2005 Wednesday

Copyright 2005 Toronto Star Newspapers, Ltd.

Section: NEWS; Pg. A04

Length: 772 words

Byline: Mitch Potter, Toronto Star

Dateline: JERUSALEM

Body

The weakest link in the chain of Palestinian violence broke yesterday when Islamic Jihad dispatched a suicide bomber to the Israeli coastal town of Netanya, killing three **women** and injuring more than 37 other civilians.

The early-evening attack, after a month of creeping violence, tested the limits of a fragile, five-month ceasefire as Israel readies for a pivotal pullout from the Gaza Strip set for mid-August.

A cell of Islamic Jihad claimed responsibility, naming the bomber as Ahmed Abu Khalil, an 18-year-old student from a village near the West Bank city of Tulkarm. A farewell video was circulated showing Khalil saying, "We reiterate our commitment to calm, but we have to retaliate for Israeli violations."

Israel's security cabinet huddled last night to plan a response. Israeli media quoted an unnamed official as saying the attack would be answered "with strength."

Early today, Israeli troops shot and killed a Palestinian policeman during a raid on Tulkarm, Palestinian witnesses said. The Israeli army had no immediate comment, Reuters reports.

Israeli officials renewed a call for Palestinian Authority President Mahmoud Abbas to act decisively against armed factions, citing the bombing as further evidence that the fledging Palestinian leader's efforts to co-opt the militants are failing.

Abbas condemned the bombing in uncharacteristically blunt language, calling it "idiotic." He vowed this time its planners would be punished.

"We condemn this terrorist attack. It is a crime against the Palestinian people," Abbas said. "Those traitors are working against the Palestinian interest. There is no rational man who can do those things on the eve of the Israeli withdrawal from 22 settlements."

James Wolfensohn, the special envoy for disengagement, calling the bombing an offence "not only on the Israeli people but also on the Palestinian people, because it diminishes the prospects for the agreements that will ensure the freedom, dignity and hope they deserve."

The bomber exploded near a crowd of teenagers at a crosswalk in front of the Hashalom Mall in Netanya, a largely secular and affluent coastal city north of Tel Aviv.

Suicide bomber hits Israeli mall

Netanya is currently host for the Maccabiah Games, involving delegations of Jewish athletes from around the world. A games spokesperson said no competitors were harmed.

Islamic Jihad has existed since the early 1980s but remains far out on the fringes of the militant pantheon; it only enjoys popular support from an estimated 1 per cent of Palestinians.

Like the far more influential <u>Hamas</u> faction, Islamic Jihad seeks the destruction of Israel and the creation of an Islamic state in its place.

Unlike <u>Hamas</u>, Islamic Jihad operates no social service organizations; it exists only as a group of loosely linked militant rejectionists, with an active membership estimated to be in the hundreds.

The same cell that claimed responsibility yesterday killed five Israelis in a Feb. 25 bomb attack in Tel Aviv, despite having agreed earlier to a "period of calm" that would last through 2005.

The explanation for Islamic Jihad's continuing violence may stem from its peripheral status among Palestinians, according to one Israeli expert on the militant group.

Unlike <u>Hamas</u>, which hopes to convert its popular support into political strength in the Palestinian legislative elections expected in January, she says Jihad has no hope of a significant political future.

"Islamic Jihad has no motivation to stop the violence because it has no political horizon," said Anat Kurz, a research fellow at Tel Aviv University's Jaffee Centre for Strategic Studies.

"They are not <u>Hamas</u>. They have no broad support ... so there is very little holding them back since they have no interest in a two-state solution."

Kurz said the attack serves as a reminder that it takes only a minority to spoil the hopes of all.

"Israeli isn't in a position, at this point, to do much more besides continuing to try to frustrate Jihad's terror schemes. And while Abbas can theoretically deal with them, he won't have the capacity until he can offer a so-called political horizon," she said.

"The only way to fight them is to isolate them ... And to do that, Abbas needs to show Palestinian society he has something much better to offer."

But an Israeli official said last night the bombing may be the final straw for a weakened Abbas.

"Jihad threw a spitball at Abu Mazen's face," the unnamed official told Haaretz newspaper, using Abbas' nickname.

The bombing, he said, embarrassed Abbas in the eyes of the Americans and Europeans, and Israeli officials are asking whether the Palestinians have reached the stage of ignoring his leadership.

Graphic

Kamir Bargic Getty images Israeli rescue forces rush to the scene of yesterday's suicide attack in Netanya. Early today Israel raided the West Bank city of Tulkarm, near the home village of bomber Ahmed Abu Khalil. Palestinian leader Mahmoud Abbas vowed to punish the planners of the mall attack.

Load-Date: July 13, 2005



DAILY MAIL (London)
January 24, 2004

Copyright 2004 Associated Newspapers Ltd.

Section: ED_1ST; Pg. 38; Pg. 39

Length: 1805 words

Byline: SARAH CHALMERS

Body

SHE GAZES straight at the camera, tightlipped, her face devoid of expression as she brandishes an AK-47 in one hand and her young daughter in the other.

Only her eyes hint at any sign of emotion and they are heavy with resignation.

Nestling close to her is two-andahalf-year-old Duha, her body language betraying fear and bewilderment as her tiny hand grips the grenade that has been forced upon her - just as she might hold on to her favourite teddy bear or toy.

Both mother and daughter sport the green headbands of the Palestinian terror group *Hamas*.

It is as chilling an image as you are likely to see, encapsulating the fanaticism, misery and evil that has poisoned the Middle East.

Just five days after posing for this photograph, 22-year-old Reem al-Reyashi blew herself to pieces at an Israeli army checkpoint in an appalling act of terrorism which also claimed the lives of four Israelis and injured 10 others.

Her death on January 14 marked a new milestone, a sinister escalation in the continuing horror.

Since January 2002, six woman suicide bombers have brought varying degrees of death and destruction to this region. But Reem al-Reyashi was the first mother to achieve 'glory' as a martyr for the Palestinian cause by turning herself into a human bomb.

But did she go willingly to her death - or was she coerced into this barbaric act? As the Mail has discovered, there are many curious twists to this latest tragedy. Just days after the bloodbath at the Erez border crossing - the only passage for 15,000 Palestinians who travel daily into Israel to work - an Israeli journalist reported that Reem had been having an adulterous affair with the *Hamas* operative who trained her.

She was, he claimed, forced to go ahead with the mission to restore her family's honour.

The notion was quickly dismissed as 'Zionist propaganda' by <u>Hamas</u>, who claimed joint responsibility for the attack with terror group the Al Aqsa Brigade.

And in an attempt to kick-start the mythology and rejoicing which surrounds the death of a suicide bomber, they released a video of Reem - shot the same day as the chilling photograph - in which she declares her fervent desire to be the first mother to carry out a suicide attack.

'I always wanted to be the first woman to carry out a martyr attack, where parts of my body fly all over. That is the only wish I can ask God for. It was always my wish to turn my body into deadly shrapnel against the Zionists and to knock on the doors of heaven with the skulls of the Zionists,' she announced.

Whatever the truth about Reem's alleged adultery, her death has driven a bitter wedge between her own comfortably off, middleclass family who are bewildered by her suicide, and that of her husband, Ziyad Awad.

Even more surprisingly, a week after Reem's death the celebrations that typically herald the creation of a new martyr have yet to begin.

This week, in the neighbourhood in Gaza City where Reem lived with Awad and their two children - a son, Mohammed, is 18 months old - there was not a single poster proclaiming her heroism or any sign of the exultant graffiti that usually springs up all around the home of a suicide bomber.

My Palestinian guide, who has regularly visited the homes of many bombers in the aftermath of their gruesome deaths, became extremely agitated and said: 'There is something very strange going on here. Normally everyone will be celebrating the life of the martyr and would be eager to talk.' BOMBINGS such as these have been Palestinian terrorists' weapon of choice since the second uprising or intifada began in 2001. More than 100 men have blown themselves to bits, killing hundreds more as they did so.

But incredibly, even this most barbaric of killing methods was beginning to lose its shock value.

So in January 2002, the Al Aqsa Brigade terror group sent Wafa Idris, the first woman suicide bomber, to her death.

<u>Female</u> activism caught the Israelis off-guard and generated the desired headlines worldwide.

But scratch beneath the surface of this disturbing trend and ambiguous details begin to emerge.

Rumours surrounding one bomber suggested she had been carrying an illegitimate child at the time of her death, a source of great shame to her and her family. It was a convenient end, it was suggested.

Another - who failed in her bid for mass destruction - later revealed she had been deeply upset by the end of a love affair when the terrorists recruited her.

And in the case of Wafa Idris, the first <u>female</u> Palestinian suicide bomber, she may not have intended to die at all. She left no suicide note or video and many have speculated that she was the victim of a bomb that detonated early.

Yoram Schweitzer, an academic at Tel Aviv University who has studied the <u>female</u> suicide bombers, believes that the terrorists make a point of recruiting extremely vulnerable <u>women</u>.

'These <u>women</u> are not suicidal. The whole process is about manipulation and sometimes coercion or blackmail. The Palestinian terrorist groups find the <u>women</u>'s weaknesses and exploit them.' So how did Reem al-Reyashi fit into the grim scenario?

THEmost disturbing fact is, of course, that she was a devoted mother. At the time of her death, Mohammed was mastering his first unsteady steps and little Duha was emerging as something of a joker.

Reem's elder brother Seif, 25, says: 'She loved those children so much, she always put their needs first. We never, never expected her to do anything like this.' And if he is baffled by the finality of her decision to deprive her children of their mother, so too are those who have studied the phenomenon of suicide bombers. For Reem was a far from typical candidate.

Her childhood was very comfortable by Palestinian standards. She was one of ten children - she had six brothers and three sisters - and her father, who died seven years ago, was a well-respected local figure who ran a successful car battery shop that relied on good relations with the Israelis for survival.

Pictures of him adorn the walls of the shop on the main street in Gaza City and suggest a cultured and educatedman who, says his family, had travelled widely.

The young Reem attended a girls' school in Gaza City, where she is remembered as a good student who loved poetry and wanted to study engineering at university.

Neither family nor friends thought of her as radical - although it seems there have been belated attempts to paint her as such.

A Palestinian writer closely linked to <u>Hamas</u> claimed this week that Reem was so upset at the treatment of her people that she 'tried to stab a soldier when she was 14'. It is an allegation that has been dismissed by her family.

The only possible cause for her adoption of fanatical ideology - if that is what happened - could have been the man who became her husband, Ziyad Awad, who is said to be a *Hamas* sympathiser.

Reem never pursued her dreams of university and married Awad shortly after leaving school in 1999.

They bought a four-bedroom apartment in a relatively affluent area of Gaza City.

Reem remained close to her own family and travelled to the centre of Gaza City to visit them regularly. On such trips Duha would cycle along behind on her green tricycle.

A week before her death, Reem visited her mother and siblings for the last time. She ate lunch and chatted animatedly about the children. Her husband joined them for an evening meal and then the family headed back to their own home. That was the last time Reem's family saw her.

This week, a steady stream of family, friends and customers have filed into the car battery shop to pay their condolences. They cannot hide their shock, and speak of Reem as a balanced and tolerant young woman, incapable of such an atrocity.

They say that for the four years of her marriage not a word or action betrayed any growing radicalism - if that indeed is what drove her. Yet it seems she was under the influence of <u>Hamas</u> and a few weeks ago was selected for this mission.

For some time the terrorist group had been trying to find a way of penetrating the heavily guarded Erez border crossing. They had concluded that it was most vulnerable on Wednesdays, a day reserved for <u>women</u> only to apply for permission to work in Israel.

Apparently Reem made several reconaissance visits, and then, in the early hours of Wednesday, January 14, she kissed her children one last time as they slept. She was driven to Erez by her husband just as daylight was breaking.

She had been fitted with a specially designed bomb which was attached to her leg rather than her waist, as was normal practice, and she carried a pair of crutches. According to <u>Hamas</u> insiders, the engineer who made the device constructed it in such a way that it forced the wearer to walk with a convincing limp.

When the Israeli border guards asked Reem why the alarm had sounded during the security check, it would be apparent that she was not carrying explosives around her waist and she would be able to explain that it was the titanium rods in her crippled leg that were causing the problem.

So, leaning heavily on the crutches, Reem passed unhindered through the cursory Palestinian checkpoint before being apprehended at the Israeli crossing when, as expected, the alarm sounded.

AND then she began to weep.

<u>Hamas</u> insists it was a fine piece of acting that disarmed the Israelis - but perhaps it was the horrifying realisation of what she was about to do and her regrets about the children she was leaving behind.

In between sobs, she recounted her well-rehearsed tale about metal rods in her leg.

A guard took her to an internal security room to be hand-searched by a *female* officer and it was here, while she was waiting for the officer to arrive, that Reem suddenly delved beneath her clothes and detonated the bomb.

Within hours her devastated family had erected the traditional condolence-tent and were burying what remained of their beloved sister.

Still too upset to comprehend the magnitude of Reem's deed, they sought no answers from her husband and his family when they encountered them at the funeral.

And now their questions might never be answered.

The Awads, as is the Muslim tradition, are now caring for Reem's children but have disappeared with them to a safe house in anticipation of the demolition of their home by the Israeli authorities - standard punishment for the families of suicide bombers.

Some time in the next few weeks, Reem's family will receive the traditional greeting card from <u>Hamas</u> - just like the ones that have been sent on six previous occasions to the families of other <u>female</u> suicide bombers.

It will carry a photograph of their martyred daughter and the words: 'A nation whose <u>women</u> will always fight will eventually reach victory.' Tragic and bloodcurdling both - but without the horrific poignancy of that final image of a mother and her little daughter.

END

Graphic

HOW COULD ANY MOTHER OF YOUNG CHILDREN EMBRACE DEATH AND MURDER? REEM WITH HER DAUGHTER DUHA

Load-Date: January 25, 2004



News in Brief

Hamilton Spectator (Ontario, Canada)
September 7, 2004 Tuesday Final Edition

Copyright 2004 Metroland Media Group Ltd

Section: CANADA/WORLD; Pg. A11; Brief

Length: 552 words

Body

Suicide bomber kills seven U.S. soldiers

BAGHDAD A suicide attacker sped up to a U.S. military convoy outside Fallujah yesterday and detonated an explosives-packed vehicle, killing seven marines and three Iraqi soldiers. It was the deadliest day for American forces in four months.

The bombing underscored the challenges U.S. commanders face in securing Fallujah and surrounding Anbar province, the heartland of a Sunni Muslim insurgency bent on driving coalition forces from the country. Spectator wire services

With yesterday's deaths, 990 U.S. service members have died since the beginning of military operations in Iraq in March 2003, according to a count by The Associated Press based on Defence Department figures.

Israeli helicopter attack kills 13 Palestinians

GAZA CITY, GAZA STRIP Israeli helicopters attacked a field in Gaza City early today, killing 13 Palestinians and wounding 25, in the bloodiest incident there in four months.

The Israeli military said the air force targeted a field used by the Islamic *Hamas* for training.

<u>Hamas</u> threatened to hit back. Angry militants gathered at the hospital, some with blood on their clothes from carrying victims, and shouted, "Revenge, revenge."

<u>Hamas</u> had claimed responsibility for a double suicide bombing in Israel's south last Tuesday, killing 16 Israelis. The bombers came from the West Bank city of Hebron.

Spa day in women's jail

denied by Corrections TORONTO Conflicting reports about a spa day at a **women**'s prison in Kitchener need to be clarified, says a spokesman for the deputy prime minister's office.

Anne McLellan's office was responding to a request for a meeting from Toronto Police Chief Julian Fantino, who was outraged after reading reports that inmates at Grand Valley Institution for <u>Women</u> were treated to manicures, pedicures and tea served on fine china.

News in Brief

The report suggested the day was one of luxury, but Corrections Canada disagreed. They were simply routine seminars to try to prepare the <u>women</u> for life after they are released, said Diane Russon, spokeswoman for the Ontario region of the Correctional Service of Canada.

"And a lot of these <u>women</u> lack some very basic hygiene skills and that can cause difficulties with incarceration as well, living in small quarters," she said.

Man arrested in fires set at Chum building

TORONTO A man tried to torch the nerve centre of one of Canada's largest broadcasters early Sunday, causing \$100,000 damage at the Chum-City building.

Police said that at about 1:40 a.m., a man broke into the building and went to the "on air" production room on the fifth floor, setting fires in several locations.

Police arrested a suspect without incident.

Chum-City operates 27 local, specialty and digital television stations including Citytv, Cable Pulse 24, Much Music, Much More Music, Space and Bravo.

Purple martin may have been blown over ocean

LONDON The sighting of a North American purple martin, a bird probably never seen before in Europe, in the Hebrides Islands has excited bird watchers in Britain.

Experts said the bird may have been blown across the Atlantic to the Hebrides, off the northwest coast of Scotland, by recent hurricanes.

North American purple martins, the largest of the continent's swallows, are found across the eastern half of the United States and on the Pacific coast.

Spectator wire services

Load-Date: September 7, 2004



Shelling of Jewish settlement in Gaza kills Israeli-American

St. Louis Post-Dispatch (Missouri)

September 25, 2004 Saturday Five Star Late Lift Edition

Copyright 2004 St. Louis Post-Dispatch, Inc.

Section: NEWS; Pg. 26

Length: 573 words

Byline: THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Dateline: GAZA CITY, Gaza Strip

Body

* A Palestinian dies and five are wounded in an Israeli missile strike.

An Israeli missile strike killed one Palestinian and wounded five early today, hours after militants killed an Israeli-American woman in the first deadly shelling of a Jewish settlement in Gaza in four years of fighting.

The settlement attack, which came just before the start of Yom Kippur, the holiest day on the Jewish calendar, was likely to mobilize further opposition to Prime Minister Ariel Sharon's plan to withdraw from the Gaza Strip next year. The militant group *Hamas* claimed responsibility for firing two mortar rounds at the Neve Dekalim settlement in southern Gaza.

A <u>Hamas</u> video showed three masked militants setting up and firing a mortar. After the round was fired, heavy gunfire could be heard -- apparently the Israelis returning fire at the nearby Palestinian town of Khan Younis. The Israeli fire wounded two Palestinians, including a 4-year-old boy, witnesses said.

One of the <u>Hamas</u> mortar rounds hit a house in Neve Dekalim, wounding two <u>women</u>, who were taken to a hospital in southern Israel for treatment. One of the <u>women</u>, identified as Tiferet Tratner, died of her wounds; the second was slightly hurt. Eran Sternberg, a settler spokesman in Gaza, said Tratner also held U.S. citizenship.

Early today, an Israeli helicopter fired two missiles toward a group of Palestinians on the outskirts of a nearby refugee camp. Hospital officials said the dead and wounded were civilians.

Later, about 70 tanks and army bulldozers drove toward the Khan Younis camp, setting off heavy exchanges of fire, as soldiers called on residents over loudspeakers to leave their homes, witnesses said. Palestinians detonated a roadside bomb next to one bulldozer, setting the front of the vehicle on fire.

The Israeli military said the helicopter opened fire when four militants tried to launch a rocket or a rocket-propelled grenade from that area. The military said at least two of those involved in the attack were hit.

Palestinians have fired hundreds of mortar rounds and rockets at Jewish settlements in Gaza and Israeli border towns since 2000. Friday's attack marked the first time a resident of a Gaza settlement was killed. In June, two Israelis were killed in a rocket attack on the Israeli town of Sderot.

Shelling of Jewish settlement in Gaza kills Israeli - American

The shelling took place a day after Palestinians killed three Israeli soldiers in an attack on the nearby Morag settlement in southern Gaza. After a protracted gunbattle, the three attackers were killed by the army.

The Gaza clashes point to increasing tension and violence ahead of Israel's planned withdrawal.

"The Palestinians are doing everything they can to scuttle an Israeli withdrawal from the Gaza Strip," said David Baker, an official in Sharon's office. "We will take any measures necessary to defend our citizens."

Neve Dekalim is one of 21 Gaza settlements, with a total of 8,200 residents, to be dismantled under Sharon's "unilateral disengagement" plan.

Sharon has said he believes Israel's presence in Gaza is untenable. He said evacuating the Gaza settlements and four isolated West Bank enclaves was a way of strengthening Israel's hold on parts of the West Bank, where most of its 236,000 settlers live.

The violence Friday took place hours before Yom Kippur, or the Day of Atonement, when much of Israel shuts down for fasting and prayer. Israeli security forces have been on high alert since last week, the start of the Jewish Near Year.

Load-Date: September 25, 2004



WORLD

The Toronto Star

December 1, 2005 Thursday

Copyright 2005 Toronto Star Newspapers, Ltd.

Section: NEWS; Pg. A25

Length: 598 words

Body

United States

Imam faces deportation on terrorism-related charges, eyes Canada as destination

The leader of Ohio's biggest mosque, facing deportation proceedings on terrorism-related charges, is considering Canada as a destination, his lawyer said yesterday.

Palestinian-born Imam Fawaz Damra, 44, who in a 1989 speech said "terrorism and terrorism alone is the path to liberation" was convicted in June 2004 of concealing ties to three groups that the U.S. government classifies as terrorist organizations when he applied for U.S. citizenship in 1994. Immigration officials are seeking to remove him on charges he raised funds for terrorist organizations.

The Cleveland cleric, who has lived in the U.S. for about 20 years, has been held in detention in Detroit since Friday. His lawyer, Mosabi Hamed, said Damra has not decided where he would like to be deported, while U.S. officials would like him to be sent to Jordan or a Palestinian-ruled region.

Cabbie rewarded \$10,000 for returning gems to jeweller

A Los Angeles cabbie, who reunited New York jeweller Eric Austen with \$350,000 (U.S.) in diamonds he had left in his taxi two weeks ago, has been rewarded with a \$10,000 cheque and a diamond bracelet.

Haider Sediqi, 40, said he'll use Austen's reward to help pay for his children's schooling. He gave the bracelet to his wife, Nasima.

Uganda

Government skeptical of rebel offer of truce talks

Vincent Otti deputy leader of the Lord's Resistance Army, said his rebel group was ready to hold talks with the government to end a 19-year-old insurgency.

The government was skeptical, saying the rebels had used previous ceasefire calls to win time to regroup and rearm. "We are not really taking this very seriously at all," Information Minister Nsaba Buturo said.

Saudi Arabia

Businesswomen make history with election

WORLD

Two businesswomen have become the kingdom's first <u>female</u> elected officials, a historic step in a deeply conservative country where **women** are largely barred from public life.

Saudi officials said yesterday Lama al-Sulaiman and Nashwa Taher had won election to the board of Jiddah's chamber of commerce. The elections were the first in Saudi Arabia where **women** could run for office and vote.

Brazil

Settlers, loggers ousted in efforts to protect tribe

Federal police are evicting settlers and loggers from an Amazon area that experts believe is home to one of the world's most isolated Indian tribes, the government said yesterday.

Government anthropologists first detected traces of the tribe in Mato Grosso state in 1998. It doesn't have a name, although it has been referred to as the Rio Pardo tribe, after a nearby river. Little is known about the group, except that it has only up to 15 members who live by hunting animals and gathering fruits and vegetables.

Syria

Hamas to allow ceasefire with Israel to expire

The leader of <u>Hamas</u> said yesterday his Palestinian militant group will not renew a truce with Israel when it expires at the end of the year and accused the Jewish state of violating the agreement that has greatly reduced violence. Khaled Mashaal also restated <u>Hamas</u>' rejection of U.S. and Israeli demands to disarm.

Britain

Church of England's first black archbishop on throne

To the beat of African drums, John Sentamu took his throne yesterday as the first black archbishop in the Church of England.

Sentamu, 56, who moved to Britain in 1974 after clashing with Ugandan dictator Idi Amin, was installed as the 97th archbishop of York in a ceremony featuring dancers in leopard skin-print outfits performing a dance of rejoicing and thanksgiving.

From the Star's wire services

Load-Date: December 1, 2005



<u>Teenage bomber kills two Israeli police officers: Blast injures 16 others;</u> Sharon hints he will have Yasser Arafat killed

Ottawa Citizen September 23, 2004 Thursday Final Edition

Copyright 2004 CanWest Interactive, a division of CanWest Global Communications Corp. All Rights Reserved

Section: NEWS; Pg. A13

Length: 527 words

Byline: Matthew Fisher, The Ottawa Citizen; with files from The Associated Press

Dateline: JERUSALEM

Body

JERUSALEM - A Palestinian teenager blew herself up at a busy Jerusalem bus station yesterday, killing two Israeli police officers who stopped her for a security check and wounding 16 bystanders in an attack that evaded Israel's clampdown on the West Bank for the Jewish holidays.

The police officers died when they challenged the teen to identify herself and show them the contents of a bag she was carrying at a checkpoint beside a crowded bus stop in French Hill, a Jewish neighbourhood across the road from an Arab neighbourhood about two kilometres north of Jerus-alem's Old City.

Of at least 16 passersby injured by the bomb two were critically hurt, including a nine-year old boy. The explosives the suicide bomber carried weighed between three and five kilograms, police said.

"The actions of the border police at French Hill prevented a much more serious attack," district police commander llan Franco told reporters who gathered at the scene as ultra-Orthodox burial workers began the gruesome job of meticulously collecting small pieces of human remains from the road and from a hillside overlooking the road.

The Al Aqsa Martyrs' Brigade, which is affiliated with Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat's Fatah faction, called a news agency soon after the terror attack to say the suicide bomber was one of its members -- 19-year-old Zainub Abu Salem, a recent high school graduate and one of 10 children from a family living in the Askar refugee camp near the West Bank town of Nablus.

The caller said the blast was in retaliation for recent Israeli military attacks in Nablus and Jenin.

"She said that if we refused, she would attack an army post with a knife," an Al Aqsa member said. "So we organized quickly. We set up the attack within 17 hours and we chose this site in Jerusalem because we know it."

After learning of the latest terrorist incident during an interview with Israeli TV, Prime Minister Ariel Sharon described it as "a grave attack" and vowed to strike back "with all force."

"In many cases, we prevent major disasters," Mr. Sharon said. "Sometimes things happen like what happened today."

Teenage bomber kills two Israeli police officers: Blast injures 16 others; Sharon hints he will have Yasser Arafat killed

Earlier, Mr. Sharon hinted Israel might kill Mr. Arafat, as it did with <u>Hamas</u> founder Sheik Ahmed Yassin and his successor, Abdel Aziz Rantisi.

"We acted against *Hamas* people, and since then, more people have been added to this list. When the time is right, we will act the same way with Arafat," he told Israel radio before the bombing.

The explosion occurred two days before Yom Kippur, the holiest day in the Jewish calendar. Because of the threat of attacks during Yom Kippur and the Jewish New Year, which was celebrated last Thursday, movement to and from the West Bank by Palestinians has been cut off by Israeli authorities since last week.

The suicide bombing, which was the first to rock Jerusalem in seven months, was the eighth attack by a <u>female</u> suicide bomber and the latest in a series of more than 100 such incidents since Palestinian groups began to use suicide bombers as agents of terror four years ago.

Three weeks ago, two <u>Hamas</u> bombers blew themselves up in southern Beersheba, killing 16 Israelis. The bombings ended months of relative calm.

Load-Date: September 23, 2004



Sharon: Golan withdrawal key to peace

The Columbian (Vancouver, WA.)
January 20, 2004, Tuesday

Copyright 2004 The Columbian Publishing Co.

Section: World/Nation; Pg. a3

Length: 470 words

Byline: JOSEF FEDERMAN, Associated Press writer

Body

JERUSALEM -- Addressing two of Israel's thorniest issues, Prime Minister Ariel Sharon told lawmakers Monday that peace with Syria would require a full withdrawal from the Golan Heights and ordered a review of the contentious West Bank separation barrier.

Sharon's comments on the Golan, made to parliament's Defense and Foreign Affairs Committee, were an unprecedented admission by the career hard-liner. In the past, right-wing Israeli governments insisted a peace deal could be reached without a withdrawal from the strategic plateau captured in the 1967 Mideast war.

The prime minister did not tell the closed-door meeting whether he was willing to pay what he defined as the price for peace. However, one committee member said it was clear from the context that Sharon is not ready to return the Golan in exchange for a peace deal.

Also Monday, the <u>Hamas</u> founder announced a change in strategy, saying the Islamic militant group would increasingly recruit <u>female</u> suicide bombers. Last week, <u>Hamas</u> sent its first <u>female</u> assailant, a 22-year-old woman who blew herself up at the Gaza-Israel crossing and killed four Israeli border guards.

Sheik Ahmed Yassin told reporters in Gaza there had not been a need in the past for <u>women</u> to carry out bombings. Now, he said, <u>women</u> must step up and fulfill their "obligations." He suggested male bombers were increasingly being held back by Israeli security measures.

Sharon's meeting with the parliamentary committee came at a sensitive time.

Israel is preparing to defend the security barrier next month before the world court in The Hague, Netherlands. The government is also considering how to react to offers by Syrian President Bashar Assad to restart peace talks, which broke down in 2000.

In an interview published Monday in the London-based newspaper Asharq al-Awsat, Assad appeared pessimistic about the chances of talks with Sharon.

"From the beginning and until this moment, the U.S. administration did not wish to throw itself into the peace process. As for Sharon ... it is hard for him to succeed on a peace platform," Assad said.

The Syrian president has said talks must resume where they broke off under Sharon's predecessor, Ehud Barak. But Sharon wants to start from scratch and also has demanded that Syria crack down on militant groups.

Sharon: Golan withdrawal key to peace

Meanwhile, Israel blamed Syria for an attack by Hezbollah militants on Monday at the Israeli-Lebanese border that killed one Israeli soldier and wounded two others, one of them seriously.

Syria is widely believed to support Hezbollah.

In a broadcast by Hezbollah's Al Manar Television, the militant group said the bulldozer had crossed the border into Lebanon, but Israeli commander Maj. Gen. Benny Gantz denied their accusation.

Gantz, told The Associated Press the bulldozer was clearing land on the Israeli side when it was attacked.

Graphic

Spiritual leader of the Palestinian militant group <u>Hamas</u>, Sheik Ahmed Yassin, is pushed in his wheelchair through a crowd of students by bodyguards before speaking to students outside his home in Gaza City on Monday.

Load-Date: January 20, 2004



View on Iraq

The Gloucester Citizen
October 21, 2004
default

Copyright 2004 The Gloucester Citizen

Section: Features; General; Letters; Pg. 12

Length: 307 words

Body

Sir - Having lived in the Middle East for some years, I have no fear of Islam and deplore the more xenophobic tabloids generating fear and possibly hatred of Moslems, just because Tony Blair is in a quagmire over his disastrous Iraq war. Tony Blair led us to war on Iraq alleging weapons of mass destruction.

Tony Blair now says that Iraq was not invaded over WMD but because Sadam Hussain was evil and had killed many Kurds.

Sadam had killed many Kurds, but had broken no UN resolutions, and many British would prefer had Tony Blair been as firm in disarming the IRA.

Sadam took Iraq to war with Iran when the West was terrified that Ayatolla Khomani might support Hiz-bolla and *Hamas* while Israelis and their Marronite allies were turning the Lebanon into a slaughter-house.

The Shi-ite uprising in Iraq started in March (corresponding to the Eid at the end of Muhhram) when the Israelies assasinated Sheik Yassin (the Shi-ite spiritual leader of *Hamas*). That bloody uprising was led by Maqtada Al Sadr but was ended by Ayatolla Al Sistani. If Mqtada behaves himself for a while, he will almost certainly win Democratic elections due in Iraq in 2005.

I am impressed by the fortitude shown by Gloucester's Moslem community. Their young men, no alcohol fuelled yobs, get arrested, under the provocative Terrorism Act only to be released after 3 weeks for lack of evidence. Young Moslem <u>women</u>, demure in black abbayas, walk to school - not a smoky 4X4 in sight. Gloucester's last coalition council oddly proposed closing Barnwood girls' school, (despite it's popularity with Moslems and its excellent record). Enshalla the present council may reverse that proposal.

I urge Gloucesters' Moslems to follow the example of Maqtada and wait for the general election. Then decide who to vote for, or who to vote against.

NAME AND ADDRESS SUPPLIED

Load-Date: October 22, 2004



BURNING HATRED

The Sun March 23, 2004

Copyright 2004 NEWS GROUP NEWSPAPERS LTD

Section: MIDDLE EAST ERUPTS AFTER TERROR CHIEF'S EXECUTION

Length: 537 words

Byline: Nick Parker and Clodagh Hartley

Body

Revenge mob torches troops

BRITISH troops were set ablaze in a firestorm of fury yesterday over the assassination of Muslim terror boss Ahmed Yassin.

Fourteen soldiers were injured - three seriously - in petrol-bomb attacks by hate-filled mobs screaming Yassin's name in the southern Iraqi city of Basra.

Wheelchair-bound cleric Yassin, spiritual leader of the suicide bombers of <u>Hamas</u>, was executed by an Israeli gunship strike in Gaza City at dawn yesterday.

Yassin - dubbed the Bin Laden of Palestine - had been blamed by Israel for sending out dozens of fanatics to kill **women** and children.

The quadriplegic leader and seven followers were blown to pieces by missiles as they left prayers at a mosque. Israeli politicians said his hands were tainted with blood and he deserved to die.

But the assassination was widely condemned, including by Britain's Foreign Secretary Jack Straw, and sparked fears of unprecedented acts of bloody revenge across the Middle East and around the world.

The Basra assault on Our Boys came at what was initially thought to be a regular street protest by disgruntled iobseekers.

But the first soldiers on the scene were met by a baying mob armed with sticks and rocks. The troops donned riot gear and took up position behind clear plastic shields as they were pelted with rocks and chunks of concrete.

As one squad took cover behind Warrior armoured vehicles several explosions erupted, engulfing them in flames.

Helmets

The soldiers frantically broke for shelter, tearing loose their helmets and equipment straps while comrades tried to beat out the flames.

One man stumbled across the debris-strewn ground with his helmet, neck and back ablaze.

Other troops fired rubber bullets to disperse the mob but no teargas or live ammunition was used.

BURNING HATRED

The injured men were rushed to Shaibah Hospital, where they were being detained for treatment last night. Their injuries were not said to be life threatening.

The MoD declined to identify the men or their units last night while next of kin were informed.

However the 1st Battalions of both The Light Infantry and Royal Regiment of Wales are in Basra.

<u>Hamas</u> immediately pledged bloody vengeance for Yassin, saying Israeli PM Ariel Sharon had "opened the gates of hell".

And an Islamist website fired an al-Qaeda warning to avenge Yassin "by attacking the tyrant of the age, America, and its allies".

Some 200,000 poured out for Yassin's funeral at a martyrs' cemetery, chanting "revenge, revenge". The cortege was guarded by tanks and 400 armed militia.

One <u>Hamas</u> supporter, Salman Bdeiri, 24, said: "We will get revenge for every drop of blood that spilled from him."

Jack Straw called the killing "unacceptable, unjustified and very unlikely to achieve its objectives."

US National Security adviser Condoleezza Rice urged restraint.

But in hours, Israeli armoured vehicles moved into the Gaza Strip after Palestinian militants fired rockets from the territory at Israeli towns.

The armour took up position 300 yards from the fence which divides the Strip from Israel. There were no reports of casualties.

DO YOU know the British soldier whose head and neck were set alight in the Basra attack? Call The Sun on 020 7782 4105.

The Sun Says -- Page 8

Load-Date: March 24, 2004



<u>Middle East violence explodes; 11 Israeli soldiers and 22 Palestinians killed</u> <u>in deadliest 48-hour period since this intefadeh began</u>

Hamilton Spectator (Ontario, Canada)
May 13, 2004 Thursday Final Edition

Copyright 2004 Metroland Media Group Ltd

Section: CANADA/WORLD; Pg. A12; News

Length: 749 words

Byline: Donald Macintyre

Dateline: GAZA CITY

Body

Five more Israeli soldiers were killed in Gaza last night when an armoured troop carrier was blown up by Palestinian militants in a similar attack to the one which killed six soldiers on Tuesday.

In the deadliest 48 hours for the Israeli army since the beginning of this intefadeh more than three and a half years ago, an armoured troop carrier exploded as it went to evacuate the crew of an army bulldozer which ran over a landmine in Rafah at the border between Gaza and Egypt.

And as heavy Israeli forces moved immediately into the area, members of Islamic Jihad claimed that they had recovered a foot, a shoulder and some clothing from the victims.

Early today, an Israeli helicopter fired a missile at the Rafah refugee camp, next to the site of yesterday's explosion, killing six Palestinians, residents and medical officials said.

The Hamilton Spectator

The Israeli military had no immediate comment.

Residents said the Israeli helicopter fired at a group of Palestinians, including gunmen, who were in the camp. Palestinian officials said all the casualties were civilians.

In all, 11 Israeli soldiers and 22 Palestinians were killed in Gaza fighting Tuesday and yesterday, and more than 175 Palestinians were wounded.

As in the case of the troop carrier blown up in the Zeitun area of Gaza city on Tuesday, the vehicle, which appeared to have been hit by a rocket-propelled grenade, was already laden with explosives, in this case for blowing up houses and tunnels used for smuggling weapons across the border.

The fresh blow to the army came as its spokespeople refused to confirm that the armed factions were ready to hand back the remains of the soldiers killed in the Zeitun area after a day of contacts between Israel, the Red Cross, Egypt, Jordan and the Palestinian Authority designed to end the fighting in the city which left at least four Palestinians dead and over 40 injured, including children.

Middle East violence explodes; 11 Israeli soldiers and 22 Palestinians killed in deadliest 48-hour period since this intefadeh began

Israeli helicopters fired two missiles during the fighting in Zeitun. One hit a building, wounding nine people. The second hit a crowd of people outside a mosque, killing three <u>Hamas</u> members and wounding 28 others, mostly civilians, according to Palestinian sources.

Two girls were among the wounded. The army said both attacks were aimed at militants planting bombs.

Marwan Qushtan said he was in his shop in the Rafah camp when he heard a very loud explosion. "Many windows in many houses were broken," he said. "I saw trousers and shirts and vests flying in the street. There was a cloud of black smoke. We are happy. We are in a war. This is jihad. We expect a painful response from the Israelis."

Iyad Nasr, the International Red Cross spokesperson in Gaza City, had earlier confirmed that the ICRC had been conveying messages between all the parties on the deadly standoff in Zeitun since being contacted by the Israelis on Tuesday afternoon.

He added: "We are neutral and we can talk to everybody at every level, including the military wings of the factions."

He warned of a mounting humanitarian crisis in Zeitun if the incursion and accompanying curfew was maintained, saying that between 8,000 and 10,000 families had been confined to their homes, many without electricity, water and, increasingly, food.

He added: "It's really disastrous, what's happening. We are getting hundreds of calls from people in Zeitun from families short of medicines, with pregnant <u>women</u> about to deliver, with fathers who left the house before the incursion and now can't get home."

As helicopters had patrolled over Zeitun and the Israeli army prepared to extend its zone of control toward Gaza City centre, crowds of onlookers fled for cover after explosions and gunfire some 500 metres to the south.

Balaclava-clad <u>Hamas</u> crews carrying rocket launchers and anti-tank missiles moved south toward the front line of the fighting before it was pushed northward by an Israeli advance.

Earlier Ghazi Hamad, editor of the pro-<u>Hamas</u> newspaper al Risala, had predicted an end to the standoff, suggesting that both the fatal attack on the armoured troop carrier and the seizure of the remains of the dead soldiers would "increase pressure [on the Israeli government] from those saying that it should not stay in Gaza."

He said the strong resistance offered by Palestinians in Zeitun would send out a "strong message that entering Gaza will be welcomed not with flowers but by strong fighters." He added: "Israel will understand that the Palestinians have the ability to harm the big armaments of Israel."

The Independent

Graphic

Photo: Suhaib Salem, Reuters; A Palestinian militant from <u>Hamas</u> is in the midst of a gun battle with Israeli troops.

Load-Date: May 13, 2004



\$12.2m aid deal for Abbas; Martin outlines conditions to Palestinian leader

Hamilton Spectator (Ontario, Canada) May 28, 2005 Saturday Final Edition

Copyright 2005 Metroland Media Group Ltd

Section: CANADA/WORLD; Pg. A15; News

Length: 635 words

Byline: Terry Pedwell

Dateline: OTTAWA

Body

A six-hour visit to Canada by Palestinian President Mahmoud Abbas yesterday prompted the federal government to modestly improve its aid to the Middle East peace process, and to help the Palestinian Authority boost its economy and build infrastructure.

Prime Minister Paul Martin announced an additional \$12.2 million in aid after meeting with Abbas, who paid a brief visit to Ottawa for the first time since being elected in January to lead his people.

Calling it a "down payment" on Canada's commitment to fostering peace in the region, Martin suggested any additional money would be conditional on Abbas following through on promised reforms.

The Canadian Press

"President Abbas must take firm measures against violence and terrorism, and should vigorously pursue the (corruption) reform program that he has launched," the prime minister said.

Martin's statements echoed U.S. President George W. Bush, who praised Abbas on Thursday for taking steps to end violence and reform his government.

Bush predicted that Palestinians will reject candidates of the militant group <u>Hamas</u> in coming parliamentary elections.

Martin went further, referring to *Hamas* as a terrorist organization that is hurting the peace process.

"Hamas are terrorists," Martin said.

"You're not going to have a multi-party system that's going to function unless people are prepared to lay down their arms."

"Terrorism and democracy are simply incompatible."

Canada's refurbished aid package includes money for judicial reform, monitors for elections, housing support, border management and a scholarship fund for Palestinian refugee <u>women</u> in Lebanon.

While the amount has been described by officials as "modest," it gives hope to Palestinians that their lives can be improved, Martin said as he stood beside Abbas.

\$12.2m aid deal for Abbas; Martin outlines conditions to Palestinian leader

"What we can do is to provide (the Palestinian) people, and in fact the people of Israel, with great hope that peace is there." Martin said.

"That does mean housing. That does mean a better judicial system. That does mean providing the basic structures that a modern state, a modern economy, requires."

Most of the money will be spent on judicial reform and housing.

Martin pledged \$5 million for promoting impartiality among judges and training in human rights, through a project launched by the University of Windsor in Ontario.

Another \$5 million will support housing infrastructure projects in the West Bank and Gaza.

"This project will provide the Palestinian Authority with Canadian know-how, and provide badly needed assistance to Palestinians through improving living conditions and generating employment," Martin said.

"This is all part of encouraging the Canadian private sector -- especially the vibrant Palestinian-Canadian community -- to increase the role they will play in helping the Palestinian economy to recover and to grow."

Canada will also send a 50-member delegation to observe Palestinian elections expected later this year.

As well, Canada's border service agency will provide technical aid to the Palestinian Authority to improve security and the flow of goods at border crossings. Another \$500,000 will go to a scholarship fund for Palestinian refugee **women** in Lebanon.

Conservative foreign affairs critic Stockwell Day was quick to criticize the aid package, accusing Martin of failing to usher in a new era of Canadian leadership in the Middle East peace process.

"His announcement . . . fell short and maintained Canada's diminished role in the Middle East peace process," said Day.

"We were expecting Paul Martin to announce a new Canadian leadership role, a significant contribution to ensure that progress on both sides is tied to Canadian interests and values."

The United States announced an aid package this week, giving \$50 million US directly to the Palestinian Authority for housing and infrastructure projects.

Graphic

Photo: Jonathan Hayward, the Canadian Press; Prime Minister Paul Martin, right, and Mahmoud Abbas, President of the Palestinian Authority, met in Ottawa yesterday. The PM said Abbas must follow through on promised reforms.

Load-Date: May 28, 2005



Israeli cabinet backs release of 400 Palestinian prisoners

The International Herald Tribune
May 30, 2005 Monday

Copyright 2005 International Herald Tribune

Section: NEWS; Pg. 7

Length: 594 words

Byline: Steven Erlanger

Dateline: JERUSALEM:

Body

The Israeli cabinet on Sunday approved the release of 400 Palestinian prisoners, fulfilling a long-delayed promise made to the Palestinian leader, Mahmoud Abbas, in early February but sparking immediate Palestinian criticism.

The Israeli prime minister, Ariel Sharon, said in a statement that he recognized the need to support Abbas and those Palestinians in competition with <u>Hamas</u>, the radical Islamic faction that Israel and the United States consider a terrorist group, and to keep his promises made at the Sharm el Sheik summit meeting on Feb. 8, after the death of Yasser Arafat and the election of Abbas.

"Israel has strong claims regarding the Palestinians, including very serious criticism regarding the implementation of the Sharm el Sheik understandings," Sharon said. "But those who believe that the events of the coming months are liable to strengthen the forces of extremist terrorism certainly understand the need to strengthen the principal moderate element in the PA and honor our commitments."

The New York Times

Sharon was referring to the Israeli pullout of all its settlers from Gaza, scheduled for mid-August, and the need to coordinate the withdrawal with the Palestinian Authority, in order to prevent attacks on the Israelis and a harsh Israeli military retaliation.

Sharon said that these 400 prisoners, who will be released in about a week, after ministers finish compiling their names, are likely to include some who have more than one-third of their terms to complete. But none of those released will have been convicted of killing or planning to kill Israelis, Sharon said.

That disappointed Palestinians, who have been eager to get some of the 360 longer-term prisoners released who were jailed before the 1993 Oslo accords, which set up the Palestinian Authority. More than 7,000 Palestinians are in Israeli custody.

The Palestinian minister for prisoners, Sufian Abu Zaydeh, said: "This one-sided step does not meet the minimum of our demands. Our priority is to release young prisoners, the <u>women</u>, the elderly, the sick and political leaders like Marwan Barghouti," who was convicted of five life terms for conspiring to murder Israelis.

Saeb Erekat, another minister, said the decision was "not enough" and called on Israel to keep another of its promises in Sharm el Sheik and hand over to Palestinian security control another three West Bank cities:

Israeli cabinet backs release of 400 Palestinian prisoners

Bethlehem, Qalqilya and Ramallah. Israel has handed over Jericho and Tulkarm but says that the Palestinians are not keeping their commitments to disarm wanted militants in those cities.

In the last day, two Palestinians were killed by Israeli troops in the West Bank after one ran toward soldiers with a knife and said he was going to kill them near Hebron, a regular site of Israeli-Palestinian tension, about 20 yards from the Tomb of the Patriarchs.

After firing warning shots into the air, soldiers shot him, and he later died. An army spokesman said there was no time to try to ascertain his mental health, and that letters were found on him to his family, saying that he wanted to die a martyr.

Another Palestinian was killed in a shootout near Jenin, the army said, and two were wounded when they fired at soldiers from a car. And a Palestinian died in Gaza when a rocket-propelled grenade he was trying to fire into a settlement there exploded prematurely.

In Gaza, Palestinian election officials ordered partial reruns of votes in three localities, Rafah, Beit Lahiya and Bureij, after charges of vote rigging lodged against *Hamas* by Fatah. *Hamas* narrowly won the three localities.

Load-Date: May 30, 2005



Sunday Mail (Queensland, Australia) February 1, 2004 Sunday

Copyright 2004 Nationwide News Pty Limited

Section: FEATURES; Pg. 56

Length: 1836 words

Byline: Sarah Chalmers

Body

She blew herself to bits at an Israeli checkpoint, leaving behind a husband and two young children. Her last words were chilling and full of hate. But 22-year-old Reem al-Reyashi may not have been what she seemed.

As SARAH CHALMERS reports, new evidence is emerging that the young mother may have been a reluctant martyr.5'

SHE gazes straight at the camera, tight-lipped, her face devoid of expression as she brandishes an AK-47 in one hand and her young daughter in the other. Only her eyes hint at any sign of emotion and they are heavy with resignation.

Nestling close to her is 2 1/2-year-old Doha, her body language betraying fear and bewilderment as her tiny hand grips the grenade that has been forced upon her -- just as she might hold on to her favourite teddy bear or toy.

Both mother and daughter sport the green headbands of the Palestinian terror group *Hamas*.

It is as chilling an image as you are likely to see, encapsulating the fanaticism, misery and evil that has poisoned the Middle East.

Just five days after posing for this photograph, 22-year-old Reem al-Reyashi blew herself to pieces at an Israeli army checkpoint in an appalling act of terrorism which also claimed the lives of four Israelis and injured 10 others.

Her death on January 14 marked a new milestone, a sinister escalation in the continuing horror.

Since January 2002, six <u>female</u> suicide bombers have brought varying degrees of death and destruction to this region. But Reem al-Reyashi was the first mother to achieve "glory" as a martyr for the Palestinian cause by turning herself into a human bomb.

But did she go willingly to her death -- or was she coerced into this barbaric act? As I have discovered, there are many curious twists to this latest tragedy.

Just days after the bloodbath at the Erez border crossing -- the only passage for 15,000 Palestinians who travel daily into Israel to work -- an Israeli journalist reported that Reem had been having an adulterous affair with the *Hamas* operative who trained her.

She was, he claimed, forced to go ahead with the mission to restore her family's honour.

The notion was quickly dismissed as "Zionist propaganda" by <u>Hamas</u>, which claimed joint responsibility for the attack with terror group, the al-Aqsa Brigade.

And in an attempt to kick-start the mythology and rejoicing which surrounds the death of a suicide bomber, they released a video of Reem -- shot the same day as the chilling photograph -- in which she declares her fervent desire to be the first mother to carry out a suicide attack.

"I always wanted to be the first woman to carry out a martyr attack, where parts of my body fly all over," she said.

"That is the only wish I can ask God for. It was always my wish to turn my body into deadly shrapnel against the Zionists and to knock on the doors of heaven with the skulls of the Zionists."

Whatever the truth about Reem's alleged adultery, her death has driven a bitter wedge between her own comfortably off, middle-class family who are bewildered by her suicide, and that of her husband, Ziyad Awad.

Even more surprisingly, a week after Reem's death the celebrations that typically herald the creation of a new martyr had yet to begin. In the neighbourhood in Gaza City where Reem lived with Awad and their two children -- a son, Mohammed, is 18 months old -- there was not a single poster proclaiming her heroism or any sign of the exultant graffiti that usually springs up all around the home of a suicide bomber.

My Palestinian guide, who has regularly visited the homes of many bombers in the aftermath of their gruesome deaths, became extremely agitated and said: "There is something very strange going on here. Normally everyone will be celebrating the life of the martyr and would be eager to talk."

Bombings such as these have been Palestinian terrorists' weapon of choice since the second uprising, or intifada, began in 2001.

More than 100 men have blown themselves to bits, killing hundreds more as they did so.

But incredibly, even this most barbaric of killing methods was beginning to lose its shock value.

So in January 2002, the al-Aqsa Brigade terror group sent Wafa Idris, the first woman suicide bomber, to her death.

<u>Female</u> activism caught the Israelis off-guard and generated the desired headlines worldwide.

But scratch beneath the surface of this disturbing trend and ambiguous details begin to emerge.

Rumours surrounding one bomber suggested she had been carrying an illegitimate child at the time of her death, a source of great shame to her and her family. It was a convenient end, it was suggested. Another -- who failed in her bid for mass destruction -- later revealed she had been deeply upset by the end of a love affair when the terrorists recruited her.

And in the case of Wafa Idris, the first <u>female</u> Palestinian suicide bomber, she may not have intended to die at all. She left no suicide note or video and many have speculated that she was the victim of a bomb that detonated early.

Yoram Schweitzer, an academic at Tel Aviv University who has studied the <u>female</u> suicide bombers, believes that the terrorists make a point of recruiting extremely vulnerable **women**.

"These <u>women</u> are not suicidal. The whole process is about manipulation and sometimes coercion or blackmail," he said. "The Palestinian terrorist groups find the <u>women</u>'s weaknesses and exploit them."

So how did Reem al-Reyashi fit into the grim scenario? The most disturbing fact is that she was a devoted mother. At the time of her death, Mohammed was mastering his first unsteady steps and little Doha was emerging as a joker.

Reem's elder brother Seif, 25, says: "She loved those children so much, she always put their needs first. We never, never expected her to do anything like this."

And if he is baffled by the finality of her decision to deprive her children of their mother, so too are those who have studied suicide bombers. For Reem was a far from typical candidate. Her childhood was comfortable by Palestinian standards.

She was one of 10 children -- she had six brothers and three sisters -- and her father, who died seven years ago, was a well-respected local figure who ran a successful car battery shop that relied on good relations with the Israelis for survival.

Pictures of him adorn the walls of the shop on the main street in Gaza City and suggest a cultured and educated man who, says his family, had travelled widely.

The young Reem attended a girls' school in Gaza City, where she is remembered as a good student who loved poetry and wanted to study engineering at university.

Neither family nor friends thought of her as radical -- although it seems there have been belated attempts to paint her as such.

A Palestinian writer closely linked to <u>Hamas</u> claimed that Reem was so upset at the treatment of her people that she "tried to stab a soldier when she was 14".

It is an allegation that has been dismissed by her family.

The only possible cause for her adoption of fanatical ideology -- if that is what happened -- could have been the man who became her husband, Ziyad Awad, who is said to be a *Hamas* sympathiser.

Reem never pursued her dreams of university and married Awad shortly after leaving school in 1999.

They bought a four-bedroom apartment in a relatively affluent area of Gaza City.

Reem remained close to her own family and travelled to the centre of Gaza City to visit them regularly.

On such trips, Doha would cycle along behind her on her green tricycle.

A week before her death, Reem visited her mother and siblings for the last time.

She ate lunch and chatted animatedly about the children.

Her husband joined them for an evening meal and then the family headed back to their own home.

That was the last time Reem's family saw her.

A steady stream of family, friends and customers have filed into the car battery shop to pay their condolences.

They cannot hide their shock, and speak of Reem as a balanced and tolerant young woman, incapable of such an atrocity. They say that for the four years of her marriage not a word or action betrayed any growing radicalism -- if that indeed is what drove her.

Yet it seems she was under the influence of *Hamas* and was selected for the mission.

For some time the terrorist group had been trying to find a way of penetrating the heavily guarded Erez border crossing.

They had concluded that it was most vulnerable on Wednesdays, a day reserved for only **women** to apply for permission to work in Israel.

Apparently Reem made several reconnaissance visits, and then, in the early hours of Wednesday, January 14, she kissed her children one last time as they slept.

She was driven to Erez by her husband just as daylight was breaking.

She had been fitted with a specially-designed bomb which was attached to her leg rather than her waist, as was normal practice, and she carried a pair of crutches.

According to <u>Hamas</u> insiders, the engineer who made the device constructed it in such a way that it forced the wearer to walk with a convincing limp.

When the Israeli border guards asked Reem why the alarm had sounded during the security check, it would be apparent that she was not carrying explosives around her waist and she would be able to explain that it was the titanium rods in her crippled leg that were causing the problem.

SO, leaning heavily on the crutches, Reem passed unhindered through the cursory Palestinian checkpoint before being apprehended at the Israeli crossing when, as expected, the alarm sounded.

And then she began to weep.

<u>Hamas</u> insists it was a fine piece of acting that disarmed the Israelis -- but perhaps it was the horrifying realisation of what she was about to do and her regrets about the children she was leaving behind.

In between sobs, she recounted her well-rehearsed tale about metal rods in her leg.

A guard took her to an internal security room to be hand-searched by a <u>female</u> officer and it was here, while she was waiting for the officer to arrive, that Reem suddenly delved beneath her clothes and detonated the bomb.

Within hours her devastated family had erected the traditional condolence tent and were burying what remained of their beloved sister.

Still too upset to comprehend the magnitude of Reem's deed, they sought no answers from her husband and his family when they encountered them at the funeral.

And now their questions might never be answered.

The Awads, as is the Muslim tradition, are now caring for Reem's children but have disappeared with them to a safe house in anticipation of the demolition of their home by the Israeli authorities -- standard punishment for the families of suicide bombers.

Some time in the next few weeks, Reem's family will receive the traditional greeting card from <u>Hamas</u> -- just like the ones that have been sent on previous occasions to the families of other **female** suicide bombers.

It will carry a photograph of their martyred daughter and the words: "A nation whose <u>women</u> will always fight will eventually reach victory."

Tragic and blood-curdling -- but without the horrific poignancy of that final image of a mother and her little daughter.

Load-Date: January 31, 2004



The Tampa Tribune (Florida)

March 24, 2004 Wednesday

FINAL EDITION

Copyright 2004 Times Publishing Company All Rights Reserved

Section: NATION/WORLD; Pg. 10

Length: 1307 words

Body

A Balancing Act

I am a second-semester junior at the University of South Florida majoring in management information systems, and it deeply disturbs me that politicians and university leaders want to expedite the graduation process (Nation/World, March 22). It is very rare that any student graduates in four years; in my opinion, the average student takes about 4 1/2 or five years. I distinctly remember my adviser in my freshman year telling me not to take more than 12 credits until I could get acclimated to the college environment.

College is where students find themselves, where they can be involved in different organizations that give them meaning and self-worth. Balancing work to pay for school funds such as books and meal plans, balancing schoolwork and trying to be a part of different organizations is stressful and very difficult to maintain. I am not against trying to rush college students out of school in four years, but I am against penalizing them for certain circumstances that may be beyond their control.

JEVONE LOVETT

Brandon

Will Take Longer

The governor proposes "block tuition" and out-of-state tuition to force students to graduate college in four years (Nation/World, March 22). There is also a proposal to take away the Florida Prepaid College Program and the Florida Bright Futures scholarships, two things that enable me to afford college and still manage 12 credit hours, if the classes I need are even offered. Limited class availability because of government-imposed budget cuts is the real reason most students cannot graduate on time.

Taking away our scholarships, forcing us to pay for a class load that we cannot take while working part time, and increasing tuition after 120 credit hours will only extend my stay in college. I would have to work full time and take even fewer classes just to earn the money for tuition. It would take more, not fewer, years to graduate.

ALLISON TAYLOR

Lutz

We're Part Of Problem

With Ariel Sharon's assassination of Sheik Ahmed Yassin, I'm concerned the world is heading toward some cataclysmic event. No civilized nation should be supporting anything Sharon does. And yet our so-called leaders have America drowning in hypocrisy.

Israel is the occupier and the victim too? Since when is the occupier the good guy? And yet America's so-called fourth estate seems more than willing to paint Israel exactly in that light. Why is that?

I'm not optimistic. Calamity can't be far away, not as long as America continues to be a part of the problem in the Middle East.

SKIP MOLANDER

Seffner

Yassin No "Militant"

Regarding "Hamas Leader A Martyr To Enraged Palestinians" (Nation/World, March 23):

I must question the misuse of terms by the media. The media persistently refer to terrorists as militants. This is a very dangerous tactic, as it establishes a false mind-set in readers.

Sheik Ahmed Yassin is described as the "spiritual leader of the militant group <u>Hamas</u>." It is a fact that <u>Hamas</u> has been designated a terrorist organization by our government, as has Islamic Jihad. Describing this evil advocate of homicide bombers as a "militant" is outrageous. It is akin to giving a similar title to Saddam Hussein.

The term "militant" is usually seen as a somewhat honorable term for those who are aggressive for a cause. It is a stretch to use "militant" to describe those who bomb innocent civilians. Finally, it denigrates the efforts of our servicemen and <u>women</u> who are fighting "terrorists," not "militants." The media should cease and desist in the use of this questionable practice.

NORMAN N. GROSS

Palm Harbor

The writer is president of Promoting Responsibility in Middle East Reporting and chair of the Anti-Hate Committee, Greater Florida B'nai B'rith.

Silence Is Dangerous

And we keep quiet! While our government denounces the suicide bombers, we support by our silence the Israeli assassination of Palestinian leaders. Americans will be unfairly targeted because of our government's convenient moral righteousness.

MIKE CONNELL

Lutz

Eliminate Terrorists

Israel's elimination of the <u>Hamas</u> leader Sheik Ahmed Yassin should have surprised no one. Can anyone expect a nation to sit idly by and ignore the repeated calls of a leader who urges his followers to wage acts of terror against its citizens? Yassin not only called for the wholesale destruction of Israel, he also openly advocated acts of terror against Israelis and anyone who supports them. Few would bat an eye or shed a tear if U.S. forces were to eliminate Osama bin Laden, the mastermind of 9/11 and countless acts of terror against Americans and others. So why all the fuss about eliminating Yassin? Why the double standard? Only those who are cowards or who believe that the lives of Israeli civilians are worthless would condemn Israel's action.

The only effective response against terror is to pursue those who perpetrate it and eliminate them, regardless of their popularity among their followers. Many in the Muslim world support Osama bin Laden, but that doesn't mean we should abandon our quest to eliminate him.

Maybe if the U.S. government had shown the same resolve toward the leaders of al-Qaida as Israel has shown toward Yassin, then perhaps Sept. 11, 2001, would have passed as any other day instead of the calamity that it became. We should applaud Israel for demonstrating such resolve and use this opportunity to put the world's remaining terrorist leaders and their supporters on notice. They can run but they cannot hide.

RON TENENHAUS

Tampa

Condemn Israel's Actions

Israel proves yet again that it is not interested in peace. By assassinating the <u>Hamas</u> leader, Sheik Ahmed Yassin, it knows the Palestinians will want to avenge his illegitimate assassination, thus perpetuating the circle of violence in the region.

As an American Muslim, I condemn all acts of terrorism, but let us not forget that killing religious leaders is also an act of terrorism, whether it is carried out by a "terrorist" or the government of Israel. Time and time again, the American media depict Muslims as terrorists. They are quick to seek condemnation from our communities whenever there is mere suspicion about any Muslim allegedly involved in anything related to terrorism. Why don't the media apply the same level of scrutiny toward Israeli acts of aggression and murder? The international community has condemned it. It is time to step up and call it as it is.

LAYELLE SAAD

Tampa

A Biased Headline

Your headline "Hamas Leader A Martyr To Enraged Palestinians" (Nation/World, March 22) shows your bias to the Palestinian cause.

Never forget that this man sent dozens upon dozens of children to blow themselves up on buses packed with civilians. We are not talking about the Rev. Martin Luther King Jr. or Gandhi here — both proponents of nonviolent protest. But that is just the background, not the point.

"Enraged"? Why not just write "justifiably enraged"? That's the sense your headline conveys. Was that your intention? The headline conveys blame to the Israelis for enraging the Palestinians. How about the Israeli and Palestinian victims of this man's insane homicide bombing campaign? How come they are not enraged after year upon year of never-ending terror? Do the Jewish families feel less pain? Have they no right to be enraged? Are they less human? Do they not have the right to emotion because they occupy the Gaza Strip?

Every one of us is entitled to support whoever he wants in this most difficult issue. A newspaper, however, should not be using headlines as a substitute for the editorial page. This was a very powerful and unprofessional piece of work. Those who buy their ink by the barrel have a responsibility to be fair and impartial. The Tampa Tribune has failed miserably in this regard.

ERIC SCHILLER

Tampa

Copyright © 2004, The Tampa Tribune and may not be republished without permission. E-mail <u>library@tampatrib.com</u>

Notes

LETTERS

Load-Date: March 25, 2004



Sheikh Yassin fell victim to hatred he preached

The Toronto Star

March 24, 2004 Wednesday

Ontario Edition

Copyright 2004 Toronto Star Newspapers, Ltd.

Section: NEWS; Pg. A02

Length: 1126 words

Byline: Rosie DiManno

Body

Bomb-mangled commuter buses, blood-splattered survivors wandering in a daze, the keening of mourners: These are the images of the second intifada in Israel, an orchestrated uprising that has achieved not a sliver of its purported aim.

Or maybe there is no point beyond the random killing of Jews, a scatter-shot genocide by attrition, where murder becomes so commonplace that it takes on the blanched hues of mere nuisance.

Bald numbers cannot compete with the emotionalism of photographs and news footage. But it's instructive to remember that suicide bombings in Israel were more than halved in 2003 from the previous year, dropping from 54 to 20; Israeli deaths resulting from such attacks fell by half over the same period.

Those figures are open to interpretation. What they tell me is this: Israel, the target, must know what it's doing. Because the perpetrators of such crimes despised their "occupiers" no less than 24 months ago and their fury hasn't dwindled. Or perhaps even the most radical militants arrayed against Israel have taken sombre note of the painful losses to their own in a conflict that has brought Palestinians no closer to the realization of statehood: 2,700 deaths on the Palestinian side since Intifada II was launched in 2000, eclipsing in numbers if not agony - which isn't quantifiable - the 900 Israelis who've been killed.

In the process, every blueprint for resolving the conflict politically, every proposal put forth in capitals from Washington to Cairo, has been shredded.

So perhaps the Israeli military and the cabinet - there were only two dissentions around the table - knew what they were doing in authorizing the assassination of Sheikh Ahmed Yassin in Monday's missile strike, even if the immediate repercussions will no doubt be convulsive and bloody in the extreme. Tit-for-tat carnage has become the pattern of what passes for dialogue in the Middle East, and who can keep track of grievance versus catalyst?

The Arab world is in acute lamentation over Yassin's extermination, which says a lot about what passes for leadership in societies infused with choler, where wickedness is bred in the bone, and where the very idea of Israel as a sovereign state, with the right to exist, is anathema. Yassin was an arch-terrorist by any definition of the term, a viper in a wheelchair, and if his murder is now inducing shrill promises of revenge from radical groups that actually have little use for each other, sharing only an irreversible enmity for Israel, then it only underscores how depraved some societies have become, how far they have slithered away from even the most basic respect for human life.

Sheikh Yassin fell victim to hatred he preached

Those who cheer the death of innocents can expect to find little sympathy when they mourn their own.

Yassin died the victim of what he preached - undiluted, unbridled hatred and the veneration of violence to achieve political ends.

The cripple in a wheelchair was, in life, routinely referenced as the "spiritual" leader of *Hamas*, the terrorist organization that he co-founded in 1987 as an offshoot of the Muslim Brotherhood at the start of the first Palestinian uprising. Well, spirituality is a euphemism for abomination in some quarters, the kind of moral relativism that is gaining traction far and wide in a don't-hurt-us world that cowers before militant Islam.

However revered - and such worship is a shame, testament to the barrenness of Palestinian leadership - Yassin was an evangelist of odium and a strategist of terror who, in his miserable life, never accepted anything less than the destruction of Israel, the reclamation of an idealized Palestine that never existed, and the creation of an Islamic state in the ashes of Zion. To that end, *Hamas* trained and dispatched its army of brainwashed suicide bombers on *women* and children and elderly civilians. This brigade of the disenfranchised has killed no fewer than 377 Israelis in 400 attacks and terrorist bombings.

So let's dispel with the fiction of <u>Hamas</u> as segregated political from military, as if one wing were not attached to the other. Or, more preposterously still, the notion that any agency can be simultaneously humanitarian and murderous. It was, and is, all of one piece, although Canada was laggard in recognizing that fact, not outlawing <u>Hamas</u> until just two years ago.

It is depressingly predictable that the assassination of Yassin, certainly in the short term, will provoke more attacks, more pointless retribution. The reverberations are even now being felt in Iraq, where the vestigial loathing of Israel has been imparted to U.S. troops representative of an occupying regime in cahoots with a more intractable enemy. But imagine a world where Israel did not have a resolute friend in America. Once the darling of idealists and intellectuals, the embodiment of hopefulness, Israel has become a pariah state, ridiculed when it negotiates and vilified when it digs in its heels.

Discourse and compromise have made no headway in the Middle East. With every passing year, every rejected proposal, the Palestinian leadership - in an immeasurable betrayal of the people it claims to represent - has simply furthered the suspicion that Palestinians are undeserving of the statehood they covet. There are enough rogue states in the world already without adding another one, slathered in blood, to the list.

Assassination by the state is a dirty business but not necessarily the last refuge of scoundrels. As a pre-emptive strike, it is preferable to the conventional combat that kills in the multitudes. And the very world capitals that are today condemning Israel for what it did, cold-bloodedly, to Yassin have themselves either engaged in or tacitly endorsed the practice when it's suited their purpose.

It is possible that Yassin's murder will galvanize the forces of rejection, forging solidarity between political activists who blow up people and religious jihadists who blow up people. That is unfortunate, maybe even ruinous, particularly if Yassin's assassination whelps a third, fourth, fifth generation of militants whose only objective is the destruction of Israel.

But the fear of acting - which is the posture that invested organizations such as <u>Hamas</u> with a legitimacy that was never its due - has done nothing to further peace and co-existence in the Middle East, or anywhere else for that matter.

Sheikh Ahmed Yassin viewed negotiation and engagement as weakness. Israel, a fingernail of land in the Arab fist of the Middle East, cannot afford to be seen as weak.

If hell is indeed unleashed, remember who groomed the dogs of war.

Rosie DiManno usually appears Monday, Wednesday, Friday and Saturday. E-mail: dimanno @ hotstar.net.

Those who cheer the death

Sheikh Yassin fell victim to hatred he preached

of innocents can expect to find little sympathy when they mourn their own

Load-Date: March 24, 2004



Israelis fire rockets near refugee camp

Prince George Citizen (British Columbia)

September 25, 2004 Saturday

Final Edition

Copyright 2004 Prince George Citizen All Rights Reserved

Section: WORLD; Pg. 17

Length: 324 words

Byline: Associated Press

Dateline: GAZA CITY, Gaza Strip

Body

GAZA CITY, Gaza Strip (AP) -- An Israeli helicopter fired two missiles toward a group of Palestinians on the outskirts of a refugee camp early Saturday, killing a 55-year-old man and wounding five people, hospital officials said.

The army said the air strike was aimed at four men about to launch a rocket or rocket-propelled grenade and at least two of those involved in the launch were hit. Hospital officials said the dead man and the wounded were all civilians.

The air strike hit near the Khan Younis refugee camp, close to the Jewish settlement Neve Dekalim where a 24-year-old Israeli-American woman was killed in a mortar attack by *Hamas* militants Friday.

Early Saturday, dozens of Israeli armoured vehicles moved from Neve Dekalim toward Khan Younis, drawing a crowd of onlookers that included gunmen and civilians, witnesses said. Tanks fired machine-guns from time to time toward a large housing project in the refugee camp, the witnesses said.

The air strike came during Yom Kippur, the holiest day on the Jewish calendar, when much of Israel shuts down, with borders closed and streets deserted.

The mortar attack on Neve Dekalim marked the first time in four years of Israeli-Palestinian fighting that a resident of a Jewish settlement in Gaza has been killed by Palestinian shelling. Since 2000, Palestinians have fired hundreds of mortars and homemade rockets at Gaza settlements and Israeli border towns.

The death in Neve Dekalim is expected to mobilize further opposition to Prime Minister Ariel Sharon's plan to withdraw from Gaza next year.

A <u>Hamas</u> video showed three masked militants setting up and firing a mortar. One of the mortars hit a house in Neve Dekalim, wounding two <u>women</u> who were taken to a hospital in southern Israel for treatment. One of the <u>women</u>, identified as Tiferet Tratner, died of her wounds and the second was lightly hurt. Eran Sternberg, a settler spokesman in Gaza, said Tratner also held U.S. citizenship.

Graphic

Photo: Associated Press; Streets in downtown Jerusalem are nearly deserted shortly after the start of Yom Kippur, the holiest day in the Jewish year on Friday.;

Load-Date: February 17, 2006



16 KILLED IN BUS BOMB ATTACKS; INJURY TOLL OVER 100

Daily Post (North Wales)
September 1, 2004, Wednesday

Copyright 2004 The Liverpool Daily Post & Echo Ltd

Section: NW Merseyside Edition; NEWS; Pg. 17; Newspaper

Length: 331 words

Byline: LIAM CHRISTOPHER

Body

PALESTINIAN suicide bombers on a revenge mission blew up two buses seconds apart in southern Israel today, killing at least 16 passengers and wounding more than 100.

It was the first suicide bombing inside Israel for six months. It was claimed by militant group *Hamas* as vengeance for the assassination of their spiritual leader.

The explosions ended a period of relative calm. Israel attributed the lull to its crackdown on Palestinian militants and continued construction of its separation barrier in the West Bank. Palestinian militants have acknowledged increasing difficulties carrying out attacks.

The two buses blew up 15 seconds apart, about 100 yards from a busy intersection in the centre of Beersheba. "People were screaming and yelling. Everybody was running, " said witness Tzika Schreter, a college lecturer.

The blasts came hours after Prime Minister Ariel Sharon presented to his Likud party the most detailed plan yet for Israel's withdrawal from the Gaza Strip. It warned party rebels the plan "willbe implemented, period". Sharon met top security officials to plan a response. Israel has historically struck hard at militant targets after suicide bombings. "Israel will continue fighting terror with all its might, " Sharon said, pledging to push forward with the Gaza pull-out.

Israel's Magen David Adom rescue service said 30 of the wounded were in serious or moderate condition.

Authorities stepped up security throughout Beersheba after the attacks, placing checkpoints on major roads and snarling traffic in and out of the city.

In Gaza, Muslim leaders praised the "heroic operation" over mosque loudspeakers.

The attack was the deadliest since a <u>female</u> suicide bomber killed 21 people nearly a year ago in the northern city of Haifa.

Militants hadn't carried out a major attack in Israel since March 14, when 11 people were killed in Ashdod. It prompted Israel to assassinate Sheik Ahmed Yassin, the spiritual leader of <u>Hamas</u>, and his successor, Abdel Aziz Rantisi.

Graphic

A rescuer carries an injured woman; Police and rescue workers examine one of destroyed buses

Load-Date: September 1, 2004



A history of violence: Barbara Kay defends Neil French, the ad man who told it like it is

National Post (f/k/a The Financial Post) (Canada)
October 26, 2005 Wednesday
National Edition

Copyright 2005 National Post All Rights Reserved

Section: ISSUES & IDEAS; Pg. A22

Length: 868 words

Byline: Bret Stephens, National Post

Body

Palestinian President Mahmoud Abbas paid George W. Bush a friendly visit on Thursday. At the Rose Garden press conference that followed, Mr. Bush stressed Mr. Abbas's responsibility to "end terror attacks, dismantle terrorist infrastructure, maintain law and order and one day provide security for their own state." Mr. Abbas himself made no mention of the word "terrorism." But he did demand the release of those he called "prisoners of freedom," now being held in Israeli jails.

The Israeli-Palestinian conflict no longer rivets world attention the way it did a few years ago. Still it rolls along, as it probably will for decades to come. And the reason for this is well-captured by Mr. Abbas's use of the term "prisoners of freedom."

Who are some of these prisoners? One is Ibrahim Ighnamat, a <u>Hamas</u> leader arrested last week by Israel in connection to his role in organizing a March, 1997, suicide bombing. Another is Jamal Tirawi of the Al Aqsa Martyrs Brigades: Mr. Tirawi had bullied a 14-year-old boy into becoming a suicide bomber by threatening to denounce him as a "collaborator."

And then there is 21-year-old Wafa Samir al-Bis, who was detained in June after the explosives she was carrying failed to detonate at an Israeli checkpoint. Her target was an Israeli hospital where she had previously been treated -- as a humanitarian gesture -- for burns suffered in a kitchen accident.

Many explanations have been given for the almost matchless barbarism into which Palestinian society has descended. One is the effect of Israeli occupation and all that has, in recent years, gone with it: the checkpoints, the closures, the petty harassments. I witnessed much of this personally when I lived in Israel, and there can be no discounting the embittering effect that a military curfew has on the ordinary Palestinians living under it.

Yet the checkpoints and curfews are not gratuitous acts of unkindness, nor are they artifacts of occupation. On the contrary, in the years when Israel was in full control of the territories there were no checkpoints or curfews, and Palestinians could move freely (and find employment) throughout the country. It was only with the start of the peace process in 1993 and the creation of autonomous Palestinian areas under the control of the late Yasser Arafat that terrorism became common. And it was only then that the checkpoints went up in earnest.

A history of violence: Barbara Kay defends Neil French, the ad man who told it like it is

In other words, while Palestinian actions go far to explain Israeli behavior, the reverse doesn't hold. How, then, are the Ighnamats, Tirawis and Bises of Palestinian society to be explained?

Consider a statistic: In the first nine months of 2005, more Palestinians were killed by other Palestinians than by Israelis -- 219 to 218, according to the Palestinian Authority. In the Gaza Strip, the departure of Israeli troops and settlers has brought anarchy, not freedom. Members of *Hamas* routinely fight gun battles with members of Fatah, Mahmoud Abbas's ruling political party. So-called "collaborators" are put to the gun by street mobs, their "guilt" sometimes nothing more than being the object of a neighbor's spite. Honor killings of "loose" *women* are common, as is the torture and murder of homosexuals.

Atop this culture of violence are the <u>Hamas</u> and Fatah leaders, the clan chieftains, the PA "generals" and "ministers." And standing atop them -- theoretically, at least -- is the Palestinian president. All were raised in this culture; most have had their uses for violence. For Arafat, those uses were to achieve mastery of his movement, and to harness its energies to his political purpose. Among Palestinians, his popularity owed chiefly to the fact that under his leadership all this violence achieved an astonishing measure of international respectability.

Hence Mr. Abbas's Rose Garden obeisances to the "prisoners of freedom." The Palestinian president leads a society in which dignity and violence have long been entwined, in which the absence of the latter risks the loss of the former. This is not to say that Mr. Abbas himself is a violent man. But his fate as a politician rests in the hands of violent men, and so far he has shown no appetite for confronting them.

Instead, he has sought to entice groups such as <u>Hamas</u> into a democratic process. As with Hezbollah in Lebanon, they have been happy to get what they can out of politics while refusing to lay down their arms. In doing so, they make a mockery of Mr. Abbas's stated commitment to "one authority, one law and one gun" -- that is, to the very idea of a state, and therefore to Mr. Abbas's presidency of it.

Talk to Palestinians, and you will often hear it said, like a mantra, that Palestinian dignity requires Palestinian statehood. This is either a conceit or a lie. Should a Palestinian state ever come into existence, it will be a small place, mostly poor. One can understand why Arafat spurned the offer of it -- and why his people cheered wildly when he did. Their dignity has always rested upon their violence, their struggle, their "prisoners of freedom."

For Mr. Abbas, the problem is that statehood and dignity are not a package. They are a choice. And if history is any guide, the choice he must make is not one he is likely to survive.

Graphic

Graphic/Diagram: Charicature of Mahmoud Abbas.

Load-Date: October 26, 2005



IN BRIEF

Geelong Advertiser
July 21, 2005 Thursday

Copyright 2005 Nationwide News Pty Limited All Rights Reserved

Section: WORLD; Pg. 20

Length: 391 words

Body

Single crisis

TOURS, France, Wednesday -- China is tipped to become the world's largest lonely hearts club in coming decades, with 23 million men of marriage age unable to find a *female* partner, an international population conference was told today. The prospect of millions of men forced to go solo threatens major social and political problems for the tightly controlled nation of 1.3 billion people, the most populous nation on the planet, experts told the conference.

Attacks

GAZA CITY, Wednesday -- <u>Hamas</u> gunmen today attacked the homes of the head of the Palestinian security services and the leader in Gaza of the governing Fatah faction, just hours after a deal to end factional fighting. At least seven people were wounded in the exchanges of fire with bodyguards after the attacks on the home of preventive security chief Rashid Abu Shbak and the head of Fatah in Gaza, Abdallah Franji, security and <u>Hamas</u> sources said.

Warning

MANILA, Wednesday -- Philippine opposition politicians warned today that they are hardening up an impeachment case against President Gloria Macapagal Arroyo and intend to file at least 10 charges against her within days. Ms Arroyo, whose second term is due to run until 2010, is battling a crisis over allegations she cheated her way back into office during last year's presidential election and that members of her family took kickbacks from illegal gambling.

Reward

KAMPALA, Wednesday -- A Ugandan MP has pledged to reward girls for their chastity by paying their university fees if they are virgins when they leave school. A local newspaper said today Bbaale County MP Sulaiman Madada said any girl in his district who wanted to take part in the scheme aimed at promoting girls' education would be given a gynaecological examination by health workers to check they were virgins.

Tough laws

BANGKOK, Wednesday -- Thai authorities plan to detain 200 suspected rebels without charge for up to 30 days under tough new emergency powers, a senior security official said today.

Dog death

IN BRIEF

LONDON, Wednesday -- British Airways is to meet the RSPCA on the issue of pet transportation following the death of a collie dog through dehydration on a flight to Australia. Seven-year-old collie Joe was flown from London to Sydney and he was found dead when the plane landed in Australia. The dog's drinking bowl was empty and chewed up.

Load-Date: July 21, 2005



Israeli Strike In Gaza Kills 5 Militants

The New York Times

October 6, 2004 Wednesday

Late Edition - Final

Copyright 2004 The New York Times Company

Section: Section A; Column 1; Foreign Desk; Pg. 3

Length: 772 words

Byline: By STEVEN ERLANGER; Taghreed El Khodary contributed reporting from Gaza City for this article, and

Warren Hoge from the United Nations.

Dateline: JERUSALEM, Oct. 5

Body

An Israeli helicopter fired two missiles at a car in Gaza City, killing a senior member of the radical group Islamic Jihad and his bodyguard, Palestinians in Gaza said Tuesday evening.

The two were Bashir al-Dabash, 38, the leader of Islamic Jihad's military wing and one of its top officials in Gaza, the group said, and Ahmed al-Araeer, who was said to be his bodyguard. One missile missed the car and lightly wounded three bystanders. The strike occurred near the Shifa hospital in Gaza City, where Mr. Dabash had visited a wounded fighter, Palestinians said.

Young <u>women</u> and children rushed toward the car. Some of them were shouting, "Welcome to Izzedine al-Qassam." That is the name of the armed wing of <u>Hamas</u>, which has carried out dozens of rocket attacks and suicide bombings in Israel since the uprising began.

Later Tuesday night, another Israeli helicopter fired a missile toward the Jabaliya refugee camp in Gaza, killing at least two militants and wounding three others, witnesses and Palestinian security sources said. The men, from Al Aksa Martyrs Brigades, were preparing to attack Israeli forces, witnesses and army officials said.

[In an attack on Wednesday, Israeli forces killed a militant leader and a father and his son, The Associated Press reported, quoting Palestinian officials, bringing to 75 the number of Palestinians killed in the weeklong offensive, which is aimed at halting Palestinian rocket fire on Israeli towns. Nearly half the dead and 60 percent of the 400 wounded in the campaign were civilians, Palestinian hospital officials said.

[The Israeli Army identified the official of Islamic Jihad as Bashir al-Dabash, 40, saying he was "responsible for dozens of terrorist attacks."]

The Israelis also shot and killed a Palestinian girl, Imam al-Hams, 13, on Tuesday from an observation post near the Rafah refugee camp. Israeli military officials said troops posted along the Egyptian border had fired after she crossed into a restricted zone and was spotted planting "what seemed to be an explosive charge." The army said that when she threw away her school bag, troops mistook it for a bomb and shot her. Palestinian residents said the girl had been shot 20 times, 5 times in the head.

Israeli Strike In Gaza Kills 5 Militants

As Israel presses on with its campaign, the military is also using the opportunity to try to remove the leadership of radical groups of Palestinians like <u>Hamas</u> and Islamic Jihad. The campaign started a week ago, after two children in the Israeli town of Sederot were killed by a rocket fired by <u>Hamas</u>.

The Israelis say it is intolerable for their citizens to be subject to rocket attacks, even as the Israeli prime minister, Ariel Sharon, vows to withdraw from the Gaza Strip.

But the Israeli campaign is also running into more -- and expected -- international criticism, from Egypt and Russia. Secretary of State Colin L. Powell said Monday that he hoped Israel's incursion -- its deadliest into Gaza in four years -- "can come to a conclusion quickly."

Israel appears to be in no rush. The defense minister, Shaul Mofaz, said Monday that "it will take time until we can be sure that we remove the threat" of the Qassam rockets. Other military officials, however, say that they simply hope to reduce the number of rockets fired by 70 percent to 80 percent, and that they do not want to have to stay in Gaza indefinitely.

Perhaps to mute criticism, Israeli officials said indirect contacts about ending the operation had begun with the Palestinian Authority, which is led by Yasir Arafat, but the Palestinians denied that. Other Israeli officials openly say they are working hard to avert the kind of unfair criticism, as they put it, that Israel got in the spring of 2002, when it pushed into West Bank towns like Jenin, Nablus and Bethlehem.

That effort included an attack on the United Nations Relief and Works Agency, which aids Palestinian refugees, when an Israeli drone photographed what Israeli officials said was a Qassam rocket in a United Nations vehicle. The Israelis called reporters to draw attention to the film and asked for the dismissal of the head of the agency, Peter Hansen.

But Mr. Hansen, who is often critical of Israel, said the film appeared to show a folded-up stretcher, not a rocket, being placed in the vehicle. On Tuesday, the ambulance driver, Wail Raban, said the object was a stretcher, as did Wahel Ghabayen, a relief worker who identified himself as the person in the film.

At the United Nations on Tuesday night, the United States vetoed an Arab-backed resolution demanding an immediate halt to Israeli military operations in Gaza.

http://www.nytimes.com

Graphic

Photo: A Palestinian woman and her children in the Jabaliya refugee camp yesterday passed by a fighter holed up in a defensive position. The Israeli military effort in Gaza started a week ago, after a <u>Hamas</u> rocket attack. (Photo by Scott Nelson/Getty Images)

Load-Date: October 6, 2004



Isolated and Angry, Gaza Battles Itself, Too

The New York Times
July 16, 2004 Friday
Late Edition - Final

Copyright 2004 The New York Times Company

Section: Section A; Column 1; Foreign Desk; Pg. 1

Length: 3837 words

Byline: By JAMES BENNET

Series: A PEOPLE ADRIFT -- Second of two articles

Dateline: GAZA

Body

Some of the <u>women</u> wore smart suits. Many modestly covered their hair. Only one wore the most conservative Islamic dress, cloaking herself head to toe in black.

Members of the <u>Women</u>'s Affairs Technical Committee of Palestine, they had gathered in June in a hotel conference room in Gaza City for a symposium titled "After the Withdrawal From Gaza."

They were not happy with what they were hearing over the crash of the surf beyond the windows.

Like Palestinians generally, these <u>women</u> wanted to hear precisely what the Palestinian leadership planned to do. They knew that the Israeli prime minister, Ariel Sharon, said he would withdraw Israeli settlers and soldiers from the Gaza Strip next year. They knew that Palestinian factions had begun struggling over who will govern Gaza and how, whether it will be ruled by agreement, by ballot, by force, or not at all.

They did not think they had heard answers from the first panel, composed of a legislator, a former minister and a militant leader.

"You make me so depressed," said Rida Awadallah, 59, of the Working <u>Women</u>'s Union, when she got her chance to ask a question. "Maybe I'm dumb, but I've heard all this before. What's the preparation for the next stage?"

Some Palestinians glimpse in an Israeli pullout a new chance at statehood, a chance to create a model of self-rule that will spread to the West Bank, leading to a Palestinian state with Jerusalem as its capital.

But 10 years after Yasir Arafat returned in triumph to Gaza under a previous experiment in self-rule, the Oslo peace process, these would-be leaders are scrambling for a way forward. The alternative, they say, is all too clear: a destitute enclave ruled by warlords and militants, an outcome they fear will doom their national movement.

As the panelists suffered under the lacerating questions, one of them, a Palestinian legislator and political scientist named Ziad Abu Amr, finally fired back: "Do you want us to lie to you concerning the depression you are suffering from? You know who is determining everything. Arafat hasn't proposed a vision for the Palestinian people."

Isolated and Angry, Gaza Battles Itself, Too

While he spoke, a murmur swept the room. Flanked by beefy bodyguards, Muhammad Dahlan strode through the door. He was to give the next talk, "An Independent Vision."

Mr. Dahlan, for years the leader of the Preventive Security Force in Gaza, is more feared than loved here.

But he is favored by Israeli, European and American officials as strong enough to run Gaza, and he has embarked on a political campaign. He sees the Israeli withdrawal as an opportunity -- for the Palestinians and maybe for himself -- and he is determined to take advantage of it.

Like many other Palestinians, he says Israel has deliberately sown chaos by striking at the Palestinian Authority during the conflict, an accusation Israel denies. Now, he argues, if the Palestinians fail here, Israel will point to the example and refuse to cede more of the West Bank.

Mr. Dahlan is not a reckless man, and his speech was cautious. But then came the barrage of questions. The moderators tried to avoid the woman in black, but she would not be denied, seizing the microphone to stridently challenge what she saw as a muddled speech.

Mr. Dahlan raised his own voice in return, and his message grew stronger as well. He asked if Palestine wanted to go the way of Iraq or Libya. Palestinians could either build a model in Gaza, or embrace "chaos and destruction."

Over and over, Palestinian leaders had exaggerated their achievements, he continued. "We are deceiving ourselves," he said. "We failed to make peace and to make war. We failed at both. We have to decide now: Are we going to have war or peace? If it's war, I will be the first to pick up a machine gun."

In an interview in his office one recent evening, Mr. Dahlan tore a blank sheet of paper from a notebook and held it up. That was all the orders he had ever received in 25 years within Mr. Arafat's dominant movement, Fatah, he said. "They are against the intifada; at the same time, they are with the intifada," he said of Fatah's leaders, without naming the top one. "They are against the terror, and they are with the terror."

It was time, he said, to choose.

"We are in the junction," he said, "either to get to Palestinian independence, or to get back to Somalia."

Trying, Grimly, to Be Normal

It is something of a historical paradox that Gaza -- poorer and sharper-edged than the West Bank -- would emerge as the proving ground of a Palestinian state. But Mr. Dahlan and other Palestinian politicians sense beneath the militancy an exhaustion with death and despair and a hunger for change. "Enough is enough," he said.

That attitude is hard to see in the pictures and paintings of the dead that are everywhere here. Their message is usually the same: not of pathos and loss, but of heroism, sacrifice, glamour.

In one painting, Hamdi Mohsin appears vivid and proud, wearing fatigues and holding a rifle in a ferocious battle, against a sky burning red and gold.

Hamdi was not a militant, but a 14-year-old shot dead while throwing stones at Israeli soldiers. When his parents commissioned the painting from Fayez al-Hasani, 52, they asked him to show their boy as a fighter.

Mr. Hasani, who longs to paint "something beautiful," like the dark-eyed <u>women</u> who fill his canvases from before the uprising, worries about his own young son, who rushes out to watch whenever the Israeli soldiers raid Gaza City. "I call it watching death," he said. "It scares me."

Armed struggle may still fire the imagination of many Palestinians, or comfort them, and it draws the attention of the world. But while people here rage at Israeli tactics, they also yearn for a more normal, secure life. This struggle is not celebrated in posters, but it is no less insistent.

Palestinian fishing boats still string a necklace of light along the coast at night; bathers still crowd the beaches by day. In the Rafah refugee camp at the southern end of the Gaza Strip, the area most wracked by violence in the conflict, Mahmoud Juma, 40, is rebuilding his zoo, flattened by Israel during an incursion in May. He hired Hani al-Najar, 23, to paint a new mural on one rebuilt wall.

On a blazing June morning, Mr. Najar was relishing sketching a rose-breasted cockatoo, rather than the kind of mural that makes up most of his commissions. "People will enjoy this," he said. "Children love it. The intifada is all about death."

One evening in June, along the breakwater that forms Gaza City's small harbor, Fuad al-Habeel, a 20-year-old commercial fisherman, stretched his arms in an arching swan dive from the pale-blue deckhouse of a fishing boat.

Sabbagh Ghanem, a 44-year-old school counselor, watched quietly as dozens of sport fishermen lined the breakwater. They dangled a paste of flour and water from their hooks, not catching much of anything but enjoying the calm and the sight of Gaza City burnished by the setting sun.

Yet no one could set aside the conflict for long. Mr. Habeel chafed at Israeli restrictions that limited fishermen like him to a patch of sea. Mr. Ghanem said he was thinking about a 14-year-old student who was wetting his bed. "He wants to die, because everything is sad," Mr. Ghanem said

After diving off a nearby dock, two boys emerged dripping from the sea. One of them, Muhammad Salama, 14, lifted the hem of his trunks to show a puckered scar on his left thigh. He was shot when, with thousands of other children, he rushed to watch the same Israeli incursion in which Hamdi Mohsin died.

Muhammad said his dream was to become a doctor at a Gaza hospital, "to treat people who get wounded."

After the 1948 Arab-Israeli war at Israel's creation, Gaza fell under the control of Egypt, the West Bank under the control of Jordan.

Unlike the Jordanians, the Egyptians did not give citizenship or passports to Palestinians. From the West Bank, Palestinians traveled for schooling and jobs that made some of them wealthy and many of them worldly. Gaza stagnated. Israel occupied the West Bank and Gaza in the war of 1967.

Now, 64 percent of Gazans live under a poverty line of about \$2 a day, compared to just over a third of Palestinians in the West Bank.

Unlike in the West Bank, <u>Hamas</u>, the Islamic militant group, is slightly more popular than Mr. Arafat's Fatah movement in Gaza, according to polling by Khalil Shikaki, a political scientist with the Palestine Center for Policy and Survey Research. <u>Hamas</u> commands the support of a bit more than a quarter of the population, Fatah a bit less.

But that is not the same as saying the ideology of <u>Hamas</u> is triumphing. "To the contrary," Dr. Shikaki said, "the Palestinian public has never been as willing to compromise as it is today." Even in Gaza, more than 70 percent of Palestinians support reconciling with Israel after a peace agreement, according to a poll in March by Dr. Shikaki. (The poll had a margin of error of three percentage points.)

The growing support for <u>Hamas</u> appears to have less to do with its doctrine than with disgust with the Palestinian Authority and Fatah, which dominates the government.

The pain here has bred anger not only at Israel, but also at the Palestinian leadership. In late June, one group of Palestinian protesters demanding housing blocked a road leading to the Egyptian border, threatening to kidnap any Palestinian minister who passed by. The next day, Gaza City demonstrators demanding jobs stoned a personnel office of the Palestinian Authority. "Our kids, what are they going to do?" asked one of the demonstrators, Ahmed Suker, 37. "Become thieves? Murderers? Terrorists?"

In interviews, protesters said they blamed not Mr. Arafat, who they said was powerless under Israeli siege, but rather the ministers around him.

Mr. Dahlan recognized more than two years ago that the Palestinian Authority was losing support and even legitimacy. He resigned his post as a security chief and distanced himself from the top leadership.

At 43, Mr. Dahlan is part of a generation of Fatah men who grew up under the Israeli occupation, then commanded the first uprising against Israel in the late 1980's. In Israeli prisons, they learned Hebrew and read Israeli newspapers. Then they became legislators or security chiefs when Mr. Arafat and other revolutionaries returned from exile. Some, like Mr. Dahlan, made themselves very rich in their government posts.

Yet these men also watched in dismay as what they call "the opposition" -- <u>Hamas</u> -- gained popularity during the second uprising, which began in September 2000.

Understanding Palestinians, they realized how the collapse of peace talks, which were supported by Fatah, had discredited their faction. But also understanding Israelis, they saw how Fatah's bloody role in the new uprising was distancing them from their dream of a state.

"There are two ways to achieve change," Mr. Dahlan told the **women**'s group. "Coup or elections. A coup is not part of the mentality of the Palestinians."

Mr. Dahlan has successfully pressed Mr. Arafat to permit elections in Gaza within Fatah. These elections are under way, and to those who demanded them, they are a revolution. Mr. Dahlan is hoping that they will result in a new governing body for Fatah by early next year, giving him and his allies legitimacy to set policy for Fatah and govern Gaza.

Some of Mr. Dahlan's allies say it is time for Mr. Arafat to go. "He's leading us to nowhere," said one, Khaled Yazji, the head of a nongovernmental organization in Gaza. Mr. Yazji is Mr. Arafat's former chief of protocol.

Mr. Dahlan is careful not to challenge Mr. Arafat directly. Told that Mr. Arafat's representatives here claimed their candidates were winning the Fatah elections, Mr. Dahlan grinned. "That's excellent," he said. "That means we are part of Arafat. We are not against Arafat. We are against the people around Arafat who are corrupted."

He said he wanted Mr. Arafat "to bless the results."

While Mr. Dahlan pursues his own strategy, Mr. Arafat's representatives are conducting negotiations among the Palestinian factions over governing Gaza after an Israeli withdrawal.

<u>Hamas</u> refused to play a role in the Palestinian Authority, a creation of Oslo, which <u>Hamas</u> opposed. Since Mr. Sharon wants to withdraw without a peace agreement, <u>Hamas</u> leaders say they now feel free now to take part.

Egypt is mediating, pressing the factions to stop attacks while urging the Israelis to withdraw completely. Palestinian officials say they have asked the Egyptians for guarantees that Israel will permit Gaza's airport and seaport to open, perhaps under international supervision, and that it will remove its armored cordon along Gaza's border with Egypt.

The gamble is that an Israeli withdrawal, coupled with an infusion of foreign aid, will give Gazans a new stake in tranquility and turn them against militant groups that put it at risk.

The details are critical, but hazy. If attacks continue in Israel or the West Bank, Israel may strike back at the <u>Hamas</u> leaders in Gaza; if Israel does not allow the ports to function freely -- and it says it will not, at least in the short term -- **Hamas** may consider that a deal-breaker.

If Palestinian leaders fail, said Dr. Shikaki, the social scientist, "The threats are tremendous." He listed "the empowerment of <u>Hamas</u>, the fragmentation of the Palestinian nationalist movement, and the disintegration of the Palestinian Authority."

Violence Turns Inward, Too

In 1996, on Mr. Arafat's orders, Mr. Dahlan cracked down on <u>Hamas</u>, earning a reputation for ruthlessness. That was during the Oslo peace process. During this uprising he, like other Fatah leaders, contended they could not take such action.

In an interview in the fall of 2001, shortly after he left his security post, Mr. Dahlan said the Palestinian Authority could not hope for public support to act against violence when Israeli was killing militants and putting military pressure on the Palestinians.

"The Palestinian Authority cannot succeed under the circumstances," he said then. "They're asking the P.A. to attack Palestinians, and that's not possible."

More than two years later, the Palestinian Authority is far weaker. Having failed for so long to act, the security forces are viewed less as law enforcement agencies than as private militias in the service of Mr. Arafat and others. Through allies, Mr. Dahlan retains control of the Preventive Security Force, Palestinian officials and Western diplomats say.

Recently, Gaza's security forces have clashed with one another and with powerful families here.

There is no shortage of active, armed security men in Gaza -- some 24,000 in all, far more than in the West Bank. What they lack, in the view of Palestinian analysts, is political legitimacy to move against militants or even criminals.

"That's why it's so important to get an agreement among the factions," said Maj. Gen. Saeb al-Ajez, a commander of the National Security forces here who is particularly close to the Egyptians. "Then we will have the right to enforce the law." He sat in his office in Gaza City, its windows cross-hatched with tape against the possibility of an Israeli missile strike.

General Ajez said he was asking Egypt for riot control equipment, including shields, tear gas and rubber bullets. He said that after a new government was formed, he would act against people "with no political goals but destruction" who "fire on Israel to ruin this agreement."

Any such action seems a very long way off. General Ajez is in charge of the Palestinian investigation into the bombing of an American diplomatic convoy here on Oct. 15, which killed three American security specialists.

He suggested that he had identified suspects, but said he could reveal no names for fear the culprits might escape. Asked why he did not arrest the suspects, he said: "During this bad security situation, how can we arrest someone? It will endanger the situation."

The killings have badly strained the already weakened ties between the Bush administration and the Palestinian Authority. American diplomats have stopped coming to Gaza. General Ajez approved of that decision.

"I encourage the Americans not to come here," he said. "I cannot ensure their safety."

As the security forces stand by, the martyr posters multiply, and violence drags at the society.

Mr. Arafat's top representative here, Ahmed Helis, has an elegant office lined with large photographs of his son, Muhammad. Muhammad died early this year fighting Israeli soldiers on a raid into Gaza City that had forced his school to close. He was 17. Mr. Helis said that he was afraid for his son as he left the house with his gun instead of his school bag, but that he did not try to stop him. "I can't push people to go and fight, and not let my son go," he said.

"Would you say he had the desire to go and fight, or that it was imposed on him?" he asked. "Would you call him a terrorist?"

A few blocks away, in the same Gaza neighborhood, Umm Nidal Farahat, 55, also surrounds herself with pictures of the dead.

A backlighted sign, roughly four feet long and two feet high, sits above the entrance to her cinderblock home. Against a backdrop of flames, it bears pictures of two of her sons, both <u>Hamas</u> militants. Two other sons have been wounded in the fighting and a fifth, of six, is in an Israeli prison.

Mrs. Farahat, who wants to drive Israel out of all historical Palestine, saw her sons as carrying the fight to the Israelis. Mr. Helis, who favors a two-state solution, saw his son as defending Gaza against invaders.

Yet one of Mrs. Farahat's sons, Nidal, was an engineer of the crude rockets that <u>Hamas</u> fires over Gaza's fenced boundary into Israel. And it was on a raid to stop <u>Hamas</u> from firing such rockets that Israeli forces killed Muhammad Helis. Maybe, if <u>Hamas</u> was not pursuing its own form of conflict, Muhammad Helis might have gone to school.

Nidal Farahat left behind a four-year-old boy, Imad, who dreams of his father and begs his grandmother to bring him home. "I tell him, 'You will be a martyr one day, and then you will go and see your dad," she said.

A Sad 'Might Have Been'

Four years ago, Palestinian negotiators were debating with Israeli counterparts how to share Jerusalem. Now, with not only the United States but also the United Nations and Egypt lining up behind Mr. Sharon, Palestinian leaders are haggling with each other over how to run Gaza.

There is an elegiac quality to the way some Palestinian reformers and other politicians talk now about the Oslo years and their own faded visions of a democratic Palestine with its capital in Jerusalem.

They hold Israel -- its occupation, its military pressure on the Palestinians, its attacks on the Palestinian Authority -- ultimately responsible. But they also say that Palestinians lost control of their national movement and international image, failing to adapt as American, European and Arab attitudes shifted under the shock of the attacks on the United States on Sept. 11, 2001.

They speak of historic opportunities lost, obliterated by inchoate violence that has scarred a generation. They wonder how a process of reconciliation symbolized by a handshake on the White House lawn became a process of separation and alienation symbolized by the Israeli barrier around Gaza, and the new one rising at the West Bank.

There was a time when Elias Khoury thought of himself as a bridge between Israelis and Palestinians. His family lost its land to Israel in the 1948 war, but his father took citizenship in Israel and believed he could work patiently through Israeli law to get the land back. Elias Khoury went to Hebrew University and became a lawyer himself.

In 1975, Mr. Khoury's father, Daoud, was crossing Jerusalem Zion Square when a bomb planted by Palestinians exploded, killing him and 13 others.

Elias Khoury went on to win landmark legal cases against Israeli settlements. He sent his children to a Jerusalem school that blended the city's Jewish, Muslim and Christian children.

Then, one evening this March, his son George went for a jog in Jerusalem's French Hill neighborhood and was shot dead by members of Al Aksa Martyrs Brigades, the militant group linked to Fatah. The group put out a statement boasting that it had killed a settler. French Hill sits on land that Israel occupied in 1967.

Fluent in Arabic, Hebrew and English, friends with Arabs and Jews, George Khoury was studying at Hebrew University. He spoke by telephone every day with his older brother, David, away at school in Scotland, to compare business ideas that each jotted in small notebooks. He played the piano and wanted to learn the saxophone, and he left behind a list of jazz concerts he would attend. Dead at 20, he embodied the might-have-beens of what was known, a few years ago, as the New Middle East.

He left behind a father who called him "my beloved," and who longed for sleep in the hope of seeing his son in his dreams.

In a conversation in his home this spring, Elias Khoury said he had been thinking about what could explain his losses. When his father was killed in 1975, he said, there was no <u>Hamas</u>, no Oslo process, no Yasir Arafat in Ramallah.

"Only the occupation was there," he said, sitting in his darkened living room with George's bronzed baby shoes on a nearby table. "I came to the conclusion that what happened to us, what happened to me, to my father and my son and to others, to Israelis who lost their beloved, this is a diagnosis of the sickness. And the sickness is occupation."

The occupation is coarsening both societies, he said. Israel does not have the same values it held 20 years ago. Yet, he said, Israel was now "mature" enough to accept a Palestinian state. But he said the Palestinians needed outside help to run their affairs. He invoked a Koranic verse that he said explained why, after escaping Egypt, the Jews wandered in the desert for 40 years before reaching the land of Israel. The reason, he said, was that those who had lived in slavery were not capable of building a state.

"It's painful, but we have to look at the truth," he said. "As a lawyer, I look at the facts. The first fact is that the Palestinian society, as a collective, is not ready to lead itself."

The Palestinian leadership had abandoned law and order, he said, and it had shown little respect for basic values. "One of the most important values is the sacredness of life," he said.

After Al Aksa Martyrs discovered its mistake in French Hill, it put out a statement expressing regret and declaring George Khoury to be a shahid, a martyr. "It harmed me more," Mr. Khoury said. "Let's say Yitzhak had been running that evening. It would have been okay if he had been killed? This is how we are going to build our state?"

Mr. Khoury wanted no part of a culture that could celebrate the death of its own sons, or anyone else's. "My son," he said, "was not a shahid."

http://www.nytimes.com

Graphic

Photos: Fishermen in Gaza say they cannot earn a living because Israel still limits where they can work. (Photo by Ruth Fremson/The New York Times)(pg. A1)

ABANDONMENT -- Owners of a gas station in Rafah have decided not to repair damage from an Israeli raid.

MARTYRS -- Nidal Farahat at her home, where a lighted poster is a memorial to two of her sons who died in suicide missions against Israelis. Such posters are common throughout the Gaza Strip.

RECONSTRUCTION -- Zacharia Najar, left, and Muhammad Jimmah with friends at the Rafah zoo, which is being rebuilt. It was damaged in May by Israeli troops hunting for militants in southern Gaza. (Photographs by RUTH FREMSON/The New York Times)(pg. A12)

MOURNERS -- Elias and Rima Khoury in the room of their son George, who was mistakenly killed in March by Palestinian militants in Jerusalem. An Arab bomber killed Mr. Khoury's father there in 1975. (Photo by Rina Castelnuovo for The New York Times)

Isolated and Angry, Gaza Battles Itself, Too

NEXT GENERATION -- Muhammad Dahlan, in suit, has broken with Yasir Arafat and the original Fatah faction. (Photo by Ruth Fremson/The New York Times)(pg. A13)Chart: "POLL: Gaza Residents' View on the Intifada"THE ELECTIONDo you support conducting elections now or postponing them until a cease-fire agreement and Israel withdraws from Palestinian towns?NOW: 24%POSTPONE: 74%NO OPINION: 2%END OF VIOLENCEDo you support or oppose a call for cessation of violence by both sides?SUPPORT: 16OPPOSE: 83NO OPINION: 1After reaching peace and establishing a Palestinian state recognized by Israel, would you support or oppose reconciliation between the two?SUPPORT: 27OPPOSE: 72%NO OPINION: 1How soon do you think that reconciliation could be achieved?NOT EVER: 46%IN MANY GENERATIONS TO COME: 17THE NEXT FEW YEARS, DECADE OR GENERATION: 28NO OPINION: 9Based on 495 surveys at 45 randomly chosen locations in the Gaza Strip from March 14 to 17, 2004. Conducted by the Palestine Center for Policy and Survey Research. The margin of error is 3 percentage points. (pg. A13)Map of Gaza Strip highlighting Gaza: Residents of Gaza are poorer than the West Bank Palestinians. (pg.A12)

Load-Date: July 16, 2004



Canada gives Abbas \$12M in aid: Martin praises Palestinian leader

The Calgary Herald (Alberta)

May 28, 2005 Saturday

Final Edition

Copyright 2005 CanWest Interactive, a division of CanWest Global Communications Corp. All Rights Reserved

Section: NEWS; Pg. A5

Length: 380 words

Byline: Grant Robertson, Calgary Herald

Dateline: OTTAWA

Body

Canada pledged \$12 million in financial support to Palestinian Authority President Mahmoud Abbas on Friday, but Prime Minister Paul Martin said the dollars were merely a down payment on Canada's efforts to broker peace in the Middle East.

The aid package includes money for judicial reforms, support for upcoming Palestinian elections, housing construction and aid for Palestinian refugees in Lebanon, Martin said.

While the dollar figure was a fraction of the \$50 million in direct funding Abbas received a day earlier from U.S. President George W. Bush, Martin said Ottawa is willing to do what it can to take advantage of a new opportunity to bring stability to the region.

Martin praised Abbas for allowing the peace process to begin by rejecting the use of violence in the area to settle disputes.

The Palestinian Authority's opposition to <u>Hamas</u>, which Canada has listed as a terrorist organization, and its support for international calls to end violence against Israel has created an opportunity for stability, Martin said.

"These initiatives are just a down payment. Canada and the international community must clearly do much more at this crucial moment in the Middle East," he told reporters.

Both the prime minister and Abbas condemned <u>Hamas</u> as "terrorists" and the Palestinian leader reiterated his stance there is no room for the group under his rule.

"There needs to be one and only one authority of Palestinian land," Abbas said.

The money will ensure "Canada will have a special place in the region," Abbas told reporters. The aid package totals \$12.2 million and is comprised entirely of new spending, the federal government said, including:

- \$5 million for judicial reform to create an independent Palestinian court system.
- \$1.2 million to oversee Palestinian Legislative Council elections. Canada will also deploy 50 observers to oversee the process.

Canada gives Abbas \$12M in aid: Martin praises Palestinian leader

- \$5 million for housing support in the West Bank and Gaza.
- \$500,000 to assist the Palestinian Authority with border management.
- \$500,000 toward an existing program that helps Palestinian refugee <u>women</u> in Lebanon pursue university degrees.

As well, Canada is deploying another four security officers to Egypt's Sinai Peninsula region to act as observers, bringing the total number to 32.

grobertson@theherald.canwest.com

Load-Date: May 28, 2005



As deadly as the male; Insight

Sydney Morning Herald (Australia)

January 27, 2004 Tuesday

Late Edition

Copyright 2004 John Fairfax Publications Pty Ltd All Rights Reserved

Section: NEWS AND FEATURES; Pg. 9

Length: 1513 words **Byline:** Ed O'Loughlin

Body

What turns <u>women</u> into suicide bombers? The Israelis say it's coercion; the Palestinians say it's anger. Ed O'Loughlin investigates.

RAHMA Jaradat sat in the parlour of her new apartment in Jenin last week, surrounded by photographs of her daughter Hanadi. "I don't think anyone forced her to go," she says. "She wasn't a kid of 15 whose mind they could play on. She was a lawyer . . . She could beat 10 male lawyers all together."

Hanadi Jaradat was 29 and only nine days short of finishing her long and expensive legal training when, on October 4 last year, she blew herself up in a crowded Haifa restaurant, murdering 21 men, <u>women</u> and children and wounding more than 50.

In doing so, she became the sixth Palestinian woman to "successfully" (a strange usage heard on both sides of the conflict) mount a suicide bomb attack, "successful" in that she did not surrender or get caught en route, and that she managed to kill Israelis as well as herself.

In the highly patriarchal Palestinian society, where war is man's business and <u>women</u> are mostly meant to stay at home, the use of <u>females</u> by militant groups has long been controversial.

Even so, Hanadi's action was regarded as particularly unusual by virtue of her profession and that after her long and expensive education, she was expected to be the main financial support for her mother, her two brothers and five sisters, and her father, who is seriously ill.

Although criticism of the armed militants is usually muted, some Palestinians questioned why, given the circumstances, the Islamic Jihad militant group used her as a suicide bomber.

Then two weeks ago the bar of terror was raised yet further when Reem Salah al-Rayashi, 21, killed three Israeli troops and a security guard by detonating herself at the entrance to an industrial estate on Gaza's border with Israel.

The daughter of a respectable and as far as anyone knew moderate Gaza merchant family, al-Rayashi was married and the mother of two young children. She was also the first <u>female</u> suicide bomber to be dispatched by the conservative Islamic movement **Hamas**, albeit in conjunction with the more secular Al Agsa Martyrs' Brigade.

As deadly as the male Insight

In a video recorded before her attack, al-Rayashi cradled an assault rifle and smiled beatifically, wearing the green headscarf of a <u>Hamas</u> "martyr". She said: "I always wanted to be the first woman to carry out a martyr attack, where parts of my body can fly all over."

As for her children, aged three years and 18 months, "God gave me two children and I loved them so much. Only God knew how much I loved them."

The use of such <u>women</u> as suicide bombers has stirred fresh controversy, even though it is two years since the first <u>female</u> "martyr", a 27-year-old volunteer medic named Wafa Idriss, killed herself and an 81-year-old Israeli man in a Jerusalem clothes store.

On the Palestinian side, one controversy has centred on whether it is morally right for the militant groups to send to their deaths not only <u>women</u> but also the young and impressionable, male or <u>female</u> alike. A parallel but often very different debate focuses on whether it is spiritually right for them to do so in view of Islam's conservative teachings on the subservient role of **women**.

"We all know that the Messenger [Muhammad], may he rest in peace, refused to enlist young boys to take part in his battles. It is also our right to ask what prompted <u>Hamas</u> to recruit the mother of two children to carry out an operation," said a recent article in the newspaper Al-Hayat Al-Jadida, one which cited religious and secular objections. "Even though <u>Hamas</u> was not the first to do so, the rest of the factions have stopped <u>women</u>'s involvement in operations of this type. The reason is that the occupation's harassment of <u>women</u> will increase . . . Involving her in these operations will increase the burden and the brutality against her."

As ever, there is little debate on the morality of suicide attacks in general, with at least 60 per cent of Palestinians still supporting them.

In Israel much attention has focused on the supposed fanaticism of the Arab Muslim mind-set and on the psychological states of the <u>women</u> suicide bombers, in line with a popular belief that Palestinian suicide bombers are coerced into action.

A number of reports in the Israeli press sourced to Israeli military intelligence claim al-Rayashi carried out her attack because she was caught having an affair with another man and was given the chance to atone for the dishonour.

Similar recent Israeli press reports again sourced to military intelligence claim other <u>female</u> suicide bombers and would-be suicide bombers were deliberately impregnated, seduced or raped by male militants who then used the threat of exposure to force them to carry out attacks.

At a less lurid level, one recent article in the weekly Yerushalayim interviewed two <u>female</u> Israeli academics who suggested that all of the <u>female</u> suicide bombers were motivated by the fact that they were in some way misfits divorced, unhappy in marriage or single and too old to get married. They noted allegations that Hanadi Jaradat, single at the advanced (for Palestinian society) age of 29, had deliberately blown herself up beside a line of parked prams.

"A society that prefers to have its <u>women</u> produce babies causes a woman who is unable to sever herself from her unmarried status, and realise herself according to the social codes, immense frustration, and it is likely that that was one of the problems that led her to commit suicide," Mira Tzoref, a doctoral student of Middle Eastern studies at the University of Tel Aviv, told the magazine.

As one may expect, Palestinians see things differently. Islah Jad, a Palestinian academic who is studying the role of **women** in the present uprising, says that Israeli stories of the coercion of **female** suicide bombers through rape or blackmail are baseless.

"They are very clever at making up these stories," she says. "I don't think anyone is pressurised into it. There are many volunteers. Some people do back out, and if you were forced to do it you could give yourself up at the last moment. Who would stop you?"

As deadly as the male Insight

She also rejects the claim that fanatical Islamic beliefs are a main cause of suicide attacks.

"The Israelis say that suicide bombers only do it because the Koran promises martyrs that they will live in heaven with 72 virgins. But these *women* weren't promised any virgins.

"They just say that to bypass the problem and not look at it in the face, which is that they [the Israelis] are the problem, that they are driving people crazy."

Jaradat became literally the poster girl for the theory that <u>women</u> are joining men in a traditional Arab quest for revenge. Her attack was mounted three months after Israeli troops shot dead her favourite brother and her cousin outside the family home. Moreover, the family says that the Israeli occupation authorities had repeatedly refused her application for a permit to allow her gravely ill father to obtain treatment in Haifa.

"Every action has a reaction," says her mother.

"Had Hanadi ever turned against them, until they came and killed her brother? They took away her dreams from her, and because of this she blew herself up."

Yet most of the 130-odd suicide bombers launched in the past three years are not known to have had direct revenge as a motive, so other factors must also come into play.

"This is a very individual decision and you never know what are the psychological and other circumstances affecting this particular person," says Islah Jad.

Whatever the motives of <u>female</u> suicide bombers, the overwhelmingly male and Muslim Palestinian "street" seems to be overcoming its original qualms about this feminist invasion of the male preserve of martyrdom.

Attending al-Rayashi's official mourning outside her Gaza home earlier this month, a local imam maintained that there was nothing wrong with **women** joining the fight.

"Islam allows <u>women</u> to struggle against enemies even in the time of Muhammad <u>women</u> were doing jihad," he said.

A young <u>Hamas</u> member, Abu Jihad, said his only wish was to join al-Rayashi on the list of "martyrs". The reason why <u>Hamas</u> had used her, he said, was because it was easier for a woman than a man to penetrate Israeli security measures.

Asked if the dead woman had harboured any personal grievances to avenge, the young <u>Hamas</u> member admitted he did not know of any "personally she had nothing against them, but she saw other Palestinians and Muslims killed by Israel every day".

Earlier this month Hanadi Jaradat's face was again flashed around the world after Israel's ambassador to Sweden attacked an art exhibit in which it featured. In her home town of Jenin, though, it is no longer in evidence except, that is, in the parlour of her half-proud, half-grieving parents.

Instead, the walls of the city are plastered with already-fading posters of dozens of other deceased "martyrs", most of them clutching weapons and religious symbols, all of them men. "Her picture was everywhere a few months ago but now it has been postered over," said a guide. "It's like the cinema here it changes every week."

Graphic

THREE ILLUS: Grief and sacrifice . . . a relative comforts Rahma Jaradat, the mother, right, of suicide bomber Hanadi Jaradat, above, and below, the first *female* suicide bomber, Wafa Idriss.

As deadly as the male Insight

Load-Date: July 17, 2007



Israel unjustifiably terrorizing Palestinian people

University Wire
April 20, 2004 Tuesday

Copyright 2004 The Lariat via U-Wire

Section: COLUMN Length: 648 words

Byline: By Bisma Shahid Loan, The Lariat; SOURCE: Baylor U.

Dateline: WACO, Texas

Body

On Saturday Israeli leaders targeted yet another Palestinian leader, killing <u>Hamas</u> leader Abdel Aziz Rantisi and his son as they rode in his car. This is the second strike by Israel with the express intent of targeting leaders of the Palestinian people.

Claiming them to be detrimental to the peace process and the safety of the Israeli people, Israel has been relentless in its pursuit of Palestinian leaders, having killed the <u>Hamas</u> founder Sheik Ahmed Yassin in an air strike last month.

While Israel may claim these strikes to be essential in wedding out "terrorism" and "Islamic fundamentalism," there seems to be a basic fault in their premise and argument. Israel argues these leaders are the masterminds behind terrorist attacks on Israeli citizens and they are merely protecting their citizens, but in their zeal they seem to forget the plight of the Palestinian people.

Does the Israeli government not have any responsibility to towards the Palestinian people? Having sequestered them inside the confines of the Gaza strip, enclosing them like prisoners in their own homes, does the Israeli government harbor any misbegotten illusions, that they are liked even minutely amongst the Palestinian or Muslim communities?

These constant Israeli attempts at undermining Palestinian authority and subsequently either sidelining Palestinian leadership or assassinating leaders is garnering no sympathy for their cause amongst anyone except the United States which seems to agree with every morally objectionable thing Israel seems to be doing, regardless of its consequences.

While Israel is so vehement about protecting its territory and the rights of its citizens, it seems that within the scope of their myopic vision the atrocities they commit upon the Palestinian population is forgotten or not even considered.

The Israeli Army has kept the West Bank under a constant war-like and siege situation because of constant terrorizing.

Examples of their atrocities extend to the destruction of the Jenin Refugee camp in 2002 by blasting concentrations of the refugee camps with helicopters, to preventing any medical aid from going into the camp for 11 days, letting the injured people suffer and die an agonizing death.

Israel unjustifiably terrorizing Palestinian people

A trip through history very effectively strips away the mask Israel wears of being the wronged party who has been terrorized by the Arab countries, <u>Hamas</u> and PLO. The Dir Yassin Massacre is one such incident that comes to mind.

On the morning of April 9, 1948, Irgun commandos attacked Deir Yassin, which was a purely Arab village known to be peaceful. By midafternoon more than a 100 men, <u>women</u> and children had been massacred. A number of men who resisted were loaded up in trucks, paraded around, labeled as "terrorists" and shot to death.

The remaining villagers were forced to leave their village and were herded to refugee camps, where to this day many of them still live in squalor. Does the world and Israel merely turn a blind eye to these atrocities they committed?

Killing off every Palestinian leader will not serve to help the Israeli cause, rather an effective dialogue free of the Israeli terror techniques and blackmail is required. With Israel's persistence in continuing with their policies of terrorism, they can rest assured that for every one Palestinian leader they kill, 10 more people with even more radical ideologies are waiting in the wings to take their places.

When history will be written, Israel will be viewed as the country, which not only robbed the Palestinian people of their homeland and identity, but a terrorist state which hides under the guise of protecting its people, by terrorizing and sequestering the Palestinian people.

Ironically this very sequestering is earily reminiscent of the ghettos in which the Jew's were "banished" to during Hitlers reign of terror. The choice rests squarely upon Israel now.

(C) 2003 The Lariat via U-WIRE

Load-Date: April 20, 2004



<u>Israel tanks push into Bethlehem New unrest grips Middle East as old foes</u> exchange prisoners

Hobart Mercury (Australia) January 31, 2004 Saturday

Copyright 2004 Nationwide News Pty Limited

Section: WORLD; Pg. 21

Length: 359 words

Body

ISRAELI forces pushed into Bethlehem yesterday for the first time in six months in a sweep for militants.

The push came a day after a Palestinian policeman from the city killed 10 Israelis in a suicide bombing on a Jerusalem bus.

Near the West Bank city of Hebron, soldiers shot dead a <u>Hamas</u> militant who the army said had opened fire as they entered his house to arrest him.

Reuters

Palestinians said Israeli armoured vehicles rumbled into Bethlehem before daybreak and troops fanned out to search houses, including one where the policeman -- a member of the militant AI Aqsa Brigades -- lived.

Witnesses said soldiers detained 12 Palestinians. About 15 Israeli armoured vehicles took part in the operation.

"The operation was launched after we made clear the Palestinians had not fulfilled their obligations to stop terror, something which was made clear in yesterday's bombing," an army spokesman said.

The Al Aqsa Martyrs Bri gades, linked to Palestinian President Yasser Arafat's Fatah faction, claimed the bombing and issued a letter left by the bomber that said he was avenging an Israeli raid that killed eight Palestinians in Gaza on Wednesday.

The militant group *Hamas* also claimed responsibility.

It was the deadliest suicide bombing since an October 4 attack on a Haifa restaurant, when a <u>female</u> bomber killed 23.

The bombing overshadowed the latest push by a US envoy to revive the "road map" for peace.

But in a hopeful sign for peace mediation efforts, US officials said Palestinian Prime Minister Ahmed Qurie had indicated he was ready for a summit with Israeli leader Ariel Sharon.

The Palestinian Authority condemned the bombing and also called for a halt to Israeli violence. Sharon expressed his condolences for families bereaved by the bus attack at a ceremony yesterday for three dead soldiers brought home in a deal with Lebanese guerilla foe Hezbollah.

Israel tanks push into Bethlehem New unrest grips Middle East as old foes exchange prisoners

Israel freed hundreds of Arab prisoners -- including prominent Lebanese militiamen Sheikh Abdel-Karim Obeid and Mustafa Dirani -- in exchange for the three soldiers and a captive businessman, Elhanan Tannenbaum, who was to be questioned by security services after returning to Israel.

Load-Date: January 30, 2004



Abbas looks strong in Palestinian vote; Low turnout worries election officials

The International Herald Tribune
January 10, 2005 Monday

Copyright 2005 International Herald Tribune

Section: NEWS; Pg. 1

Length: 908 words

Byline: Steven Erlanger

Dateline: RAMALLAH, West Bank:

Body

Palestinians voted on Sunday for a new president of the Palestinian Authority to replace Yasser Arafat, and were widely expected to elect Mahmoud Abbas, 69, who opposes continuing violence against Israel.

According to one exit poll, released moments after polls closed, Abbas was expected to win the election with about 65 percent of the vote.

It was the first presidential election in nine years, and despite being held under Israeli occupation, it was judged by international observers to be generally free and fair, with little interference from Israel, which eased travel restrictions on Palestinians and largely halted military activity in the territories.

But there was concern about a turnout that was lower than expected on a cold but sunny winter's day, and Palestinian election officials decided to keep the polls open for another two hours, until 9 p.m., to accommodate voters.

The New York Times

The election officials first said that Israeli restrictions at checkpoints and confusion at Jerusalem polling stations were the reasons for the extension. But the announcement came after reports of low turnout in some cities, including this one, where election workers at one polling station, the Al Qarami School, said that only 30 percent of those registered had voted by 4:30 p.m. The officials then admitted that they wanted more people to vote, because only 30 percent of the 1.8 million or so eligible voters had cast their ballots by noon.

The officials also declared that voters who could not make it to their homes because of travel difficulties due to security restrictions would be able to vote anyway.

The polls were extended last month for municipal elections and in 1996, too, when the last presidential vote was held. Then, as now, the radical Islamic groups <u>Hamas</u> and Islamic Jihad called on their followers to boycott the vote.

Abbas, the chairman of the Palestine Liberation Organization and the candidate of the main Palestinian faction, Fatah, faced little real competition from a field of six other candidates, with his main challenger Mustafa Barghouti, 50, a doctor and human rights campaigner.

Abbas looks strong in Palestinian vote; Low turnout worries election officials

But Abbas is looking for a sizable popular mandate to give him the legitimacy and authority to make difficult internal reforms, reorganize Palestinian security services and negotiate with Israel.

Despite their boycott call, <u>Hamas</u> spokesmen made clear on Sunday that they would work with an elected president. Mahmoud Zahar, a <u>Hamas</u> leader in Gaza, told reporters that <u>Hamas</u> could have run its own candidate if it really wanted to undermine Abbas.

"Our view is not to undermine," he said.

Abbas, known as Abu Mazen, called the election a source of pride for Palestinians as he voted here Sunday morning at Arafat's former headquarters, the Muqata. "This process is taking place in a marvelous fashion and is an illustration of how the Palestinian people aspire to democracy," he said. He urged <u>women</u> in particular to exercise their right to vote.

Barghouti, while complaining of various vote irregularities, also praised the election. "I felt my dream is coming true," he said. "This is a great step for the Palestinian people, a good test of our institutions and proof to the world that we can establish an independent state." He called the election "free, and, I hope, fair."

Ekram Quraan, a graphics designer monitoring the vote at a school here, called the day historic. "For us, it happens once in a lifetime, so it's important," she said.

Waleed Obeidallah said: "This is milestone in our lives and hopefully the peace process will be re-ignited. Israelis always say that they have no partner for peace, and now we are electing a president, and there are no excuses anymore."

Hanan Ashrawi, a member of the Palestinian legislature, spoke of a new process of democracy to hold leaders accountable. But she was most struck by the context. "This is a unique case of a people under occupation being asked to hold free and fair elections when they themselves are not free," she said. "I think it's unique in history. But this is a nation adamant to vote. It's an important internal test, and I think it's a turning point."

Michel Rocard, leader of the largest group of international observers, from the European Union, said there were few problems with the election despite complaints from Barghouti about allegedly washable ink put on voters' thumbs. There were difficulties for voters in east Jerusalem, whom Israel required to vote in post offices, as if they were casting absentee ballots, given Israel's claim to sovereignty over east Jerusalem. But the issue was settled after former President Jimmy Carter, here as an electoral observer, called the office of the Israeli prime minister, Ariel Sharon.

Senators Joseph Biden, Democrat of Delaware, and John Sununu, Republican of New Hampshire, led a delegation from the Senate Foreign Relations Committee. Biden called the election well-organized and said it is "an important statement for the Palestinians and their pride and maturity, and it can change the world's attitudes toward the Palestinians after the death of Arafat."

If Abbas wins with a mandate, consolidates power and works to stop terrorism, Biden said, then the Israeli disengagement from Gaza could be the beginning of a process, not an end. "I don't know if there's a stop in this," he said. "The process could dictate the outcome. But all this is for nought if Abu Mazen can't end the intifada and control terrorism."

Load-Date: January 10, 2005



Abbas declares victory in election; Exit polls give him about 65% of vote

The International Herald Tribune
January 10, 2005 Monday

Copyright 2005 International Herald Tribune

Section: NEWS; Pg. 1

Length: 917 words

Byline: Steven Erlanger

Dateline: RAMALLAH, West Bank:

Body

Mahmoud Abbas, who opposes continuing violence against Israel, declared victory Sunday night in the election for a new president of the Palestinian Authority after two exit polls showed him winning by a large margin.

"We offer this victory to the soul of the brother martyr Yasser Arafat and to our people, to our martyrs and to 11,000 prisoners" in Israeli jails, Abbas, 69, told his supporters here.

Honking horns, waving flags and firing gunshots into the air, supporters celebrated an expected victory. But its size should help give the quiet, cerebral Abbas a much-needed mandate for much-needed change to remake and reinvigorate the Palestinian Authority and try to put an end to terrorism.

The New York Times

According to the exit polls, released moments after polls closed at 9 p.m. local time, Abbas is expected to win the election with about 65 percent of the vote, more than 40 percentage points ahead of his nearest challenger in a weak field of seven. Results were not expected to be announced until Monday.

It was the first presidential election in nine years, made necessary after the death of Arafat on Nov. 11. Despite being held under Israeli occupation, the voting was judged by international observers to be generally free and fair, with little interference from Israel, which eased travel restrictions on Palestinians and largely halted military activity in the territories.

But there was concern about a turnout that was lower than expected on a cold but sunny winter's day, and Palestinian election officials decided to keep the polls open for another two hours, until 9 p.m.

The election officials first said that Israeli restrictions at checkpoints and confusion at Jerusalem polling stations were the reasons for the extension. But the announcement came after reports of low turnout in some cities.

The officials then admitted that they wanted more people to vote, because only 30 percent of the 1.8 million or so eligible voters had cast their ballots by noon.

The officials also declared during the late afternoon that voters who could not make it to their homes because of travel difficulties due to security restrictions would be able to vote anyway, based simply on their identity cards.

The polls were extended last month for municipal elections and in 1996, too, when the last presidential vote was held.

Then, as now, the radical Islamic groups *Hamas* and Islamic Jihad called on their followers to boycott the vote.

One of the exit polls estimated turnout at about 65 percent.

Abbas, chairman of the Palestine Liberation Organization and the candidate of the main Palestinian faction, Fatah, faced little real competition. His main challenger was an independent, Mustafa Barghouti, 50, a doctor and human rights campaigner.

Abbas was looking for a sizable popular mandate to provide him the legitimacy and authority to make difficult internal reforms, reorganize Palestinian security services and to negotiate with Israel.

Despite their boycott call, <u>Hamas</u> made clear on Sunday that they would work with an elected president. Mahmoud Zahar, a <u>Hamas</u> leader in Gaza, told reporters that <u>Hamas</u> could have run its own candidate if it really wanted to undermine Abbas. "Our view is not to undermine," he said, but insisted that armed resistance to Israel will continue, despite Abbas's call for a ceasefire.

Abbas, known as Abu Mazen, called the election a source of pride for Palestinians as he voted at Arafat's former headquarters, the Muqata. "This process is taking place in a marvelous fashion and is an illustration of how the Palestinian people aspire to democracy," he said. He urged **women** in particular to exercise their right to vote.

Barghouti, while complaining of various vote irregularities, also praised the election. "I felt my dream is coming true," he said. "This is a great step for the Palestinian people, a good test of our institutions and proof to the world that we can establish an independent state." He called the election "free, and I hope fair."

Hanan Ashrawi, a member of the Palestinian legislature, spoke of a new process of democracy to hold leaders accountable. But she was most struck by the context. "This is a unique case of a people under occupation being asked to hold free and fair elections when they themselves are not free," she said. "I think it's unique in history. But this is a nation adamant to vote. It's an important internal test, and I think it's a turning point."

Michel Rocard, leader of the largest group of international observers, from the European Union, said there were few problems with the election despite complaints from Barghouti about allegedly washable indelible ink put on voters' thumbs. There were difficulties for voters in East Jerusalem, whom Israel required to vote in post offices, as if they were casting absentee ballots, given Israel's claim to sovereignty over east Jerusalem. But the issue was settled after former President Jimmy Carter, here as an electoral observer, telephoned the office of Prime Minister Ariel Sharon of Israel.

Israeli officials have made clear in recent days that they support Abbas and that Sharon and his key ministers would like to meet with him as soon as possible after he takes office. Israeli officials say they are willing to release more Palestinian prisoners and talk to Abbas about a more permanent easing of security measures. Sharon, for his part, will be strengthened by a new unity government with the Labor Party and a small religious party expected to be sworn in on Monday.

Load-Date: January 10, 2005



ABBAS DEDICATES TRIUMPH TO ARAFAT; PALESTINIAN VOTE CALLED FREE, FAIR

Pittsburgh Post-Gazette (Pennsylvania)

January 10, 2005 Monday

SOONER EDITION

Copyright 2005 P.G. Publishing Co.

Section: WORLD, Length: 881 words

Byline: STEVEN ERLANGER, THE NEW YORK TIMES

Dateline: RAMALLAH, West Bank

Body

Mahmoud Abbas, who opposes continuing violence against Israel, declared victory last night in the election for a new president of the Palestinian Authority after two surveys of voters leaving the polls showed him winning by a large margin.

"We offer this victory to the soul of the brother martyr Yasser Arafat and to our people, to our martyrs and to 11,000 prisoners" in Israeli jails, Abbas, 69, told his supporters in Ramallah.

Honking horns, waving flags and firing gunshots into the air, supporters celebrated an expected victory. The strong margin, if it is borne out in final results, should help give the quiet, cerebral Abbas the ability to remake and reinvigorate the Palestinian Authority and to try to put an end to violence.

According to the voter surveys, released moments after the polls closed at 9 p.m., Abbas is expected to win the election with about 65 percent of the vote, more than 40 percentage points ahead of his nearest challenger in a weak field of seven. Official results are not expected to be announced until today.

President Bush issued a statement issued two hours after polls closed, calling the election of Mahmoud Abbas "a historic day for the Palestinian people."

It was the first presidential election in nine years, made necessary after the death of Arafat on Nov. 11. The voting was judged by international observers to be generally free and fair, with little interference from Israel, which eased travel restrictions on Palestinians and largely halted military activity in the territories.

But there was concern about a turnout that was lower than expected on a chilly but sunny winter's day, and Palestinian election officials decided to keep the polls open two hours longer than originally planned.

The election officials first said that Israeli restrictions at checkpoints and confusion at Jerusalem polling stations were the reasons for the extension. But the announcement came after reports of low turnout in some cities, including Ramallah, where election workers at one polling place, Al Qarami School, said that only 30 percent of those registered had voted by 4:30 p.m. The officials then acknowledged that they wanted more people to vote, because only 30 percent of the 1.8 million or so eligible voters had cast their ballots by noon.

ABBAS DEDICATES TRIUMPH TO ARAFAT; PALESTINIAN VOTE CALLED FREE, FAIR

The officials also declared during the late afternoon that voters who faced travel difficulties because of security restrictions, and so could not make it to their home polling places to cast their ballots, as was originally required, would be able to vote at any polling place by showing an identity card.

The voting was extended last month for municipal elections and in 1996, too, when the last presidential vote was held. Then, as now, radical Islamic groups *Hamas* and Islamic Jihad called on their followers to boycott the vote.

One of the voter surveys estimated turnout at about 65 percent, but actual figures will not be available until today. In partial municipal elections last month in 26 towns and villages, turnout was 81 percent.

Abbas, the chairman of the Palestine Liberation Organization and the candidate of the main Palestinian faction, Fatah, faced little real competition. His main challenger was an independent, Dr. Mustafa Barghouti, 50, a physician and a human-rights campaigner.

Abbas was looking for a sizable popular mandate to provide him the legitimacy and authority to make difficult internal reforms, to reorganize Palestinian security services and to negotiate with Israel.

Despite their boycott call, <u>Hamas</u> spokesmen made it clear yesterday that they would work with an elected president. Mahmoud Zahar, a <u>Hamas</u> leader in Gaza, told reporters that <u>Hamas</u> could have run its own candidate if it had really wanted to undermine Abbas. "Our view is not to undermine," he said, but he insisted that armed resistance to Israel would continue, despite Abbas' call for a cease-fire.

Abbas, known as Abu Mazen, called the election a source of pride for Palestinians as he voted in Ramallah yesterday morning at Arafat's former headquarters, the Muqata. "This process is taking place in a marvelous fashion and is an illustration of how the Palestinian people aspire to democracy," he said. He urged <u>women</u> in particular to exercise their right to vote.

Barghouti, while noting some voting irregularities, including complaints that the ink put on voters' thumbs to prevent fraud could be washed off, also praised the election. "I felt my dream is coming true," he said. "This is a great step for the Palestinian people, a good test of our institutions and proof to the world that we can establish an independent state." He called the election "free, and I hope fair."

Ekram Quraan, a graphics designer monitoring the vote at a school in Ramallah, called the day historic. "For us, it happens once in a lifetime, so it's important," she said.

Hanan Ashrawi, a member of the Palestinian legislature, spoke of a new process of democracy to hold leaders accountable. But she was most struck by the context. "This is a unique case of a people under occupation being asked to hold free and fair elections when they themselves are not free," she said. "I think it's unique in history. But this is a nation adamant to vote. It's an important internal test, and I think it's a turning point."

Notes

The Associated Press contributed to this report.

Graphic

PHOTO: Yuri Cortez/Agence France-Presse/Getty Images: An election worker tallies votes yesterday at a polling station in Gaza.

PHOTO: Mahmoud Abbas celebrates and declares victory.

ABBAS DEDICATES TRIUMPH TO ARAFAT; PALESTINIAN VOTE CALLED FREE, FAIR

Load-Date: January 10, 2005



Suicide bomber kills 2 police officers

The Record (Kitchener-Waterloo, Ontario)
September 23, 2004 Thursday Final Edition

Copyright 2004 Metroland Media Group Ltd

Section: FRONT; Pg. A9; NEWS

Length: 385 words

Dateline: JERUSALEM

Body

A Palestinian suicide bomber blew herself up in Jerusalem yesterday, killing two Israeli policemen who had stopped her as she approached a crowded bus stop. At least 16 people were injured.

The bombing came two days before the holiest day on the Jewish calendar, the fast of Yom Kippur, and at a time of heightened police presence throughout the country. Israel has imposed a closure on the West Bank since last week.

Associated Press

The Al Aqsa Martyrs' Brigades, a militant group linked to Yasser Arafat's Fatah movement, claimed responsibility for the attack, the first in Jerusalem since Feb. 22. The group identified the bomber as Zainab Abu Salem, 19, a woman from the Askar refugee camp near Nablus.

Prime Minister Ariel Sharon, under fire from his traditional hard-line supporters for a plan to pull out of the entire Gaza Strip and four West Bank settlements next year, said Israel's fight against militant groups would continue "unabated."

"It was a grave attack, something which obliges us to continue fighting terrorism as we have in the past," Sharon said.

Hours before the attack, Sharon had hinted that Israel would one day kill Arafat, the same way it has attacked leaders of the militant *Hamas* group.

"We acted against <u>Hamas</u> people and since then more people have been added to this list," Sharon said. "When the time is right, we will act the same way with Arafat."

Sharon has made similar threats in the past but never taken any action.

The suicide bomber was headed for a crowded bus stop when two paramilitary officers approached her and apparently prevented her from reaching the area.

The blast destroyed the bus stop, killing the two policemen, leaving shards of glass scattered in the road as the smell of burnt rubber wafted in the air. Police said the woman was carrying up to five kilograms of explosives.

Palestinian militants have staged more than 100 suicide bombings inside Israel in four years of fighting. <u>Women</u> have carried out at least eight of those.

Suicide bomber kills 2 police officers

Some counterterrorism experts have speculated that the militant groups have turned to using \underline{women} because they raise less suspicion among Israeli soldiers.

Palestinian cabinet minister Saeb Erekat condemned the attack, calling on the United States to use its influence to bring the Israelis and Palestinians back to the negotiating table.

Load-Date: September 23, 2004



We don't forget, Ken

The Times (London)
July 11, 2005, Monday

Copyright 2005 Times Newspapers Limited

Section: Features; 18 Length: 391 words

Byline: Stephen Pollard

Body

ON THURSDAY Ken Livingstone gave his response to the murders: "It was an indiscriminate attempt to slaughter, irrespective of any considerations for age, for class, for religion." He has been greeted with a paean of praise, even from his political opponents. And certainly, his words alone expressed the sentiments of all decent people.

But with Mr Livingstone, the words alone are never enough. They may imply one thing, but his actions usually give them a different meaning. When the Mayor of London condemns indiscriminate slaughter, those actions suggest that it is the word "indiscriminate" that needs to be stressed.

Mr Livingstone has repeatedly defended the views of the Muslim cleric Sheikh Yusuf al-Qaradawi and even invited him to City Hall to share his wisdom. Mr Livingstone has proudly hugged him in public. In doing so, the mayor shows himself to be a keen fellow traveller of a man who can be described with some precision as evil.

Al-Qaradawi is a leading member of the Muslim Brotherhood. His fatwas (published on www.lslamOnline.net) influence its millions of followers. In a sermon delivered in March 2003 he instructed his followers thus: "O God, destroy the Zionist, the American, and the British aggressors." In his weekly al-Jazeera programme he explained that a person engaged in jihad "is not a suicide (bomber). He kills the enemy while taking self-risk...He wants to scare his enemies, and the religious authorities have permitted this." In an interview last year he said that Islam justifies suicide bombings in Iraq against the US military and in Israel against www.lslamOnline.net)

His praise for suicide murders -"<u>Hamas</u> Operations Are Jihad and Those Who (Carry it Out and) Are Killed are Considered Martyrs" -appears on a website linked to the terrorist group <u>Hamas</u>.

Mr Livingstone has a record of giving succour to terrorists. As GLC leader, he met Sinn Fein leaders when the IRA was bombing London regularly.

Sheikh al-Qaradawi has been banned from the US since 1999. Perhaps that is why Mr Livingstone referred to President Bush as "the greatest threat to life on this planet". Not the likes of the murderers who struck on Thursday, but the President of the home of freedom.

That Mr Livingstone should be praised for his words in the light of Thursday's murders, while his actions are forgotten, is simply sickening.

Load-Date: July 11, 2005



International Briefs

Telegraph Herald (Dubuque, IA)

December 25, 2004 Saturday

Copyright 2004 Woodward Communications, Inc.

Section: National/World; Pg. b5

Length: 713 words

Byline: ASSOCIATED PRESS

Dateline: BANGKOK, Thailand

Body

Bombing in southern Thai town kills 2

Militants set off a bomb near a market frequented by soldiers Friday, killing two people and wounding eight others in southern Thailand, where a Muslim insurgency has left nearly 580 people dead this year.

The blast in Sungai Kolok near the Malaysian border targeted government soldiers, but many of the victims were from the local Muslim majority, including the man who was killed, police officials said.

It was the latest in a spate of violence in three southern provinces since early this year, when Thai Muslim militants rekindled a decades-old dream of a state separated from the Buddhist-dominated country.

The bomb Friday was planted on a motorcycle and triggered by a mobile phone signal just after a military truck stopped at a nearby market where soldiers eat daily, said police Col. Krajang Suwanarat in a telephone interview. Four soldiers were wounded, including one who died later at Sungai Kolok Hospital, Dr. Wichai Wichienwattanachai, the hospital's deputy director said.

Hamas makes strong showing in elections

NABLUS, West Bank - The radical <u>Hamas</u> movement made a surprisingly strong showing in local Palestinian elections, according to preliminary results obtained Friday, signaling a drop in popularity for the ruling Fatah movement ahead of next month's presidential poll.

Elections for local councils were held Thursday in 26 communities perceived as Fatah strongholds, with some 150,000 eligible voters choosing from among more than 800 candidates. Sixteen percent of the 360 local council seats were reserved for **women**.

According to preliminary results obtained by The Associated Press, Fatah won a majority of council seats in 14 towns, while *Hamas*, participating for the first time in Palestinian elections, took control in nine communities.

Colombian rebels admit killing priest

BOGOTA, Colombia - Marxist rebels have killed a Catholic priest who disappeared earlier this month on a pastoral mission in a rebel-controlled jungle region in western Colombia, a church official said Friday.

International Briefs

A humanitarian commission sent to look for Javier Francisco Montoya, 45, met with rebel commanders, who said they had killed the priest and already buried his body, Bishop Alfonso Llano told reporters.

No explanation was given for the slaying, and it wasn't known exactly when it took place.

The United Nations human rights agency issued a statement Friday denouncing Montoya's killing as a "war crime" and demanded the rebel group, the Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia, or FARC, publicly account for its actions.

Russia tests mobile version of missile

MOSCOW - The Russian military successfully test-fired a mobile version of its top-of-the line Topol-M intercontinental ballistic missile on Friday, officials said.

The missile was fired from a mobile launcher at the Plesetsk launch pad in the northern region of Arkhangelsk and hit a designated target on a testing range on the far eastern Kamchatka peninsula, Russia's Strategic Missile Forces said in a statement.

Defense Minister Sergei Ivanov, Economics Minister German Gref and other top officials attended the launch.

Friday's launch is expected to be the last of four test-firings of the Topol-M's mobile version before its deployment set for next year, the ITAR-Tass news agency reported.

Yushchenko urges prevention of violence

KIEV, Ukraine - Opposition presidential candidate Viktor Yushchenko called on the government Friday to prevent any violence in this weekend's crucial presidential repeat vote, as the two campaigns rallied their supporters on the final day of campaigning.

In Moscow, President Vladimir Putin stated that Russia has not meddled in the affairs of ex-Soviet republics - in a reference to Ukraine - but accused other nations of having done so.

"We haven't engaged in any behind-the-scenes policy-making on the post-Soviet space, and that, to some extent, limits instruments we can use to defend our interests ... unlike our partners which have used them actively," Putin told the State Council, made up of Cabinet members and provincial governors.

Putin's blatant support of Yushchenko's rival, Ukrainian Prime Minister Viktor Yanukovych, strained the Russian leaders' relations with the West. Putin has since said he is ready to work with Yushchenko if he wins.

Load-Date: December 25, 2004



SHOOTING OF GIRLS COULD STOP ISRAEL PULLING OUT FROMGAZA; SLAUGHTER OF INNOCENTS

The Express May 3, 2004

Copyright 2004 EXPRESS NEWSPAPERS

Section: NEWS; Pg. 6

Length: 359 words

Byline: By Jane Young

Body

A MOTHER-TO-BE and her four young daughters were murdered by Palestinian gunmen yesterday, in a slaughter that provoked another wave of violence in Israel.

Tali Hatuel, 34, who was eight months pregnant, and her children were ambushed as they drove through the Jewish area of the Gaza Strip. The bodies of Hila, 11, Hadar, nine, Roni, seven, and two-year-old Meirav were found still strapped into the family car.

Mrs Hatuel had been on the way to campaign against Israeli Prime Minister Ariel Sharon's plan to abandon Jewish settlements, like the one where they lived at Gush Katif, in a pull-out from Gaza.

The gunmen opened fire just minutes before the car left the Gaza Strip to enter Israel. They were shot dead by Israeli troops as they tried to flee.

One was named later as Faisal Abu Naqira. A rescue worker said: "At first we thought we could do something to save the mother, but it was too late.

The children were already dead, with bullets in the head."

The family - the first Jewish settlers killed in Gaza since 2002 - died as Sharon's right-wing Likud party voted by 60 per cent to 40 per cent to reject a plan to abandon territory Israel has held since the 1967 Middle East war.

The killing was certain to harden the views of those who are against a plan they see as a victory for terror.

But it was also likely to reinforce the opinion of many Israelis that it is not worth paying the price of keeping 7,500 settlers in heavily-defended enclaves, among more than 1.3 million Palestinians in Gaza.

The militant Islamic Jihad Popular Resistance Committee later claimed responsibility for the attack.

Spokesman Abu Abir said it was revenge for Israel's assassination of *Hamas* militant leaders.

The organisation also claimed it would send a message to Sharon that he would never be able to portray a pullout from Gaza as a triumph.

SHOOTING OF GIRLS COULD STOP ISRAEL PULLING OUT FROMGAZA; SLAUGHTER OF INNOCENTS

Israeli forces hit back with a helicopter strike on a building in Gaza City housing a radio station linked to <u>Hamas</u> and Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat's Fatah party.

Israel military sources said the army had attacked the radio station for broadcasting "incitement". Several <u>women</u> and children were reported wounded.

Load-Date: May 3, 2004



How much longer ... how many more must die?; OPINION; Sharon is propelling his people towards an abyss of perpetual conflict and death

Hamilton Spectator (Ontario, Canada) March 27, 2004 Saturday Final Edition

Copyright 2004 Metroland Media Group Ltd

Section: FOCUS; Pg. F06; News

Length: 1158 words **Byline:** Johann Hari

Body

Sheikh Ahmed Yassin was a far-right theocrat. If the <u>Hamas</u> program he inspired is ever put into practice, the dream of Palestinian liberation will turn into a nightmare on the day of an Israeli withdrawal. He explicitly wanted to turn a Palestinian state, when it finally came into existence, into a fundamentalist state under shariah law.

There would be no liberation for <u>women</u> in his Palestine. Dissenters would be dealt with as they are in all fundamentalist states. The savagery inflicted on any Jews who remained there would be too horrible to describe. The Independent

Gays would be stoned to death.

It is understandable that some Palestinians, driven to psychosis by the ethnic cleansing of 1948 and the occupation forced on them since 1967, have sympathy for this program.

No outsider should weep for Yassin or support *Hamas*.

Yet we should weep for this assassination. Some of our tears should be for the consequences in Israel itself. When Ariel Sharon gave the order to incinerate Yassin, he guaranteed the incineration of countless Israeli civilians -- innocent people -- in retaliation attacks.

But we should grieve mostly because it reveals a startling ignorance on the part of the Israeli government. This ignorance will ensure they carry on slaying and oppressing Palestinians.

The Likud government still fails to understand the causes of suicide bombing. Encouraged by the American right, Sharon and Benjamin Netanyahu imagine that suicide bombing is the work of a few evil masterminds brainwashing impressionable young people into committing suicide massacres.

This is why they have killed Yassin and may yet kill Yasser Arafat. They genuinely believe that if you take out these "terror masters" the attacks will be reduced.

I have met young men preparing to be suicide bombers and this analysis bears no relation to reality.

The suicide bombers currently massacring civilians in Israel are the children of the first Intifada. The formative experience of their lives was watching their parents stage a massive program of peaceful resistance to occupation. Israel's response was clear: Yitzhak Rabin gave the order to "break their bones."

How much longer ... how many more must die?; OPINION; Sharon is propelling his people towards an abyss of perpetual conflict and death

No brainwashing is needed to turn these men to crazed violence. They learned it in their childhood from Israeli occupiers.

All that happens when Israel kills Palestinian figureheads is that humiliation stabs deeper into their gut.

Yassin will now become a ghost at every Palestinian feast, urging martyrdom. He is far more dangerous -- both to Israelis and to the cause of a secular Palestinian nationalism -- dead than alive.

To understand this we can listen to the explanation for terrorism offered by a man once widely regarded as a terrorist: "All we wanted was to be a free people in our own country ... our enemies called us terrorists, but we used physical force only because we were faced by physical force ... For this reason, we delivered attack after attack against the oppressor and our revolt burst into a great flame."

These are the words of Menachem Begin, who went on to become Israel's first Likud prime minister. He led the Irgun, a terrorist group that fought against the British occupation of Palestine in the 1940s.

If anybody should understand how the unique agony of living without a state turns people to terrorism, it is the Israelis.

Begin's compelling autobiography, The Revolt: Story of the Irgun, is a mirror image of the writings of contemporary Palestinian terrorists. He coldly justifies the massacre of 91 people at the King David Hotel as "necessary" to ensure a free Israel.

It is a simple truth that if you deprive people of a state, they will fight for one. What we are witnessing today is a straightforward Palestinian war of independence. The only way to bring it to an end it is to grant independence.

This can only mean a state comprising Gaza and the West Bank.

This would not be a magical solution to everything. There will still be some fanatics who seek not a two-state solution but a Greater Palestine cleansed of Jews.

Yet opinion polls suggest that such Islamic fundamentalists would be a minority in a free Palestine, even after years of psychosis-- inducing abuse.

But how much longer can this last?

How many more provocations before they are all driven mad?

The tragedy is that Israel is cursed with a leadership that is psychologically incapable of taking the road to peace.

All opinion polls show most Israeli citizens can see that Israel's only chance for survival is as one of two states, divided between the two peoples who share the tiny patch of land between the Jordan River and the Mediterranean Sea.

Yet Sharon sees all Arabs as part of a seething mob with whom there can be no discussion, no reasoning, no coexistence.

Peaceniks and suicide bombers, Abu Mazen and Sheikh Yassin: they are all equally murderous and only a fool would try to compromise with such savages.

Sharon grew up in Kfar Malal, a Jewish village that was eternally besieged by Palestinians. This sense of an absolute threat -- they're coming for us, pass the ammunition -- has never left him. For Sharon, the entire Middle East is an eternal Kfar Malal.

He is tipping Israel/Palestine towards a situation from which there can be no return. At the moment, a majority of Palestinians seek their own state divided from Israel along the 1967 borders. This is an agenda which can be met

How much longer ... how many more must die?; OPINION; Sharon is propelling his people towards an abyss of perpetual conflict and death

while leaving Israel safe and intact. Yet Sharon is making it impossible to return to those borders by constructing a fence that cuts deep into Palestinian territories.

The effect of this will not be what Sharon hopes: that the Palestinians will be so terrified that they will settle for the scraps that Likud is prepared to leave behind after a unilateral withdrawal.

It will be that Palestinians will ditch the goal of two states altogether.

Ahmad Qureia, the Palestinian prime minister, made this clear when he explained that Sharon's unilateral moves would render the drive for a Palestinian state a "meaningless slogan."

No viable state could exist on what Sharon proposes to -- perhaps -- leave behind. So the Palestinian goal will change.

"If the situation continues as it is now, we will go for the one-state solution," Qureia says.

One big state encompassing both the Occupied Territories and Israel proper would mean an Arab majority and the end of Israel.

Sharon -- by refusing to see the difference between moderate and extreme Palestinians -- is pushing the Palestinians further away from secular moderation and towards <u>Hamas</u> fanaticism and a thirst to eradicate all Israel.

He has just united all Palestine behind a *Hamas* fanatic.

If one state becomes the Palestinian raison d'etre, there will be perpetual war with no possibility of compromise and I will still be writing laments for peace in the Middle East when I am an old man.

This is the abyss towards which Sharon is dragging his people. Unless he radically changes direction, his legacy will be rows of Jewish and Arab graves stretching out into infinity.

Graphic

Photo: Nayef Hashlamoun, Reuters; By refusing to see the difference between moderate and extreme Palestinians, Sharon is pushing the Palestinians further away from secular moderation and towards <u>Hamas</u> fanaticism and a thirst to eradicate all Israel.; Photo: Gil Cohen Magen, Reuters; For Ariel Sharon, the Middle East is like the village where he grew up that was constantly besieged by Palestinians. This sense of threat has never left him.

Load-Date: March 27, 2004



Israel frees 398 Palestinian prisoners

The International Herald Tribune
June 3, 2005 Friday

Copyright 2005 International Herald Tribune

Section: NEWS; Pg. 4

Length: 405 words

Byline: Christine Hauser

Dateline: HEBRON, West Bank:

Body

Israel on Friday released 398 Palestinian prisoners from prison, setting them free at checkpoints where they were taken by Palestinian vehicles into the West Bank and Gaza Strip for joyful reunions with family members and friends.

The prisoner release was the second since February, when 500 Palestinians were released from Israeli prisons out of the 900 that the Israeli prime minister, Ariel Sharon, promised the Palestinian president, Mahmoud Abbas, would be set free in their first summit meeting in Egypt.

The release of the 400 remaining prisoners had been delayed until Thursday after a Palestinian bomb attack in Tel Aviv killed at least four Israelis on Feb. 25 and because of Israeli complaints about Palestinian failure to disarm wanted men in cities under their control.

The New York Times

Sharon has been under pressure from Washington to do more to support Abbas, and he announced that he would release these prisoners even before going to the United States last month. But a Palestinian spokesman and the prisoners themselves said that Israel should do more.

Palestinians are eager to secure the release of some of the 360 longer-term prisoners who were jailed before the 1993 Oslo accords that set up the Palestinian Authority. About 7,000 Palestinians are in Israeli custody.

"If they want to help Abu Mazen," the Palestinian minister for prisoners, Sufian Abu Zaydeh, said, using the common name for Abbas, "and if they want to help the Palestinian Authority, they have to start releasing all the prisoners.

"Such a step today is not enough, politically speaking," he said.

The prisoners were dropped off at crossings in the West Bank and near the Gaza Strip. At a checkpoint called Tarkumiya near the West Bank city of Hebron, 134 of them were released and boarded Palestinian buses.

As the buses drove through a valley toward Hebron, the prisoners leaned out the windows, some flashing V for victory signs as they passed by Palestinian villages and cheering crowds waving flags affiliated with <u>Hamas</u> and Islamic Jihad. <u>Women</u> ululated and danced in the highway. On the edge of Hebron, the vehicles stopped alongside plum and almond groves, and the prisoners, some disheveled and bearded, fell into the arms of Palestinians who

Israel frees 398 Palestinian prisoners

came to greet them. $\underline{\textit{Women}}$ cried and kissed their sons. One man, wearing a $\underline{\textit{Hamas}}$ baseball cap, cuddled an infant son born while he was in prison.

*

Taghreed el-Khodary contributed reporting from Gaza.

Load-Date: June 3, 2005



Woman killed in shelling by terrorists: GAZA I Attack on settlement comes hours before Yom Kippur, the holiest day of the year, begins

The Vancouver Sun (British Columbia)

September 25, 2004 Saturday

Final Edition

Copyright 2004 CanWest Interactive, a division of CanWest Global Communications Corp. All Rights Reserved

Section: NEWS; Pg. A12

Length: 655 words

Byline: Ibrahim Barzak, Associated Press

Dateline: GAZA CITY, Gaza

Body

GAZA CITY, Gaza -- Palestinian terrorists killed an Israeli-American woman Friday in the first deadly shelling of a Jewish settlement in the Gaza Strip in four years of Israeli-Palestinian fighting.

The attack, which came just hours before the beginning of Yom Kippur, the holiest day on the Jewish calendar, was likely to mobilize further opposition to Prime Minister Ariel Sharon's plan to withdraw from the Gaza Strip next year.

The Palestinian resistance group <u>Hamas</u> claimed responsibility for firing two mortar bombs at the Neve Dekalim settlement in southern Gaza.

A <u>Hamas</u> video showed three masked fighters setting up and firing a mortar. After the shell was fired, heavy gunfire could be heard -- apparently Israeli return-fire at the nearby Palestinian town of Khan Younis.

The Israeli fire wounded two Palestinians, including a four-year-old boy, witnesses said.

One of the <u>Hamas</u> mortars hit a house in Neve Dekalim, wounding two <u>women</u> who were taken to a hospital in southern Israel for treatment.

One of the women, identified as Tiferet Tratner, died of her wounds, the second suffered only slight injuries.

Eran Sternberg, a settler spokesman in Gaza, said Tratner also held U.S. citizenship.

Palestinians have fired hundreds of crude mortars and rockets at Jewish settlements in Gaza and Israeli border towns since the latest uprising against the occupation began in 2000. But Friday's attack marked the first time a resident of a settlement had been killed.

In June, two Israelis were killed in a rocket attack on the Israel town of Sderot.

Eli Moses, a resident of Neve Dekalim, said Sharon is to blame because he is going ahead with a plan to withdraw Israeli troops and settlers from Gaza.

Woman killed in shelling by terrorists: GAZA I Attack on settlement comes hours before Yom Kippur, the holiest day of the year, begins

"We want to emphasize that the prime minister is directly responsible for the death," Moses told Israel Radio. "Whoever fired the mortar is of course responsible, but there's a person above him and unfortunately that's the prime minister."

The shelling came a day after Palestinians killed three Israeli soldiers in an attack on the nearby Morag settlement in southern Gaza.

The three attackers also died in the battle.

The Gaza clashes point to increasing tensions and violence ahead of Israel's planned withdrawal.

Neve Dekalim is one of 21 Gaza settlements, with a total of 8,200 residents, to be dismantled under Sharon's "unilateral disengagement" plan.

Sharon has said he believes Israel's presence in Gaza, home to 1.3 million Palestinians, is untenable.

He contends that evacuating the Gaza settlements and four isolated West Bank enclaves is a way of strengthening Israel's hold on other parts of the occupied West Bank, where most of its 236,000 settlers live.

Friday's violence came hours before Yom Kippur, or the Day of Atonement, when much of Israel shuts down for fasting and prayer.

Israeli security forces have been on high alert since last week, the start of the Jewish Near Year, which ushers in a series of holidays that last until October.

Defence Minister Shaul Mofaz on Friday ordered troops to tighten a blanket closure of the West Bank and Gaza, which has been in effect since last week.

In 2002, a Palestinian suicide bomber targeted a Passover gathering, killing 29 people.

Before the start of Yom Kippur at sundown Friday, observant Jews swung live chickens over their heads in a Jerusalem outdoor market.

The ritual, known as kapara, is meant to expiate sins.

"It is our pleasure to do kapara," said Rabbi Avraham Goldstein. "It means redeeming ourselves, trying to get ourselves clean before the big day of Yom Kippur."

Throughout the country, an air of sombre tranquility prevailed.

There was no public transport and the airport shut down. Border points to Egypt and Jordan were sealed.

In most neighbourhoods, even the non-religious do not drive.

Israeli radio and TV channels went off the air, while shops, restaurants, cafes, cinemas and all places of entertainment were closed.

Yom Kippur ends after sundown Saturday.

Load-Date: September 25, 2004



Israel, Palestine a collaborative suicide

University Wire
October 11, 2004 Monday

Copyright 2004 Iowa State Daily via U-Wire

Section: COLUMN Length: 655 words

Byline: By Nicolai Brown, Iowa State Daily; SOURCE: Iowa State U.

Dateline: AMES, lowa

Body

The other day I was walking through Campustown when a newspaper image caught my eye. On the other side of the news laid a picture of a bloodied, pregnant Israeli woman who had been staying at the Red Sea Hotel in Taba, Egypt when it was bombed by an undetermined group.

Much like the unborn fetus inside the woman, the health and future of the Israeli and Palestinian people laid in doubt. What both groups don't seem to realize is that their actions aren't leading to safety or independence, but rather to mutual self-destruction.

We must not allow ourselves to take sides with either the Israelis or Palestinians in this matter, because the opposition mentality is what perpetuates the cycle of violence. By taking a neutral stance, we can bypass the runaway emotion felt by many of those directly involved and therefore serve as a legitimate and calm mediator between two groups stained by unspeakable horror.

However, in our effort to bring peace, we must have a clear understanding of the situation we seek to improve. We can't afford to pretend that either the Israelis or Palestinians are wholly innocent. They're not.

While Palestinians do live under the brutal occupation of the Israeli military, suicide bombings must not be glossed over or viewed as leading to Palestinian liberation. Rather, we must view these suicide bombings for what they are: Repugnant and shameful attacks that kill innocent people.

There is no honor or integrity in killing children. When a suicide bomber walks into an Israeli cafe, hoping to spark Palestinian "liberation," the opposite is accomplished. The attacker detonates his or her bomb, and gas expands from the explosion at a speed of many thousands of feet per second.

The bomber is instantly ripped in half (or worse), and whoever isn't decimated by the shockwave then faces deadly shrapnel, fire and building structure collapse. How would you feel if a loved one was reduced from a smiling human being to a pile of scattered body parts? Think hard about what that might feel like.

Such attacks, no doubt, give many Israelis the impression that Palestinians are more animal than human. This dehumanizing view is then used to justify savage violence employed not only against members of <u>Hamas</u> but also against innocent Palestinians. You can guess where this is going. After forcing Palestinians into homelessness and claiming their homes and neighborhoods for Israel, the Israeli military swoops in to bomb suspected (and not always proven) **Hamas** members and whoever else happens to be nearby.

Israel, Palestine a collaborative suicide

Israeli bombs tear through buildings, cutting apart men, <u>women</u> and children like pieces of paper. Israeli troops gun down unarmed, rock-throwing Palestinian kids -- pumping bullet streams into young human flesh, destroying organs and breaking bones.

The crime? Throwing rocks. Try to imagine what it might feel like to have a loved one murdered in cold blood or to return home to find your family incinerated in a pile of rubble with the smell of burning flesh still hanging in the air. Go ahead, picture it.

There is no "side" for us to take in this matter other than peace. The Israelis and Palestinians both have a right to defend themselves, but they must understand that their methods only produce more hate and violence.

Therein lies the irony of the conflict: By seeking to protect themselves, they effectively sow their own seeds of destruction.

They live in a symbiotic relationship -- both need each other in this double-suicide arrangement.

The Israeli government can and will conscript its citizens into military service for as long as it has to. Groups like <u>Hamas</u> can and will recruit new members for as long as they have to. Neither entity, nor their respective goals, can be effectively opposed through violent means.

There will always be another generation -- and some of the young are taught from even before birth on which side of the line they stand.

(C) 2003 Iowa State Daily via U-WIRE

Load-Date: October 11, 2004



Arafat Shrugs Off Warning He May Be Israeli Target

The New York Times
April 4, 2004 Sunday
Late Edition - Final

Copyright 2004 The New York Times Company

Section: Section 1; Column 1; Foreign Desk; Pg. 14

Length: 370 words

Byline: By GREG MYRE

Dateline: JERUSALEM, April 3

Body

The Palestinian leader, Yasir Arafat, who has been confined to his West Bank compound for nearly two years, said Saturday that he was not troubled by warnings from Israel that it could act against him.

Israel's prime minister, Ariel Sharon, said in interviews published Friday that Mr. Arafat had "no insurance policy" against Israeli action.

In his first response, Mr. Arafat said: "I don't care for it. I am caring for my people, for our children, for our <u>women</u>, for our students."

He spoke to journalists outside his badly damaged compound in Ramallah in the West Bank after meeting with the Latin patriarch of Jerusalem, the Rev. Michel Sabbah.

In violence on Saturday, the Palestinian militant group <u>Hamas</u> claimed responsibility for an overnight shooting in which a gunman killed an Israeli man and wounded his 12-year-old daughter at a West Bank settlement. The gunman was then shot and killed by Israeli soldiers.

<u>Hamas</u> said the attack was in retaliation for an Israeli helicopter strike on March 22 that killed the group's founder and leader, Sheik Ahmed Yassin, Reuters reported.

The gunman apparently slipped through a hole in a perimeter fence in the Jewish settlement of Avnei Hefetz, near the Palestinian town of Tulkarm, the Israeli military said.

He fired into a house and wounded the girl, prompting her father to go outside with a pistol in search of the attacker. The father was then shot and died of his wounds. Soldiers rushed to the scene and killed the gunman, the military said.

Meanwhile, an Israeli cabinet minister again warned that Palestinian leaders linked to violence could be targets for attack by Israel.

"It is important that those who send suicide bombers know that they no longer benefit from the least immunity, as the prime minister said," Tzachi Hanegbi, Israel's internal security minister, told the Israeli radio.

Arafat Shrugs Off Warning He May Be Israeli Target

The Israeli military said a Palestinian was killed Friday night in the central Gaza Strip, near the boundary fence with Israel. An army patrol spotted two "suspicious figures" near the fence and fired, killing one, the military said. The dead man was carrying two explosives, and the second man escaped, it added.

http://www.nytimes.com

Load-Date: April 4, 2004



The Toronto Star April 17, 2005 Sunday

Copyright 2005 Toronto Star Newspapers, Ltd.

Section: NEWS; Pg. A08

Length: 1761 words

Byline: Mitch Potter, Toronto Star

Body

Ask a Palestinian what will happen the day Israel leaves Gaza and the air fills with descriptions of a celebration the likes of which this battered coastal territory has never known.

From the northern fringes of Gaza City to the refugee tenements of southernmost Rafah, a compressed population will erupt as one.

The skies will crowd with colour, the national flag of Palestine jostling for airspace with the Islamic greens of <u>Hamas</u>. Men will trigger Kalashnikovs in triumph; <u>women</u> will cry piercing falsetto ululations in that seldom-heard expression of raw Palestinian joy.

Israel's departure was 38 joyless years in the making, Gazawis will have you know. So forgive them if they go completely gaga just this once.

Now, ask a Palestinian what will happen the day after Israel leaves Gaza. Brows knit together in contemplation but no single answer comes. Instead, there's a fretful blend of hope, fear and caution - along with the daunting realization that, barely three months from now, a fateful turning point will be upon them.

"The message we're hearing is: 'Listen, Palestinians, you have a chance. Now, prove you can do something with it,'" says Salah Abdel Shafi, an economic analyst in Gaza City.

"We need good governance, transparency and security above all else. And the thinking is, that if Gaza works, it will give the Palestinians a chance to tackle the West Bank."

And if it doesn't work? Some Palestinian officials fear there won't be another chance. This opportunity, they say, is shaping up as a make-or-break dress rehearsal for Palestinian statehood.

Failure could mean the last gasp for the dream of two states living side by side in peace.

Such are the stakes of disengagement, scheduled to begin on July 20 with Israel's forcible removal of the estimated 8,000 Jewish settlers in the 21 heavily fortified Gaza enclaves, along with four smaller Jewish settlements in the West Bank.

A series of interviews with prominent Palestinians involved in planning for the aftermath of the historic pullout underscores the depth of the challenges ahead.

However fleeting the initial euphoria, Palestinian Authority officials are mindful that their regime is held in general contempt by everyday Palestinians who remember too well the rampant corruption and bureaucratic haplessness that accompanied the Oslo peace process of the 1990s under the leadership of the late Yasser Arafat.

Today, despite rising expectations among the general population, Gaza is in a bigger mess than ever.

The four-and-a-half year intifada has left its infrastructure in tatters and thrown more than half of its largely unemployed 1.3 million citizens below the poverty line of \$2.50 a day, according to new United Nations statistics.

Gaza's two main aquifers - one of which lies beneath the southern Israeli settlements - are largely depleted, adding a burgeoning water crisis as another obstacle to any large-scale redevelopment plans.

Trumping all the other problems, Palestinians say, are fears that - even after the Israeli pullout - Gaza will remain a captive market, at the mercy of an Israeli blockade on everything that comes and goes through the territory.

Unless open skies, open borders, open waters and freedom to import and export are built into the disengagement, Palestinians fear they will be in no position to help themselves by re-engaging with the global economy.

Even some leaders of the Islamic militant group <u>Hamas</u> - expected to play an active role in Palestinian government after legislative elections scheduled for this summer - appear humbled by what lies ahead.

"Frankly, we are afraid of the future," says newspaper editor Ghazi Hamed, who will stand for election under the *Hamas* banner.

"There are expectations that ... Hamas can change everything with the push of the button.

"What we are telling people is that we will be honest and clean. We can do our best, but we cannot change everything in one minute. There are so many problems. But now that <u>Hamas</u> is at the door of the government, we should not just stand there. We must go inside."

Ask a Palestinian what he hopes Gaza can become and it becomes apparent that, like the local infrastructure, the Palestinian imagination has been all but flattened by sustained intifada.

There are fleeting hopes that the way forward must begin with a solid revival of the Palestinian judiciary, in order to create a climate conducive to job-creating private investment from the Gulf States and beyond.

But investment in what? Fledgling ideas making the rounds range from industrial parks and international call centres to a massive infusion of tourist development that would harvest the holiday potential of Gaza's impressive stretch of sandy Mediterranean coastline.

But even if the stars align in Gaza's favour, obvious social tensions are inherent in the various visions of the territory's future. It is difficult to imagine, for example, how the revealing swimwear and easy flow of alcohol integral to modern resort tourism would fit within a territory where religious conservatism is more outwardly apparent than ever.

The territory is now dry, thanks to the anti-alcohol efforts of fundamentalist streams within the burgeoning Islamic movement. Over the course of the intifada, the fundamentalists threatened away the last drops of drink from the handful of restaurants that once served beer and wine.

<u>Hamas</u> leaders say they do not condone such vigilante behaviour - but the results sit well with their vision of a population obedient to their interpretation of Islamic law.

Hatem al-Tayef, a planning engineer with the municipality of Khan Younis, a city of 180,000 that will regain its access to the Mediterranean when the Israeli settlements are gone, sees no conflict in the competing visions of Gaza.

His proposed blueprint of what the neighbouring 1,500 hectares of Israeli-held land might become under Palestinian rule reads like a dreamer's paradise.

Tayef sees new beachside holiday retreats with a tourist corridor of shops and restaurants placed delicately apart from a national sea park, a light industrial zone, a revived fishery, a historical museum and new housing for refugees displaced in the latest round of fighting.

"Tourism is an important part of this," explains Tayef. "But we are planning private places for the bikini, private for the tourisms. This is the Gaza way."

He estimates that his development plan would generate at least 20,000 jobs.

"These jobs are essential to changing the way Palestinians view things," he says.

"Right now, nobody has confidence in the Palestinian Authority. But when they feel the land is theirs again, when they feel it is being put to good use, when they have a place to take their children to play, there will be a new psychology in Gaza.

Though Israeli officials have indicated they are willing to leave the settlement assets in place as a goodwill gesture, Palestinians are deeply divided over whether the existing structures are more a hindrance than help.

The Israeli neighbourhoods, comprised mostly of broad and leafy single-family dwellings with sizeable gardens front and back, are utterly alien to the multi-storey Palestinian homes of Gaza proper, most of which house large extended families of as many as four generations.

Many Palestinians suggest Israel would be doing them a favour by dismantling the buildings, effectively restoring the land to what it was before Israeli occupation began in 1967.

"We believe the way the Israeli settlements were planned is not suitable for Gaza," says the Palestinian minister of local government, Khaled Kawasmi, a member of the committee charged with formulating a plan for absorbing the Israeli holdings.

Mohammed el-Samhouri, a Palestinian foreign ministry official serving as an adviser to the committee, dismisses the value of the buildings as being negligible.

"I couldn't care less what the Israelis leave," he says. "It is not a wealth that will transform our lives - 2,000 housing units unsuited to our needs, 3,500 greenhouses and a major water aquifer largely depleted. So what?

"The major asset is the land. And every person you meet has a plan for what we should do with it. Whatever the answer, it has to account for the fact that our population will double in 17 years."

Samhouri's larger concern is echoed throughout Gaza: Will the Israeli departure include a lifting of the economic lockdown that has all but sealed off the coastal strip from international markets?

Without control of its own airspace, without freedom to export overland via Egypt, without the eventual construction of a seaport, he says, "Gaza is going nowhere.

"The fundamentals of globalization mean everyone is competing on price, quality and time. If we have the chance to get our carnations and strawberries to market without hindrance, we can compete. We've never had that chance before. But it will mean the difference between success and failure now."

The World Bank stressed the issue in a December report predicting that, without significant adjustments, the Israeli withdrawal plan would leave Gaza even worse off in three years than it is today.

Two Israeli human rights groups, B'tselem and HaMoked, echoed the concerns in a report two weeks ago titled "One Big Prison: Freedom of Movement to and from the Gaza Strip on the Eve of Disengagement."

Gaza's pre-war economy, largely dependent on the wages of unskilled labourers working in Israel, collapsed at the September 2000 onset of the intifada, the report's authors noted.

While several thousand Gazawis have begun to resume the daily commute since a fragile ceasefire took hold in February, Israel's disengagement plan calls for the complete elimination of Palestinian labour in Israel by 2008.

A senior Palestinian official, speaking on condition of anonymity, said that even with the help of international donors, Gaza is unlikely to initiate any new industrial zones before 2009 at the earliest.

"The bottom line is we are in a bind," he said. "We welcome the disengagement, yet it could prove a poison chalice.

"We are a basket case and we will be for another three to five years. My kid is not wetting his bed any more because it is quiet now, and that is a big achievement.

"But unless we can move beyond Gaza and get to real progress on the West Bank as well, I fear the whole thing will collapse in a year. And then, God help us, we'll see a third intifada."'The bottom line is we are in a bind . . . unless we can move beyond Gaza and get to real progress on the West Bank as well, I fear the whole thing will collapse in a year. And then, God help us, we'll see a third intifada'

Graphic

ADEL HANA ap A Gaza City shop's posters feature militant <u>Hamas</u> spiritual leader Sheikh Ahmed Yassin, flanked by the late Yasser Arafat and Palestinian Authority President Mahmoud Abbas.

Load-Date: April 17, 2005



A Lonely Peace Celebration for Sharon, Still the Warrior

The New York Times

March 25, 2004 Thursday

Late Edition - Final

Copyright 2004 The New York Times Company

Section: Section A; Column 3; Foreign Desk; Pg. 12

Length: 1156 words

Byline: By JAMES BENNET

Dateline: JERUSALEM, March 24

Body

On Wednesday, the scarred Israeli veteran, a man who struck some of the most painful blows to Egypt, celebrated the 25th anniversary of Israel's treaty with that nation, a peace he helped secure.

But the veteran, Prime Minister Ariel Sharon, celebrated pretty much alone. Two Egyptian legislators who had planned to attend the ceremony at the Israeli Parliament here canceled on Monday, after Israel killed the spiritual leader of the Palestinian militant group *Hamas* with a missile strike.

Mr. Sharon, a symbol to Arabs of ruthless Israeli force, spoke with unusual eloquence of friends lost in battle, of leadership triumphing over hatred, of a dream of peace. But he began his speech to a lot of empty seats, because most members of the Israeli Parliament did not show up.

To many, for many different reasons, the words of former Prime Minister Menachem Begin of a quarter century ago -- "No more wars, no more bloodshed" -- echoed Wednesday less with prophecy than with poignancy. In Jerusalem and elsewhere, Israelis were braced for retaliation from *Hamas*.

Twenty-five years is not so much time. Grievances are deep here, memories long. This week, Israeli Jews also began to celebrate the month of Nisan, marking Jews' freedom from Egypt thousands of years ago.

On a day that tightly entwined his state's story with his own, Mr. Sharon invoked Jewish scripture, if not without a note of grievance. He said, "The Torah explicitly commands that, despite the horrible things the Egyptians did to the people of Israel, and I quote, 'You shall not reject an Egyptian, for you were a sojourner in his land.' "

Some Israelis said their countrymen continued to sojourn in Arab land, not as captives but as occupiers, and so they had not yet found peace. Egypt withdrew its ambassador just after the start of the Palestinian uprising more than three years ago. About the same time, Jordan, which signed a peace treaty with Israel in 1994, chose not to send a new ambassador here.

"A just peace can only be achieved with a solution to the Palestinian problem -- a just and honest solution," said Azmi Bishara, an Israeli-Arab legislator who attended the ceremony. He said Israel under Mr. Sharon was not seeking peace but to "control Palestinian areas without Palestinians."

A Lonely Peace Celebration for Sharon, Still the Warrior

But Dr. Aryeh Eldad, a Jewish legislator who boycotted the commemoration, said Egypt never truly made peace with Israel. "This is really not anything connected with peace," he said. "This is a cold war, between us and Egypt."

He said Israel was "historically wrong" to give up the Sinai Peninsula to Egypt in exchange for this peace. Israel captured that territory in the 1967 war.

The original Israeli plan was for a limited offensive into the northern Sinai. But Moshe Dayan, then the defense minister, feared that if Israel stopped there, the Egyptians would not bother to negotiate for peace, but would say, as he put it at the time: "Keep Gaza with its 400,000 Arabs. Choke on them."

In the ensuing war, Mr. Sharon, a brigadier general at the time, commanded an intricate assault on an Egyptian redoubt that is still taught in military schools around the world. Six years later, when Egypt and other Arab nations stunned Israel with an attack on Yom Kippur, he led a counterattack across the Suez Canal to within 60 miles of Cairo.

After the peace treaty with Egypt, it was Mr. Sharon, as minister of defense, who tore up Israel's settlements in the Sinai.

But the peace treaty left Israel still occupying Gaza. It was Mr. Sharon who mapped out and built Israeli settlements there, home now to 7,000 Jews, among 1.3 million Palestinians.

It seems that General Dayan's fears have been realized. Mr. Sharon is struggling to extricate Israel from Gaza -- but without any peace agreement.

He says the present Palestinian leadership has proved it is no peace partner. Palestinian officials say Mr. Sharon is trying to avoid negotiations and a peace, like the one signed with Egypt, that would compel him to yield the West Bank and part of Jerusalem as well as Gaza.

In his speech on Wednesday, Mr. Sharon said, "We still must make efforts to foster a culture of peace in the Middle East." He said Israel wanted peace "with all the other Arab states, first and foremost our neighbors Syria, Lebanon, and the Palestinian Authority."

Mr. Sharon wants Egypt's help in the withdrawal. He wants the Egyptians to secure Gaza's southern boundary, and to prevent any weapons smuggling to the Palestinians.

It is not certain how, beyond Mr. Sharon's lonely peace ceremony on Wednesday, the killing of the <u>Hamas</u> leader, Sheik Ahmed Yassin, will affect the Israeli-Egyptian relationship. Palestinian Authority officials say that the Egyptian government was not happy to see the Islamic fundamentalists of <u>Hamas</u> gaining influence in Gaza. But Sheik Yassin was a symbol to Muslims far beyond the Gaza Strip.

President Hosni Mubarak of Egypt said Monday that the killing "aborted the peace process." He called for direct talks between Israel and the Palestinian Authority.

In 1977, Anwar el-Sadat, then the president of Egypt, paved the way to the peace accords signed at Camp David with a visit to Jerusalem so astonishing that top Israeli officials feared until the last minute that it was a bluff to cover an Egyptian attack. Then, at Ben Gurion airport, President Sadat appeared at the open door to his jet.

"I had planned to capture you over there," he said, referring to the West bank of the Suez Canal as he shook hands with Mr. Sharon, who had become agriculture minister.

"And I am glad to welcome you here," Mr. Sharon replied, according to "The Year of The Dove," an account of the peace treaty by three Israeli journalists.

The signing of the accords, presided over by President Jimmy Carter, created euphoria in Israel in 1979. It seemed Israel's isolation in the region was shattering, that the rest of the Arab world would shortly follow Egypt's example.

A Lonely Peace Celebration for Sharon, Still the Warrior

"Back then, when you walked around the streets of Jerusalem, you saw groups of Egyptian <u>women</u> shopping," said Michael Oren, an Israeli historian. "I can close my eyes and see them."

He added, "That's unthinkable today."

Yet the treaty has proved resilient, Mr. Oren noted. There has been no war between Israel and Egypt. Economic bonds have tightened, and some Israeli tourists still visit the Sinai and even Cairo.

But it is a cold peace. There was no celebration in Egypt of the anniversary of the accords.

In his speech, Mr. Sharon sketched his own image of what peace can look like in the Middle East. He described being asked by President Sadat in 1981 to scout land suitable for Israeli agricultural methods.

The two Egyptian pilots who escorted Mr. Sharon turned out to have joined in an attack on his forces during his assault to cross the canal. Together, they circled lower and lower, studying the land. "I told myself, 'This is peace,' " Mr. Sharon said.

http://www.nytimes.com

Graphic

Photo: Prime Minister Ariel Sharon of Israel commemorated the 25th anniversary of Israel's treaty with Egypt yesterday. But Israelis are bracing for retaliation from <u>Hamas</u> after the killing of the militant group's leader. (Photo by Agence France-Presse--Getty Images)

Load-Date: March 25, 2004



Fanatical mother of two who died a suicide bomber

DAILY MAIL (London)
January 15, 2004

Copyright 2004 Associated Newspapers Ltd.

Section: ED_1ST; Pg. 31

Length: 350 words

Byline: MATTHEW KALMAN

Body

A YOUNG Palestinian mother proudly declared her love for her two children in a chilling videotaped message before setting off on a suicide mission against Israelis.

Reem Al-Reyashi, 22, killed herself, three Israeli solders and an Israeli civilian when she detonated a bomb strapped to her body at the main crossing point between the Gaza Strip and Israel yesterday morning.

At least a dozen more victims were injured, one seriously.

Al-Reyashi, smiling at the camera and cradling a rifle for the video, said she wanted to turn her body into 'deadly shrapnel'.

She said she loved her 18-month- old daughter, Doha, and son Obedia, three, but had dreamed of 'becoming a martyr' since she was 13.

Dressed in combat fatigues, she said: 'God gave me two children and I loved them so much. Only God knew how much I loved them.

'I always wanted to be the first woman to carry out a martyr attack, where parts of my body can fly all over. That is the only wish I can ask God for.

It was always my wish to turn my body into deadly shrapnel against the Zionists and to knock on the doors of heaven with the skulls of Zionists.'

The Israeli army commander at the crossing point at Erez said the bomb strapped to Al-Reyashi's body had set off metal detectors at the entrance to a heavilysecured inspection hall.

According to Brigadier-General Gad Shamni, the woman had pretended they were triggered by a metal plate in her leg and a *female* soldier was to examine her.

'While she was waiting, she apparently succeeded in penetrating a metre or two into the hall and blew herself up.' Last night, outside her home in a Gaza City neighbourhood known as a stronghold of the fundamentalist terror group *Hamas*, her husband of five years sat crying.

He said he had not known of her plans.

Fanatical mother of two who died a suicide bomber

Her middleclass family which became estranged from her and her husband two months ago was also stunned that she had abandoned her children. 'We were not expecting that. We would not have thought it possible,' said brother-in-law Yusef Awad.

The attack was a joint operation by *Hamas* and Yasser Arafat's Al-Aqsa Martyrs Brigades.

END

Load-Date: January 16, 2004



In the city of Bethlehem, disarray and desperate times

Christian Science Monitor (Boston, MA) February 26, 2004, Thursday

Copyright 2004 The Christian Science Publishing Society

Section: WORLD; Pg. 07

Length: 879 words

Byline: By Ilene R. Prusher Staff writer of The Christian Science Monitor

Dateline: BETHLEHEM. WEST BANK

Highlight: The two most recent suicide bombers to strike Israel were from the West Bank city of Bethlehem.

Body

The images of the young men's faces, painted with stencils in haunting repetition, reverberate across the city walls like an echo without end.

They are the faces of the men - and on rare occasions, <u>women</u> - whom Palestinians call martyrs and Israelis call terrorists. And their numbers are continuing to grow, many here say, with little connection to shifts in the bigger picture of the Israeli-Palestinian conflict.

This city and its nearby villages, known for its shrinking Christian population and once viewed as a hub of moderation, is the hometown of the last two suicide bombers to strike Israel, including the one who blew himself up on a commuter bus on Sunday and another who killed himself and 10 others on Jan. 29.

Israeli officials say that Bethlehem, the Palestinian city closest to Jerusalem, has emerged as the new hotbed of bombers because it has no wall around it to deter would-be bombers from getting into Israel.

Palestinians here argue that on the contrary, the encroaching wall only gives young people the impression that hopes for a negotiated political solution are unrealistic, and that their lives about to get to get worse.

That Palestinians would send a suicide bomber into Israel on the eve of an unprecedented case in the International Court of Justice on the legality of Israel's growing separation wall across the West Bank seems, even to many Palestinians, a disturbing sign of their own state of disarray. Sunday's bombing, which killed eight Israelis and wounded more than 60, came at just as Palestinians had the world tuned into their case and Israelis were frustrated with what they viewed as lack of understanding for theirs.

"This last operation, this bombing, leads to a new idea - it shows that the people are acting without any proper plan and without any relationship to the situation," says Sheikh Abdul Majid Amarneh, an influential Islamist in Bethlehem. "They are not looking at the circumstances to see whether it is good or not. The pain is deep, and when it is deep, you start acting [without reason]."

Many Israelis and Palestinians seem to agree on one thing: that there's a growing disconnect between the Palestinian Authority leadership and average Palestinians, most of whom express little interest in taking cues from Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat or his prime minister Ahmed Qureia, also known as Abu Ala.

Naturally, both sides differ on whom to blame. Palestinians see several phenomena. Anger over the construction of the barrier - prompting the fear of being separated from Jerusalem - is only one of the reasons, but a still a significant one.

"Bethlehem and Jerusalem were always considered the same area and have branches of the same families, so to separate [them] is a disaster," says Nasser Laham, a prominent journalist from Bethlehem Television. "It's like cutting any city in two."

But beyond the barrier, Bethlehem suffers from its position as a sort of test case: it was to be Israel's litmus on whether the Palestinian Authority still had the will and capability to thwart violence against Israelis. After reoccupying all the major cities of the West Bank, Israel turned over security control of Bethlehem to the Palestinian Authority almost eight months ago.

Palestinian security officials here say they are getting hit at both ends of the spectrum.

On the one hand, they don't have full control: there are almost nightly raids by the Israeli army, and in a bilateral meeting Tuesday, the Israeli army informed the Palestinian preventive security forces that they are no longer allowed to carry weapons on the streets of the city. On the other hand, the image that Bethlehem is supposed to be under Palestinian Authority control makes it the ideal place for Muslim militants in <u>Hamas</u> and Islamic Jihad to recruit bombers, because the end product is for them a dual victory: it hits Israelis but also the PA, viewed by Islamists as secular and corrupt.

"It's clear that we have tens of young people who are willing to become suicide bombers," says Col. Majdi Atari, the head of Bethlehem's Preventive Security Force. "We are being targeted because there are some Palestinian elements who want us to be a failure, because they don't want us to survive."

It is not by chance that so many bombers are coming from Bethlehem, he says, but neither do the PA's forces have the ability to stop all of them. Sunday's bomber, Colonel Atari points out, came from the village of Husan, which is under Area C, or regions of the West Bank that the Oslo Accords left under complete Israeli control.

"There is no such thing as coincidence in security," says Atari. "Because the ground here is fertile with Al Aqsa," a militant brigade that is an offshoot of Mr. Arafat's Fatah faction, "*Hamas* seeks them to carry out their bombings." Or, as described by one political source here, "*Hamas* has no people in Bethlehem to explode themselves and Fatah has no technology."

Palestinians here say that Israeli Prime Minister Ariel Sharon's announcement that he would pull all Jewish settlements out of Gaza is also fueling the internal struggle. If Israel leaves Gaza, Palestinians say, major factions will vie for power with Arafat's weakened Fatah - and *Hamas* expects to emerge as the victor.

(c) Copyright 2004. The Christian Science Monitor

Load-Date: February 25, 2004



Arafat 'marked for death': Sharon; Israel's prime minister withdraws promise not to harm Palestinian leader, saying circumstances have changed

Hamilton Spectator (Ontario, Canada)

April 5, 2004 Monday Final Edition

Copyright 2004 Metroland Media Group Ltd

Section: CANADA/WORLD; Pg. A11; News

Length: 636 words

Dateline: JERUSALEM

Body

Israeli Prime Minister Ariel Sharon said his pledge to the United States not to harm Yasser Arafat no longer holds, declaring that the Palestinian president and the head of Lebanon's Hezbollah are potential targets for assassination.

In an interview set for broadcast today by Israeli army radio, Sharon said that three years ago he promised President George W. Bush that Israel would not harm Arafat, but circumstances have changed.

"Arafat was (then) given red carpet treatment everywhere in the world. Today it is clear to the United States and to everyone just who Arafat is," Sharon said.

Israel and the U.S. are boycotting Arafat, charging he is responsible for Palestinian violence. Arafat, who has been confined to his West Bank compound for nearly two years, said he was not troubled by warnings from Israel that it could act against him.

The Associated Press

"I don't care for it. I am caring for my people, for our children, for our women, for our students."

On March 22, Israel assassinated Sheik Ahmed Yassin, founder and leader of the violent Islamic <u>Hamas</u> movement, and officials said Israeli forces would mete out similar treatment to others involved in the organization or execution of attacks on Israel.

Asked by the army radio interviewer if that meant Arafat and Hezbollah's Sheik Hassan Nasrallah were targets, Sharon replied: "Whoever aims to kill Jews, whoever sends murderers to kill Jews, is marked for death."

Israel accuses Arafat of not only ignoring violent groups operating from territory under his control, but actively encouraging attacks against Israelis. Nasrallah said last week that his Lebanese militant group will help <u>Hamas</u> avenge Yassin's death.

Hezbollah and Israel fought a bloody 18-year guerrilla war in south Lebanon before Israel's withdrawal in 2000 and the two are still bitter enemies.

Sharon said he had not sought American approval for any strike against Arafat or Nasrallah.

Arafat 'marked for death': Sharon; Israel 's prime minister withdraws promise not to harm Palestinian leader, saying circumstances have changed

"I didn't ask permission from anyone," he said. "I want to emphasize again that anyone who kills Jews because they are Jews is marked for death."

<u>Hamas</u> has claimed responsibility for suicide bomb attacks that have killed hundreds of Israelis in over three years of conflict.

Sharon made similar threats in other interviews ahead of the Jewish Passover holiday, which starts at sundown today.

Sharon got into a heated argument yesterday with hardline cabinet ministers opposed to his plan to withdraw from the Gaza Strip and parts of the West Bank, government officials said.

The spat reflected the tough internal pressure Sharon faces as he tries to move forward with his proposal. Sharon has proposed leaving the areas, removing troops and uprooting settlements in the process, to reduce friction between Israelis and Palestinians after more than three years of fighting.

He has said he will carry out the plan next year if peace efforts with the Palestinians remain stalled.

In weekend interviews, Sharon said for the first time that Israel would pull out of all of Gaza, uprooting all the settlements there, reversing an earlier indication that three settlements in northern Gaza would remain. The pullback in the West Bank would be much more limited, with only four of about 135 settlements being removed.

Palestinians charge the plan is a ruse to trade Gaza for a permanent grasp over most of the West Bank. They insist such moves must be co-ordinated with the U.S.-backed "road map" peace plan, which leads to a Palestinian state.

However, neither side has carried out its initial obligations under the plan, leading Sharon to his proposal for unilateral action.

Sharon's plan faces considerable opposition within his coalition government and some hardline members have threatened to pull out.

If any coalition partners leave, Sharon is expected to court the dovish Labour party to keep his government afloat.

Graphic

Photo: David Silverman, the Associated Press; Prime Minister Ariel Sharon says he didn't seek American approval for a strike against Arafat.; Photo: Associated Press; Yasser Arafat has shrugged off the Israeli threat.

Load-Date: April 5, 2004



The West Australian (Perth)
September 22, 2005 Thursday
METRO

Copyright 2005 West Australian Newspapers Limited All Rights Reserved
Section: FEATURES; Pg. 20
Length: 1998 words
Byline: MARK NAGLAZAS
NORMAN AISBETT

TORRANCE MENDEZ

KEITH MCDONALD

SARAH ROBERTS

ZOLTAN KOVACS

DAVE HUGHES

DAVID HUGHES

CARMELO AMALFI

Body

Until his death earlier this year producer Ismail Merchant had worked with director James Ivory so consistently and for so long they came be known under the singular rubric Merchant Ivory (even though novelist and screenwriter Ruth Prawer Jhabvala was the equally significant third member of the team).

Since Bombay-born Merchant and Californian Ivory made their first film together in 1963, an adaptation of Jhabvala's novel The Householder, the team has produced a series of modestly budgeted versions of classic and contemporary literature that are celebrated for their low-key tastefulness and fine intelligence. That style reached its full blossoming in their adaptations of the work of Henry James (The Europeans in 1979 and The Bostonians in 1984) and E. M. Forster (Maurice in 1987, A Room with a View in 1986 and Howards End in 1992).

They also won acclaim and Oscar nominations for their typically delicate Kazuo Ishiguro adaptation The Remains of the Day (1993).

When Ivory was chosen in 1994 to be the 25th recipient of the coveted Director's Guild D. W. Griffith Award for distinguished lifetime achievement, he said of his long-time friend Merchant, "It all works because he is there and it wouldn't work otherwise". (MN)

488 HAMAS

<u>Hamas</u> is a militant, Palestinian organisation which aims to eradicate the state of Israel and replace it with an Islamic state. <u>Hamas</u> is the acronym for Harakat al-Muqawamah al-Islamiyya - the Islamic Resistance Movement. In Arabic, it also means "zeal" or "courage".

As currently organised, <u>Hamas</u> was founded in 1987 at the beginning of the first violent Palestinian insurrection against Israel (intifada) in the occupied territories. Its founder and spiritual leader was the wheelchair-bound Sheikh Ahmed Yassin. He was assassinated by Israel on March 22, 2004, in retaliation for **Hamas** attacks on Israel.

<u>Hamas</u> attacks military and civilian targets because it considers all Israelis to be illegally occupying Palestinian land and because of Israel's policy of universal conscription. Male and <u>female</u> suicide bombers are used.

<u>Hamas</u> is listed as a terrorist group by the European Union, Canada, the US and Israel. Its popularity with Palestinian people is enhanced by its provision of welfare and social services to the poor. (NA)

489 BLUE HILLS

The celebrated ABC serial, Blue Hills, provided popular radio entertainment for more than 30 years, though its origins were far from frivolous.

Gwen Meredith's story of fictional country folk started life as The Lawsons in 1944 as part of a programming strategy to improve agricultural practices and the nation's food supply. During the show information about agricultural procedures came out in carefully crafted plot lines to educate listeners.

The show changed its name to Blue Hills in 1949 and went on to become the longest-running daily series in Australia before its closure in 1976. (TM)

490 EUGENICS

Hitler used eugenics to justify the Holocaust in his pursuit of a "master race" and, not surprisingly, that left eugenics thoroughly discredited.

Eugenics is about ameliorating undesirable qualities in humans. Plato's Republic talks about selective breeding but it was English scientist Francis Galton who coined the expression in 1883. Galton, a cousin of Charles Darwin, proposed arranged marriages between men of distinction and **women** of wealth to produce a gifted race.

After Galton, who died in 1911, mathematician Karl Pearson believed that the high birth rate of the poor was a threat to civilisation and "higher" races needed to supplant the "lower". This encouraged those, including ultimately Hitler, who believed in racial and class superiorities.

The American Eugenics Society, founded in 1926, campaigned for the sterilisation of those who were insane, retarded or epileptic and sterilisation laws were passed in more than half the US states. Thousands were involuntarily sterilised between 1927 and 1979 and in 2002 the governor of Virginia, Mark Warner, formally apologised for his state's actions: "The eugenics movement was a shameful effort in which state government never should have been involved."

Denmark, Switzerland, Germany, Norway and Sweden also introduced similar laws.

Now with advances in genetic engineering, there are renewed fears science could be used to create "perfect" humans. (KM)

491 CHURCHILL'S SPEECHES

President John F. Kennedy summed up Winston Churchill when bestowing honorary US citizenship on him in 1963: "He mobilised the English language and sent it into battle."

Kennedy omitted that many lines from Churchill's World War II speeches outlived the conflict, such was the poetic strength of their imagery. Phrases came into household usage.

Churchill's speeches were invariably humourless, bringing little cheer to a nation still apprehensive after the privations of World War I. Instead, they imbued listeners with an iron will to engage and help defeat a seemingly insurmountable foe.

Extracts include: "I say to the House as I said to ministers who have joined this government, I have nothing to offer but blood, toil, tears and sweat." (First speech to the House of Commons after becoming prime minister - May 13, 1940.)

"Let us therefore brace ourselves to our duties, and so bear ourselves that if the British Empire and its Commonwealth last for a thousand years, men will still say, "This was their finest hour'." (Speech to the House of Commons after the fall of France and before the impending Battle of Britain - June 18, 1940.)

Churchill's mastery of English was supreme though he spoke with a slight lisp and practised delivery for hours beforehand. Yet his personal conviction behind the sentiments expressed were powerful enough to make his delivery spellbinding.

A consensus view is his rhetoric rallied Britain to continue the fight against Germany when the rest of Europe had fallen. This is supported to a degree when Churchill said to the crowd when leading victory celebrations in Whitehall in 1945: "This is your victory!" They responded: "No - it is yours!" (TM)

492 INTERNATIONAL SPACE STATION

At an altitude of about 380km and travelling about 27,000kmh around the Earth's orbit is the International Space Station, a giant laboratory used to conduct research in a gravity-free environment.

Estimated to cost \$US100 billion (\$130 billion), the world's biggest international scientific project is a collaboration between the US, Russia, Canada, Japan, Brazil and 11 members of the European Space Agency. It follows Russian space stations, such as Salyut-1 (launched in 1971) and Mir (1986), and America's Skylab (1973).

Construction of the ISS started in 1998 and parts have progressively been added, often by crew "space walking" on the outside of the station. When it is eventually completed it will be the length of a football oval with a 73m wingspan of solar panels.

The ISS houses up to three crew members, who usually spend four to six months onboard. A rigorous exercise program helps to prevent muscle wastage and bone damage in the weightless environment. Research projects provide data about the Earth and the effects of no gravity in space.

Following the 2003 Columbia disaster the US suspended its space shuttle program and smaller Russian rockets became the only lifeline for crew exchanges and delivery of supplies. The disintegration of Columbia on its re-entry effectively halted any further construction on the ISS because the shuttle is the only vehicle capable of carrying large parts to the station.

In July 2005 the National Aeronautics and Space Administration launched the space shuttle Discovery, its first shuttle mission since Columbia, which delivered supplies and equipment to the ISS. However, the recurrence of a foam debris problem on Discovery has caused a delay in any further missions.

Two "space tourists" have visited the station on trips costing \$US20 million each. The ISS is visible to the naked eye as a star-like object. (SR)

493 ULYSSES

Irish novelist and short-story writer James Joyce achieved international fame and notoriety with the publication of Ulysses in 1922.

It has been praised by some literary experts as one of the greatest novels, if not the greatest, in the English language, but discarded unfinished by many readers who have found it too demanding and obscure.

It ran into legal problems because of its depictions of sex.

Ulysses is a long and complex work, planned along the lines of Homer's Odyssey (Ulysses is the Latin for Odysseus) and written in a range of literary styles, including stream-of-consciousness, of which Joyce was an acknowledged master.

It deals with the experiences of Leopold Bloom, his wife, Molly, and the poet, Stephen Dedalus, on a single day in Dublin in 1904. (ZK)

494 BIG BANG THEORY

Where did the universe come from and when? There must have been a starting point in the distant past when everything - time and space, the stars and galaxies - was created. The most established theory suggests the universe emerged from the big bang, an immense explosion 10 to 20 billion years ago.

Before the blast, the very early universe was a dense speck of matter and energy. For unknown reasons, this speck rapidly expanded and the particles shot away from each other in a vast explosion of matter and energy and expansion of time and space.

In a fraction of a second, the very hot and volatile process slowed and the universe cooled. This allowed basic forces (such as gravity) to develop and elementary particles to form.

After about three minutes of further cooling, protons and neutrons - the building blocks of atoms - began to appear. These clumped to create the nuclei of the three simplest elements - hydrogen, helium and lithium. The abundance of these gases in the universe supports the theory.

But it would take even more cooling over hundreds of thousands of years for these nuclei to join with electrons to form atoms. Millions of years later, these atoms were clumped together by gravity and familiar components of the universe (such as stars and galaxies) started to emerge. Temperatures eventually dropped enough for heavier elements and living cells to develop.

The big bang theory stems from early last century when scientists applied Albert Einstein's 1915 general theory of relativity to an expanding universe, rather than a static entity as he initially suggested. Einstein later adopted the expansion theory, calling his earlier assumption his "biggest blunder".

In the 1920s, Belgian priest Georges Lemaitre proposed the theory of an initial explosion which was supported strongly by American astronomer Edwin Hubble's discovery that galaxies were moving away from each other (a process which is continuing), implying they once had a dense starting point.

A modern version of the big bang model was developed by Russian-American nuclear physicist George Gamow and colleagues in the 1940s. The detection in 1965 of cosmic background radiation, believed to be an "echo" of the big bang which is found uniformly throughout the universe, by American-based physicists Robert Wilson and Arno Penzias, provided significant evidence for the theory.

Today, researchers are exploring the universe's future - will it continue to expand forever or eventually start contracting back towards the so-called "big crunch"? (CA, SR)

495 BLEDISLOE CUP

The Bledisloe Cup is the symbol of trans-Tasman rugby superiority. The silver trophy was donated by the governorgeneral of New Zealand, Lord Bledisloe, in 1931 and has since been contested as a single Test match or a series of two or three games.

Since 1996 it has been incorporated in the annual Tri Nations tournament and played on a home-and-away basis. The challenger must win both games or achieve a win and a draw, to enable a handover.

New Zealand's All Blacks have won the Bledisloe Cup 35 times, including an unbroken spell of ownership from 1951 to 1978. The Wallabies have taken ownership of the trophy on 12 occasions, most notably between 1998 and 2002. From 2006, the Cup wil be decided on a best-of-three basis. (DH)

Graphic

A scene from the Merchant Ivory film A Room with a View.; Gwen Meredith, writer of the Blue Hills radio serial, is joined by cast members as she signs books in 1951.; Winston Churchill.; Bledisloe Cup action in Auckland, New Zealand, in September 2005.

Load-Date: September 22, 2005



Rice Urges Israel and Palestinians to Sustain Momentum

The New York Times
August 18, 2005 Thursday
Late Edition - Final

Copyright 2005 The New York Times Company

Section: Section A; Column 1; Foreign Desk; Pg. 8

Length: 1076 words

Byline: By JOEL BRINKLEY and STEVEN R. WEISMAN

Dateline: WASHINGTON, Aug. 17

Body

Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice on Wednesday offered sympathy for the Israeli settlers who are being removed from their homes in Gaza but also made it clear that she expected Israel and the Palestinians to take further steps in short order toward the creation of a Palestinian state.

"Everyone empathizes with what the Israelis are facing," Ms. Rice said in an interview. But she added, "It cannot be Gaza only."

Israel began the forcible eviction of thousands of Gaza settlers on Wednesday, and Ms. Rice called it "really quite a dramatic moment in the history of the Middle East." Ariel Sharon, the Israeli prime minister, she added, had shown himself to be "enormously courageous."

Ms. Rice has visited the region twice recently to ensure that the Gaza withdrawal proceeds smoothly. While she noted that the withdrawal would take several weeks to play out, soon after that, she insisted, Israel must take further steps, including loosening travel restrictions in the West Bank and withdrawing from more Palestinian cities.

At the same, she added, the Palestinian Authority must take its own steps, moving quickly to disarm Palestinian factions intent on breaking the cease-fire.

Her remarks came during an interview with reporters and an editor of The New York Times at the State Department. She discussed the major issues facing her in Iran, North Korea and elsewhere, but she also talked about what she considered her major accomplishments in her first seven months in office. She came to the State Department in January after serving as President Bush's national security adviser.

"This is a very remarkable time," she said. This fall, she noted, there will be "the Iraqi referendum followed by Iraqi elections; Afghan elections for the Parliament; Egyptian contested elections for the first time.

"You've also had the withdrawal of the Syrians from Lebanon and the elections in Lebanon," she went on. "We've got reform efforts that we are tracking in Jordan. And of course <u>women</u> have the right to vote for the first time in Kuwait."

Rice Urges Israel and Palestinians to Sustain Momentum

"Something very dramatic is changing in the Middle East," she said. "And it is changing in the direction of -- and I only say in the direction of -- more open, more pluralistic, contested political environment." Mr. Bush's efforts, and hers, in "pressing the case" for democratic change, she said, "I think has had a tremendous effect."

In Israel on Wednesday, officials expressed anxiety over what they said was a determination by the militant organization <u>Hamas</u> to exploit the withdrawal to commit further violence against Israel. Israeli officials say they have evidence that <u>Hamas</u> is using the cease-fire to build up and train its own army in Gaza, preparing for more suicide bombings in Israel while also stockpiling rockets to be fired into Israel from Gaza.

Ms. Rice said she did not know "how extensive" such a buildup had been. "But I know there has been some," she said. "I don't doubt that *Hamas* is training and increasing its capacity to cause trouble as a terrorist organization."

Israel has used a lull in the violence to focus on the Gaza pullout. But Israeli officials say they will not make further concessions unless the Palestinian Authority makes parallel moves to go beyond the negotiated calm and begin dismantling and disarming Palestinian militant groups. Ms. Rice agreed, saying confidence-building steps needed to be taken by both sides simultaneously. She also made it clear that she expected the Palestinian Authority to take responsibility for disarming *Hamas*.

"That is their obligation under the road map," she said, referring to the peace plan that the United States and its allies proposed in 2003.

In the interview, Ms. Rice touched on other contentious issues, notably Iran and North Korea. The United States is involved in negotiations to persuade both countries to give up their nuclear programs.

In Vienna last week, the International Atomic Energy Agency criticized Iran for restarting its uranium conversion program but did not recommend sending the case to the United Nations Security Council, as European diplomats had said they wanted to do. Ms. Rice insisted that there had never been an intention to ask the agency to recommend sending Iran's case to the Council.

"We had agreed in advance with the Europeans that we would seek a strong statement," she said. "This would be a two-step process."

Early this month, three European nations, with American concurrence, presented Iran with a sweeping proposal of incentives, including agreement that Iran could have a peaceful nuclear power program sometime in the future -- if it gave up its plans to resume uranium enrichment now.

Iran rejected the proposal, tore the United Nations seals off its stores of nuclear materials in a uranium conversion plant in Isfahan and began processing them again, insisting that it had no intention of ceasing its nuclear program permanently. Iran says its program is for peaceful purposes, while the United States has expressed concerns that it may be trying to produce nuclear arms.

Ms. Rice insisted, too, that the United States remained determined to persuade Iran to change its mind.

"There seems to be very strong international consensus that an Iran that has behaved the way that it has over the last couple of years really should not have a fuel cycle," she said. "We expect that the next step will be to work with others to make certain that there are consequences for that behavior, and we believe that the Security Council is the reasonable next step."

American officials acknowledge that they may face difficulty in persuading all of the permanent members of the Security Council to impose economic sanctions on Iran. China, for one, buys fuel from Iran. But a senior administration official said China had been helpful in the atomic agency's debate last week.

On North Korea, the United States faces a similar problem. In six-nation talks, now recessed for several weeks, the North Koreans insisted that they had the right to pursue a peaceful nuclear power program. Ms. Rice disagreed.

Rice Urges Israel and Palestinians to Sustain Momentum

"There are still legs to the six-party process that may indeed bring about exactly the outcome that we are looking for," she said. She would not say what the administration might do if the talks failed but added that she took comfort in the fact that the United States was not negotiating with North Korea alone.

http://www.nytimes.com

Graphic

Photo: Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice in Washington yesterday. "Something very dramatic is changing in the Middle East," she said. (Photo by Doug Mills/The New York Times)

Load-Date: August 18, 2005



Are you ready? Tomorrow you will be in Paradise...

The Times (London)
July 14, 2005, Thursday

Copyright 2005 Times Newspapers Limited

Section: Features; Times2; 4

Length: 2883 words

Byline: Nasra Hassan

Body

What motivates a suicide bomber? Nasra Hassan talks to a young Muslim who survived his intended 'martyrdom' and describes the terrorists' rigorous training.

AT DAWN, when the three men heard the morning call to prayer from a mosque in the village below their hideout in the hills, they knelt and uttered the traditional invocation to Allah that Muslim warriors make before setting off for combat. They put on clean clothes, tucked the Koran into their pockets, and began the long hike over the hills and along dry riverbeds to the outskirts of Jerusalem.

In the Palestinian neighbourhoods of East Jerusalem, they walked in silence so that their accents, the guttural vernacular of Gaza, would not arouse suspicion.

It was June 1993, and they were members of the Palestinian fundamentalist group <u>Hamas</u>. Along the way, they stopped to pray at every mosque. At dusk, they boarded a bus that was heading toward West Jerusalem, filled with Israeli passengers. When the driver thwarted their attempt to hijack the vehicle, they tried to detonate the homemade bombs they were carrying.

The bombs failed to go off, so they pulled out guns and began firing wildly. The shots injured five passengers, including a woman who later died. The young men fled the bus, hijacked a car at a red light, and forced the driver to take them toward Bethlehem. Israeli security forces stopped them at a military checkpoint, and in a gun battle two of the young men and their hostage were killed. The third hijacker, whom I will call S, was struck by a bullet in the head; he lay comatose for two months in Israeli hospitals. Finally, he was pronounced brain-dead, and the Israelis sent him back to his family in the Gaza Strip to die.

But S recovered, and when we met, five years later, he told me his version of the events. By then, he was married and the father of three sons. Each of them had been named for shaheed batal -"martyr heroes".

In Gaza, S is celebrated as a young man who "gave his life to Allah" and whom Allah "brought back to life".

He was polite as he welcomed me into his home. The house was surrounded by a high cement wall that had been fortified with steel. We sat down in a large, simply furnished room whose walls were inscribed with verses from the Koran. On one wall was a poster showing green birds flying in a purple sky, a symbol of the Palestinian suicide bombers.

S had just turned 27. He is slight, and he walked with a limp, the only trace of his near-death. He invited his wife to join us, and he answered my questions without hesitation.

Are you ready? Tomorrow you will be in Paradise...

I asked him when, and why, he had decided to volunteer for martyrdom. "In the spring of 1993, I began to pester our military leaders to let me do an operation," he said. "It was around the time of the Oslo accords, and it was quiet, too quiet.

I wanted to do an operation that would incite others to do the same. Finally, I was given the green light to leave Gaza for an operation inside Israel."

"How did you feel when you heard that you'd been selected for martyrdom?" I asked.

"It's as if a very high, impenetrable wall separated you from Paradise or Hell," he said. "Allah has promised one or the other to his creatures. So, by pressing the detonator, you can immediately open the door to Paradise -it is the shortest path to Heaven."

S was one of 11 children in a middle-class family that, in 1948, had been forced to flee from Majdal to a refugee camp in Gaza, during the Arab-Israeli war that started with the creation of the State of Israel. He joined <u>Hamas</u> in his early teens and became a street activist.

In 1989, he served two terms in Israeli prisons for intifada activity, including attacks on Israeli soldiers. One of his brothers is serving a life sentence in Israel.

I asked S to describe his preparations for the suicide mission. "We were in a constant state of worship," he said. "We told each other that if the Israelis only knew how joyful we were they would whip us to death! Those were the happiest days of my life."

"What is the attraction of martyrdom?" I asked.

"The power of the spirit pulls us upward, while the power of material things pulls us downward," he said. "Someone bent on martyrdom becomes immune to the material pull. Our planner asked, 'What if the operation fails?' We told him, 'In any case, we get to meet the Prophet and his companions, inshallah.'

"We were floating, swimming, in the feeling that we were about to enter eternity.

We had no doubts. We made an oath on the Koran, in the presence of Allah -a pledge not to waver. This jihad pledge is called bayt al-ridwan, after the garden in Paradise that is reserved for the prophets and the martyrs. I know that there are other ways to do jihad. But this one is sweet -the sweetest. All martyrdom operations, if done for Allah's sake, hurt less than a gnat's bite!"

S showed me a video that documented the final planning for the operation. In the grainy footage, I saw him and two other young men engaging in a ritualistic dialogue of questions and answers about the glory of martyrdom. S, who was holding a gun, identified himself as a member of al-Qassam, the military wing of *Hamas*, which is one of two Palestinian Islamist organisations that sponsor suicide bombings. (Islamic Jihad is the other group.) "Tomorrow, we will be martyrs," he declared, looking straight at the camera. "Only the believers know what this means. I love martyrdom."

The young men and the planner then knelt and placed their right hands on the Koran. The planner said: "Are you ready? Tomorrow, you will be in Paradise."

SINCE 1982, I have been an international relief worker. In 1996 I was posted to the Gaza Strip during one of the most vicious cycles of suicide bombings. To understand why certain young men voluntarily blow themselves up in the name of Islam, I began, without official sponsorship, to research their backgrounds and the beliefs that had led them to such extreme tactics.

I was warned that my interest in trying to understand the suicide missions was dangerous. But eventually, when the people who were observing me had assured themslves of my credentials -an important one was that I am Muslim and from Pakistan -I was allowed to meet members of *Hamas* and Islamic Jihad who would help me. "We are

agreeing to talk to you so that you can explain the Islamic context of these operations," one man told me. "Even many in the Islamic world do not understand."

From 1996 to 1999, I interviewed nearly 250 people involved in the most militant camps of the Palestinian cause: volunteers who, like S, had been unable to complete their suicide missions, the families of dead bombers, and the men who trained them.

None of the suicide bombers -they ranged in age from 18 to 38 -conformed to the typical profile of the suicidal personality. None of them was uneducated, desperately poor, simple-minded, or depressed. Many were middle-class and held paying jobs. Two were the sons of millionaires. They all seemed entirely normal members of their families. They were polite and serious, and in their communities were considered to be model youths. Most were bearded. All were deeply religious.

I was told that to be accepted for a suicide mission the volunteers had to be convinced of the religious legitimacy of the acts they were contemplating, as sanctioned by the divinely revealed religion of Islam. Many of these young men had memorised large sections of the Koran and were well versed in the finer points of Islamic law and practice. But their knowledge of Christianity was rooted in the medieval crusades, and they regarded Judaism and Zionism as synonymous.

Most of the men I interviewed requested strict anonymity. The majority spoke in Arabic and they all talked matter-of-factly about the bombings, showing an unshakeable conviction in the rightness of their cause and their methods. When I asked them if they had any qualms about killing innocent civilians, they would immediately respond, "The Israelis kill our children and our <u>women</u>. This is war, and innocent people get hurt."

They were not inclined to argue but they were happy to discuss, far into the night, the issues and the purpose of their activities. One condition of the interviews was that, in our discussions, I not refer to their deeds as "suicide", which is forbidden in Islam. Their preferred term is "sacred explosions". One member of al-Qassam said: "We do not have tanks or rockets, but we have something superior -our exploding Islamic bombs."

My contacts told me that, as a military objective, spreading fear among the Israelis was as important as killing them. Anwar Aziz, an Islamic Jihad member who blew himself up in an ambulance in Gaza, in December 1993, had often told friends: "Battles for Islam are won not through the gun but by striking fear into the enemy's heart."

Military commanders of <u>Hamas</u> and Islamic Jihad remarked that the human bomb was one of the surest ways of hitting a target. A senior <u>Hamas</u> leader said: "The main thing is to guarantee that a large number of the enemy will be affected. With an explosive belt or bag, the bomber has control over vision, location, and timing."

As today's weapons of mass destruction go, the human bomb is cheap. A Palestinian security official pointed out that, apart from a willing young man, all that is needed are such items as nails, gunpowder, a battery, a light switch and a short cable, mercury (readily obtainable from thermometers), acetone, and the cost of tailoring a belt wide enough to hold six or eight pockets of explosives. The most expensive item is transportation to a distant Israeli town. The total cost of a typical operation is about US \$ 150 (Pounds 85). The sponsoring organisation usually gives between \$ 3,000-\$ 5,000 (Pounds 1,700-£2,830) to the bomber's family.

I met an imam affiliated with <u>Hamas</u>, a youthful, bearded graduate of the prestigious al Azhar University in Cairo. He explained that the first drop of blood shed by a martyr during jihad washes away his sins instantaneously. On the Day of Judgment, he will face no reckoning. On the Day of Resurrection, he can intercede for 70 of his nearest and dearest to enter Heaven; and he will have at his disposal 72 houris, the beautiful virgins of Paradise. The imam took pains to explain that the promised bliss is not sensual.

There is no shortage of willing recruits for martyrdom. <u>Hamas</u> and Islamic Jihad generally reject those who are under 18, who are the sole wage-earners in their families, or who are married and have family responsibilities. If two brothers ask to join, one is turned away.

Are you ready? Tomorrow you will be in Paradise...

The planners keep a close eye on the volunteer's self-discipline, noting whether he can be discreet among friends and observing his piety in the mosque. During the week before the operation, two "assistants" are delegated to stay with the potential martyr at all times. They report any signs of doubt, and if the young man seems to waver, a senior trainer will arrive to bolster his resolve.

A planner for Islamic Jihad said that his organisation carefully scrutinises the motives of a potential bomber: "We ask this young man, and we ask ourselves, why he wishes so badly to become a human bomb. What are his real motives? Our questions are aimed at clarifying first and foremost for the boy himself his real reasons and the strength of his commitment.

Even if he is a long-time member of our group and has always wanted to become a martyr, he needs to be very clear that in such an operation there is no drawing back. Preparation bolsters his conviction, which supports his certitude. It removes fear."

A member of <u>Hamas</u> explained the preparation: "We focus his attention on Paradise, on being in the presence of Allah, on meeting the Prophet Muhammad, on interceding for his loved ones so that they, too, can be saved from the agonies of Hell, on the houris, and on fighting the Israeli occupation and removing it from the Islamic trust that is Palestine."

I asked one planner about the problem of fear. "The boy has left that stage far behind," he said. "The fear is not for his own safety or his impending death. It does not come from lack of confidence in his ability to press the trigger. It is awe, produced by the situation. He has never done this before and, inshallah, he will never do it again. It comes from his fervent desire for success, which will propel him into the presence of Allah. It is anxiety over the possibility of something going wrong and denying him his heart's wish. The outcome, remember, lies in Allah's hands."

Al-khaliyya al-istishhadiyya, which is often mistranslated as "suicide cell" its proper translation is "martyrdom cell" - is the basic building block of operations. Generally, each cell consists of a leader and two or three young men.

When a candidate is placed in a cell, usually after months, if not years, of religious studies, he is assigned the lofty title of al-shaheed al-hayy, "the living martyr". He is also referred to as "he who is waiting for martyrdom".

Each cell is tightly compartmentalised and secret. Cell members do not discuss their affiliation with their friends or family, and even if two of them know each other in normal life, they are not aware of the other's membership in the same cell. (Only the leader is known to both.) Each cell, which is dissolved after the operation has been completed, is given a name from the Koran or from Islamic history.

The young men undergo intensified spiritual exercises, including prayers and recitations of the Koran. Usually, the trainer encourages the candidate to read six particular chapters of the Koran: Baqara, Al Imran, Anfal, Tawba, Rahman, and Asr, which feature such themes as jihad, the birth of the nation of Islam, war, Allah's favours and the importance of faith.

Religious lectures last from two to four hours each day. The living martyr goes on lengthy fasts. He spends much of the night praying. He pays off all his debts, and asks for forgiveness for actual or perceived offences.

In the days before the operation, the candidate prepares a will on paper, audiocassette or video, sometimes all three. The video testaments, which are shot against a background of the sponsoring organisation's banner and slogans, show the living martyr reciting the Koran, posing with guns and bombs, exhorting his comrades to follow his example, and extolling the virtues of jihad.

The wills emphasise the voluntary basis of the mission. "This is my free decision, and I urge all of you to follow me," one young bomber, Muhammad Abu Hashem, said in a recorded testament before blowing himself up, in 1995, in retaliation for the assassination of Fathi Shiqaqi.

The young man repeatedly watches the video of himself, as well as the videos of his predecessors. "These videos encourage him to confront death, not fear it," one trainer told me. "He becomes intimately familiar with what he is about to do. Then he can greet death like an old friend."

Are you ready? Tomorrow you will be in Paradise...

Just before the bomber sets out on his final journey, he performs a ritual ablution, puts on clean clothes, and tries to attend at least one communal prayer at a mosque. He says the traditional Islamic prayer that is customary before battle, and he asks Allah to forgive his sins and to bless his mission. He puts a Koran in his left breast pocket, above the heart, and he straps the explosives around his waist or picks up a briefcase or a bag containing the bomb. The planner bids him farewell with the words "May Allah be with you, may Allah give you success so that you achieve Paradise."

The would-be martyr responds, "Inshallah, we will meet in Paradise."

Hours later, as he presses the detonator, he says, "Allahu akbar" - "Allah is great. All praise to Him."

The operation doesn't end with the explosion and the many deaths. <u>Hamas</u> and Islamic Jihad distribute copies of the martyr's audiocassette or video to the media and to local organisations as a record of their success and encouragement to other young men. His act becomes the subject of sermons in mosques, and provides material for leaflets, posters, videos, demonstrations, and extensive coverage in the media. Graffiti on walls in the martyr's neighbourhood praise his heroism.

Aspiring martyrs perform mock re-enactments of the operation, using models of exploding cars and buses. The sponsoring organisation distributes cassettes of chants and songs honouring the good soldier.

The bomber's family and the sponsoring organisation celebrate his martyrdom with festivities, as if it were a wedding. Hundreds of guests congregate at the house to offer congratulations. The hosts serve the juices and sweets that the young man specified in his will. Often, the mother will ululate in joy over the honour that Allah has bestowed upon her family.

But there is grief, too. I asked the mother of Ribhi Kahlout, a young man in the Gaza Strip, who had blown himself up in November 1995, what she would have done if she had known what her son was planning to do. "I would have taken a cleaver, cut open my heart, and stuffed him deep inside," she said. "Then I would have sewn it up tight to keep him safe."

Nasra Hassan works in Vienna. She has compiled a database of more than 200 profiles of Muslim suicide bombers and has just completed a book on the subject. A version of this article originally appeared in The New Yorker

Load-Date: July 14, 2005



US democracy drive heartens the Islamists: If the US attempt to promote democracy in the Middle East succeeds, it is Islamists who will get elected, writes Roula Khalaf

Financial Times (London, England)

May 20, 2005 Friday

London Edition 2

Copyright 2005 The Financial Times Limited

Section: MIDDLE EAST; Pg. 9

Length: 1174 words

Byline: By ROULA KHALAF

Body

When the Saudi authorities, prodded by the US, decided to hold the country's first nationwide municipal elections earlier this year, independent clerics critical of the government professed a lack of interest. The experiment with democracy, they claimed, was too minor a concession from the ruling al-Saud family. The local councils, they said, had no real powers.

Behind the scenes, however, a group of influential clerics worked to back a select group of male candidates (<u>women</u> were barred from participating). Through text messages and Islamist internet sites - modern tools of election campaigning that were, however, used more secretly - they sought to influence voters' choices.

Their efforts paid off. The biggest winners in the elections were "Islamist technocrats", people who advocate a continued prominent role for religion as well as political reforms and are opposed to the kingdom's close relations with the US.

The Islamist victory in local councils, at least in the short term, will not make much of a difference, given the institutions' feeble powers. But the Saudi case illustrates a broader trend in the region, where Islamist movements are attempting to capitalise on the democratic ferment of recent months, and to take advantage of the international pressures on Arab regimes to democratise.

The Islamists' enthusiasm for the democratic process may be a sign of greater moderation. But it is an unfortunate result for the Bush administration, which had hoped that promoting freedom in the Middle East would benefit above all liberal-minded activists that shared its secular values.

"It's a real dilemma for the US," says Danielle Pletka, a vice-president at the neo-conservative American Enterprise Institute in Washington. "On one side you want to say democracy is democracy, but you also recognise other groups haven't had the opportunity Islamists have had."

The attitude the US should adopt towards Islamist movements is now at the centre of the debate over democratisation. When asked, American officials point to Iraq to say they have no problem with the outcome of democracy in the Middle East. "In practice, there are still a lot of questions and concerns about how the US should interact with Islamist movements - concerns because it's not always clear which groups have unequivocally

US democracy drive heartens the Islamists: If the US attempt to promote democracy in the Middle East succeeds, it is Islamists who will get elected, writes Roul....

renounced violence," says Tamara Cofman Wittes, research fellow at the Brookings Institution's Saban Center for Middle East Policy.

The first wake-up call for the US was the sweeping victory of a largely Islamist Shia alliance in the January elections in Iraq and the poor showing of more secular forces such as former prime minister Ayad Allawi's coalition.

For now, the new government, which owes its existence to the US invasion, is friendly towards the US and happy for American troops to remain in Iraq until local forces are sufficiently trained to take over security. But anti-Americanism is part of the platform of most other Islamists in the region.

In Kuwait, for example, a group of Islamists opposed to the presence of 30,000 US troops has set up the Gulf's first political party and is demanding government recognition.

In Egypt, American pressures for political change encouraged Kifaya (Enough) - a collection of leftists, liberals and Islamists - to stage small but regular street protests. This movement, though lacking mass appeal, has put pressure on the banned but tolerated Muslim Brotherhood, the largest opposition group, to assert itself and more openly challenge the regime of President Hosni Mubarak. This month, the Brotherhood called for protests in 15 cities, and after clashes with police some 2,000 members were arrested.

More alarming to the US is that more radical groups that it lists as terrorist organisations are participating more actively in the political process. Lebanon's Hizbollah, the Shia movement that fought Israeli occupation of southern Lebanon, already participates in the Lebanese parliament and will take part in elections starting this month.

The Palestinian <u>Hamas</u> has decided for the first time to field candidates in legislative elections this summer. It has already proved a strong challenger to the secular but corrupt Fatah movement in recent local elections. According to the Palestinian election committee, Fatah won control of 45 of 84 municipal councils across the West Bank and Gaza Strip, compared with only 23 for <u>Hamas</u>. But the Islamist movement gained an overall majority in the largest constituencies, including Rafah in the Gaza Strip and Qalqilyah in the West Bank.

That Islamists should benefit from any democratic opening is hardly surprising - nor is it necessarily alarming. In countries where societies are stifled by authoritarianism and government corruption, movements that offer a religious message gain instant appeal among a disillusioned population, particularly when, as with <u>Hamas</u> and Hizbollah, weak central control allows them to run generous social and educational programmes.

This was starkly illustrated in the Algerian experience in the early 1990s: the first real democratic opening in the Arab world gave rise to a powerful Islamist movement. The Islamic Salvation Front was poised to win the legislative elections in 1991 when the army intervened, cancelling the poll and banning the party. The experiment with democracy was not only short-lived. It sparked a savage and long civil war.

Jamal Khashoggi, a Saudi commentator and adviser to a prominent member of the ruling al-Saud family, says the political forces in the region have not changed since the Algerian elections. "Islamists are the force on the Arab street and they will always be the leading player in local politics," he argues.

The Islamists, however, have learned from the mistakes of the past and now adopt a more democratic rhetoric and espouse nationalist goals. This evolution has been accentuated by the global war on terrorism, which has raised international pressure on the more radical groups, making political participation a necessary protection.

"Islamists have made strides. Most mainstream Islamists are talking about constitutional change and about accommodation with regimes," says Alistair Crooke, a former British intelligence officer and former security adviser to the European Union. "The most fundamental change is that Islamists don't say it's inconsistent to be Islamist and nationalist. So we now have a very potent mix of demands for popular reforms and nationalism. You can't offer an alternative programme against this."

Mr Crooke, now director of the UK-based Conflict Forum, has been advocating dialogue between western officials and some of the radical Islamist organisations. Last month, he took a group of Americans and Europeans, some of

US democracy drive heartens the Islamists: If the US attempt to promote democracy in the Middle East succeeds, it is Islamists who will get elected, writes Roul....

them ex-officials and intelligence officers, to Beirut to meet representatives from <u>Hamas</u>, the Muslim Brotherhood and Hizbollah. "If you incite expectations of change and you demonise and delegitimise all protest movements that aren't secular and western, then don't be surprised if it all erupts in violence," he says.

Load-Date: May 19, 2005



Eight Palestinians killed in firefights with Israelis

Times Colonist (Victoria, British Columbia)
January 29, 2004 Thursday Final Edition

Copyright 2004 CanWest Interactive, a division of CanWest Global Communications Corp. All Rights Reserved

Section: News; Pg. A9; News

Length: 420 words

Byline: Ibrahim Barzak

Dateline: GAZA CITY, Gaza Strip

Body

GAZA CITY, Gaza Strip -- Eight Palestinians died Wednesday in gunbattles with Israeli troops in Gaza City, a fierce flare-up of violence that complicated a new U.S. effort to restart peace talks.

At angry funeral processions, Palestinians shouted for revenge. The deaths and the calls for reprisals threatened another escalation in more than three years of Palestinian-Israeli violence.

The Associated Press

Palestinian officials complained that the fighting frustrated a visit by U.S. officials, who are trying to revive long-stalled peace efforts.

The fighting on a chilly, cloudy day turned the rundown Zeitoun neighbourhood into a deadly battlefront.

As Palestinians paramedics tended to the wounded, militants scrambled through the streets hoisting rocket launchers. A group of boys took cover behind a tin shack as gunfire crackled.

During the long battle with an unusually large force of as many as 200 Palestinian gunmen, an armoured Israeli bulldozer uprooted a small patch of olive and orange trees, and tanks crushed some parked cars.

At least five of the dead were armed men, including four from the Islamic Jihad group and one from <u>Hamas</u>, and three were believed to be bystanders, hospital officials said.

Israel's military said no soldiers were hurt and claimed that all the Palestinian dead were armed.

Later Wednesday, Thousands of Palestinian mourners jammed Gaza streets for funeral marches. Some fired weapons in the air, and <u>women</u> watched from balconies as the bodies wrapped tightly in flags of Islamic groups, were carried above the crowd on stretchers.

Islamic Jihad vowed to avenge the killing of its gunmen.

The fighting erupted near the isolated Jewish settlement of Netzarim in the heart of the crowded, poverty-stricken Gaza Strip.

The army said militants fired anti-tank missiles and set off a bomb, prompting the troops to fire back. Two Palestinians were killed in that first skirmish, said Dr. Moawia Hassanein, a Palestinian hospital official.

Eight Palestinians killed in firefights with Israelis

The army then entered a Gaza City neighbourhood near Netzarim, and a fierce battle flared. Six other Palestinians were killed and several were wounded, Hassanein said.

As two Israeli tanks rumbled slowly along one road, a rocket-propelled grenade whizzed just a few metres in front of the two vehicles. The tanks swivelled their barrels and fired machine-guns.

The violence complicated renewed efforts to restart stalled peace talks.

<u>Hamas</u> said the "barbaric Zionist aggression is a greeting and a reception for the American delegation."

Load-Date: January 29, 2004



14 are dead in collapse of Egypt building

St. Petersburg Times (Florida)

January 28, 2004 Wednesday 0 South Pinellas Edition

Copyright 2004 Times Publishing Company

Section: NATIONAL; Pg. 16A; DIGEST

Length: 398 words Series: IN BRIEF

Dateline: CAIRO; VANCOUVER, British Colombia; CIUDAD JUAREZ, Mexico

Body

Rescue workers Tuesday pulled the bodies of 14 people from the rubble of an 11-story apartment building that collapsed after fire broke out on a bottom floor.

All but two of the dead were firefighters and police who had rushed inside to help.

Most residents had been evacuated Monday night by the time the building came down in the middle class Cairo suburb of Nasr City, avoiding a disaster. Officials said 33 people were hospitalized with injuries. Compiled from Times Wires

Rescue officials said 14 bodies had been recovered. They include 12 firefighters and police officers who were in the building trying to evacuate tenants and put out the blaze in a ground-floor appliances store.

Nine more bodies found

at Canadian pig farm

VANCOUVER, British Columbia - Canadian police on Tuesday said they found the remains of nine more <u>women</u> for a total of 31 at a pig farm owned by the man alleged to be Canada's worst serial killer.

Authorities said six of the <u>women</u> had vanished from the drug-infested east side of downtown Vancouver. Three others have not been identified.

Robert William Pickton, 54, has been charged with 15 counts of first-degree murder in the disappearances of **women** over 20 years. No court date has been set.

Mexicans call 11 corpses

evidence of drug war

CIUDAD JUAREZ, Mexico - Police have dug up 11 bodies in the back yard of a house in this Mexican border city, in what they called the latest evidence of a growing drug battle being waged along the U.S.-Mexico frontier.

14 are dead in collapse of Egypt building

The victims apparently were rivals of the Vicente Carrillo drug gang and were executed with "extreme violence" as long as six months to one year ago, said Attorney General Rafael Macedo de la Concha. Several of the victims had been strangled or suffocated.

Mexican investigators said the property appeared to be a safe house for Humberto Santillan Tabares, who was arrested Jan. 15 across the border in El Paso, Texas. Mexican authorities identified Santillan as one of the chief lieutenants of Carrillo, who is alleged to be one of Mexico's major drug traffickers.

Elsewhere Tuesday . . .

<u>HAMAS</u> ORDERED TO PAY: A federal judge in Providence, R.I., ordered the Palestinian group <u>Hamas</u> to pay \$116-million in damages for the deaths of an American citizen and his Israeli wife near the West Bank in 1996. The ruling upheld a magistrate judge's decision last month on behalf of relatives of Yaron and Efrat Ungar.

Load-Date: January 28, 2004



<u>Arafat's likely successor described as pragmatist;</u> Abbas helped negotiate accords with Israel

The International Herald Tribune November 8, 2004 Monday

Copyright 2004 International Herald Tribune

Section: NEWS; Pg. 4

Length: 717 words

Byline: Steven Erlanger

Dateline: JERUSALEM:

Body

Mahmoud Abbas wears a business suit, not a military uniform and kaffiyeh. He is a former elementary school teacher -- studious, gracious, pragmatic and opposed to terrorism. He is also tough enough to have been Yasser Arafat's No. 2 for many years in the Palestine Liberation Organization, now becoming his probable successor.

In many ways, he was a crucial Arafat adviser, one of the few Palestinians who studied Israeli history and politics, even as some regarded him as a traitor for doing so. "He studies issues intellectually and then tries to draw political conclusions," said Yossi Beilin, an Israeli politician who negotiated the draft of a peace treaty with Abbas. The New York Times

Abbas has criticized the current intifada openly as "a complete destruction of everything we built," having said in June, "We call upon all factions to end the attacks as we wish to take the path toward negotiation. We seek a dialogue that will bring calm."

Reluctantly, in March 2003, he accepted the new post of prime minister of the Palestinian Authority because Arafat and the United States wanted him to. It was a vain effort by outsiders to dilute Arafat's power, but Arafat, never a fool when power is at stake, undermined Abbas from the start, helped by the Israeli prime minister, Ariel Sharon, and Abbas quit in disgust four months later. He even quit the central committee of Fatah, Arafat's faction in the Palestine Liberation Organization.

A joke at the time has Arafat and Abbas in a car, and Arafat keeps warning him, "Watch out!" Finally, Abbas complains: "But you're driving!"

Now Arafat is apparently on his deathbed and Abbas, also known as Abu Mazen, is moving into the driver's seat. He is placing the current prime minister, Ahmed Qurei, or Abu Ala, next to him.

It will be an enormous test for both, but it is Abbas, 69, who will be the most visible Palestinian leader -- and the one with the most clout, once he takes over, as expected, as the chairman of the PLO and Fatah, its largest faction.

As decent and thoughtful as he is, Beilin warned, Abbas has strong views about the right of the Palestinians to share Jerusalem and about the fair treatment of Palestinian refugees from 1948. To secure his position, Abbas cannot appear to be weaker than Arafat on central questions of Palestinian identity and self-respect. "Abu Mazen is

Arafat's likely successor described as pragmatist; Abbas helped negotiate accords with Israel

good for the peace camps on both sides," said Beilin, who met with Abbas recently, "but don't expect him to be a 'moderate Palestinian' -- he's a pragmatic one."

Equally important, Abbas has his own channels to militant groups, especially <u>Hamas</u>, which is powerful in Gaza. When he was prime minister, he worked out a short-lived cease-fire with them and the Israelis. "<u>Hamas</u> respects Abu Mazen," Beilin said.

But <u>Hamas</u> has its own demands in the new collective leadership. It has been asking, at least in Gaza, for a monopoly on the education system, for a requirement that <u>women</u> wear veils and for autonomy in the mosques, so that the Palestinian Authority can no longer replace imams.

Those are the kinds of internal issues that Abbas will face, Western hopes for final peace settlements aside, and how he responds to them will be watched very closely by Palestinians and Israelis.

Abbas is not a natural politician, however. He is described by associates as easily offended, one reason that he stayed away from politics, never becoming a legislator or a minister before the job of prime minister was created and became his. It is also why he has no wider political or local base among ordinary Palestinians.

Abbas was an early Palestinian voice advocating negotiations with Israel and an eventual recognition of it. He initiated dialogue with Jewish and pacifist movements in the 1970s, pushed for a two-state solution, coordinated negotiations at the Madrid conference and headed the Palestinian delegation in secret talks with the Israelis and Beilin that led to the 1993 Oslo accords.

Beilin said, "A lot depends on the good will of Israel, and whether we want to help the moderate leadership or not. We didn't before."

Raanan Gissin, an adviser to Sharon, said Israel was aware of the opportunities. "Down the road at least there's some reason for hope," he said. "We won't do anything to hamper or torpedo any emerging leader who wants to change the course."

Load-Date: November 8, 2004



Death row Scot cleared of murder

Western Morning News (Plymouth)

January 26, 2005

default

Copyright 2005 Western Morning News

Section: News; Other; Others; Pg. 22

Length: 439 words

Body

Scotsman Kenneth Richey, on death row for murder in the US, has had his death sentence and conviction overturned because he received incompetent counsel at his trial. A federal appeals court in Cincinnati threw out Richey's conviction for killing a two-year-old girl. The Circuit Court of Appeals ruled that Richey must be retried within 90 days or set free by the state of Ohio. Richey, who has maintained he is innocent, was convicted of killing Cynthia Collins in a 1986 fire at her mother's apartment in the town of Columbus Grove. Prosecutors said Richey intended to kill his ex-girlfriend, but ended up killing the child. 250 pilgrims killed MORE than 250 people - most of them <u>women</u> - were crushed to death in a stampede of thousands of Hindus fleeing fires during a pilgrimage to a hilltop temple in western India yesterday. Another 200 were injured. The stampede occurred on a narrow staircase leading to the temple in the village of Wai, 150 miles south of Bombay.

<u>Hamas</u> truce talk <u>HAMAS</u> is ready to accept a temporary truce with Israel provided the Israelis halt their targeted killings and release Palestinian prisoners, the militant group's leader said yesterday. Khaled Mashaal said recent meetings between Palestinian leader Mahmoud Abbas and militant groups had produced "positive results." The talks had focused on their halting attacks on Israel to pave the way for Israeli-Palestinian negotiations to resume.

Nicole house bug DETECTIVES are investigating an electronic listening device that was allegedly planted outside Nicole Kidman's Sydney mansion. The device was found near a security car that was monitoring Kidman's home from the street, said chief bodyguard Neil McMaster. He said he believed the device was intended to intercept conversations among the actress and her bodyguards.

Gates' £400m gift MICROSOFT billionaire Bill Gates is donating £400 million to support immunisation programmes in developing countries, he announced yesterday. The ten-year grant from the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation to the Global Alliance for Vaccines and Immunisation will be used to buy and distribute vaccines for diseases such as diphtheria, tetanus, whooping cough, measles, tuberculosis, polio, hepatitis B and yellow fever.

Date with destiny A MAN who robbed a Domino's Pizza delivery girl was captured after he asked his victim for a date. Police in New Castle, Delaware, said that Brent Brown called his 18-year-old victim on his mobile phone to apologise and propose a date. The teenager politely declined the request, but gave the mobile number to police, who arrested Brown, 25, and one of his accomplices.

Load-Date: January 27, 2005



Palestinian carries tune and his people's hopes

The International Herald Tribune August 23, 2004 Monday

Copyright 2004 International Herald Tribune

Section: NEWS; Pg. 6

Length: 732 words

Byline: Steven Erlanger

Dateline: SALFIT, West Bank:

Body

The Palestinians are engaged in an intifada against Israel, in a political challenge to Yasser Arafat, in a hunger strike by prisoners in Israeli jails, and in meeting regular incursions by Israeli troops into Gaza and parts of the West Bank.

But Palestinians are utterly consumed by the fate of Ammar Hasan, 26, who was competing Sunday night in Lebanon against a Libyan in the final of a televised contest to be named the Arab world's finest singer.

The finalists will sing three songs each, and viewers will then have a week to vote -- great for the station and the telephone companies. On Sunday, a final broadcast will declare the winner.

The New York Times

Hasan, who lives in this village, has received a telephone call of support from Arafat, and some Palestinian <u>women</u> bear his poster the way they might one of a martyr to the intifada. Many West Bank towns and villages are setting up large televisions or screens in city centers so that everyone can watch the finals of "Super Star 2," a hugely successful production of the Lebanese satellite station Future Television, which is owned by the prime minister, Rafik Hariri.

The Palestinian mobile telephone company Jawwal has offered a 20 percent discount on text messages so people can vote for Hasan, while rumors spread throughout the West Bank and Gaza that the Libyan leader, Muammar el-Qaddafi, is offering free telephone calls and investing millions to defeat the Palestinian champion in league with the Syrians, whose champion lost out in the semifinals.

Hasan's father, Hasan Ahmed Daqrouq, 63, sitting in a small room festooned with posters and photos of his son, is overwhelmed with pride.

"Palestinians, wherever they are, they see Ammar as an ambassador for them," Daqrouq said. "The Palestinian people are not just throwing stones and bombs. In the struggle we have educated people -- doctors, intellectuals, musicians -- and we have a singer. Ammar, too, is a defender of the people."

But the focus on Hasan has produced political criticism, too, from Palestinian militants who think his celebrity is diverting attention from the important issues of the Palestinian struggle, like the prisoners' strike, Israel's security barrier and the intifada.

Palestinian carries tune and his people's hopes

<u>Hamas</u> in particular has condemned the singing contest as trivial and a harmful diversion from real problems. <u>Hamas</u> criticized Jawwal and the Palestinian Ministry of Culture for not allocating money to support prisoners and victims "instead of the Super Star program that contradicts Islamic values."

Daqrouq is dismissive. "Hamas should look to itself first," he said.

A week ago Sunday, when Hasan survived the semifinals along with his Libyan rival, Ayman al-Atar, Palestinians rejoiced. There were parties in Ramallah, Bethlehem and Gaza City, some sponsored by Jawwal.

But that Sunday was also the first day of the prisoners' hunger strike, which continues still, and even Hasan's cousin Nizar Dagroug is troubled by the competing furor over "Super Star."

He is running Salfit's committee to support the prisoners, and in a storefront covered with photos of the 38 sons of Salfit who are in Israeli detention, he is clearly upset.

"With respect to Ammar and his voice, all this comes at the wrong time for Palestine," he said.

"It draws people's attention from the prisoners and the struggle. We believe the arts should be part of our struggle; it should be committed art."

But Hasan, speaking in a telephone interview from Lebanon, rejects such criticism. He knows he has become a symbol of the Palestinians, but he wants to show the world the broader culture of a civilized people.

"I want to reflect a human image of the Palestinian people, that despite all the difficulties we face, we exist, that there are people like me, and that creativity is our weapon," he said.

The prisoners are an important issue, "much more important than what I'm doing," he said. "But the occupation is not afraid of kids throwing stones. The occupation is afraid of scientists, intellectuals and musicians who reflect the humanity and express the message of the people."

When he was at school in Salfit, he said, he threw stones at Israeli soldiers and saw how his classmates welcomed it as a way to avoid school. "Do you think throwing stones will lead to victory?" he asked. "There is no victory with ignorance. Let's educate our children and plant the seeds of hope and humanity in their hearts."

1

-

Load-Date: August 23, 2004



BUS HORROR SUICIDE BOMBERS ON REVENGE MISSION ARE AMONG DEAD

Belfast News Letter (Northern Ireland) September 1, 2004, Wednesday

Copyright 2004 Century Newspapers Limited **Section:** 1st Edition; NEWS; Pg. 14

Length: 437 words

Body

PALESTINIAN suicide bombers on a revenge mission blew up two buses seconds apart in southern Israel yesterday, killing at least 16 passengers and wounding more than 80.

They were the first suicide bombings inside Israel for nearly six months and were claimed by militant group *Hamas* as vengeance for the assassination of their spiritual leader.

The explosions ended a period of relative calm. Israel has attributed the lull to its crackdown on Palestinian militants and continued construction of its separation barrier in the West Bank. Palestinian militants have acknowledged that they have faced increasing difficulties carrying out attacks.

The two buses blew up 15 seconds apart, about 100 yards from a busy intersection in the centre of Beersheba.

"People were screaming and yelling. Everybody was running," said witness Tzika Schreter, a 50-year-old college lecturer.

Rescue workers scoured the scene, cleaning up body parts and scattered pieces of the wreckage.

A hand with a ring lay on a charred seat and blood was splattered on the walls of the mangled buses.

Police said the messy scene was complicating the recovery of bodies and warned the death toll could rise.

They said the 16 people did not include the bombers.

The blasts came hours after premier Ariel Sharon presented to his Likud party the most detailed timetable yet for Israel's withdrawal from the Gaza Strip and warned party rebels that the plan "will be implemented, period".

After the attacks, Sharon met top security officials to plan a response.

Israel has historically struck hard at militant targets after suicide bombings.

In Gaza, Muslim leaders praised the "heroic operation" over mosque loudspeakers. The attack was the deadliest since a *female* suicide bomber killed 21 people nearly a year ago in the northern city of Haifa.

Militants hadn't carried out a major attack in Israel since March 14, when 11 people were killed in the port of Ashdod.

BUS HORROR SUICIDE BOMBERS ON REVENGE MISSION ARE AMONG DEAD

That attack prompted Israel to assassinate Sheik Ahmed Yassin, the spiritual leader of <u>Hamas</u>, and his successor, Abdel Aziz Rantisi. * At least six people were killed in a blast outside a busy Moscow underground station last night by a suspected woman suicide bomber.

The blast hit in an area between the Rizhskaya subway station in northern Moscow and a supermarket-department store complex.

Initial casualty reports varied but police spokesman Valery Gribakin said on Russian television that six people were killed and more than 20 wounded.

The blast came a week after two Russian airliners crashed within minutes of each other. The crashes that killed 90 people were declared terrorist acts.

Load-Date: September 3, 2004



International Briefs

Telegraph Herald (Dubuque, IA)

April 11, 2004 Sunday

Copyright 2004 Woodward Communications, Inc.

Section: National/World; Pg. a9

Length: 754 words

Byline: ASSOCIATED PRESS

Dateline: VATICAN CITY

Body

Pope blesses flame of tall candle at vigil

Looking weak and speaking with great effort, Pope John Paul II blessed the flame of a tall candle at the start of a long Easter vigil service Saturday night in a packed St. Peter's Basilica. The pontiff baptized people from Europe, Africa and Asia in a solemn, chant-filled ceremony.

The pope's right hand trembled as he poured water from a gold-colored, shell-shaped scooper over the heads of a young man from Italy, a toddler from Togo, two Japanese **women** in kimonos and three others during baptism.

Earlier, John Paul slowly leaned forward in his chair to insert five grains of incense into the cream-colored candle's wax.

"Very dear brothers and sons, in this most holy night, in which Jesus Christ our Lord, passed from death to life, the Church, spread throughout the Earth, calls her children to hold a vigil of prayer," John Paul said. He then blessed the flame and intoned a prayer in Latin.

Sri Lankan military goes on high alert

KAJUWATTE, Sri Lanka - Renegade Tamil rebels braced for a showdown with the mainstream Tamil Tiger movement, as the Sri Lankan military went on high alert Saturday, intent on maintaining a truce that has given this island nation its best chance of peace in two decades.

The unconfirmed death toll from heavy fighting Friday between rebel factions was put at 33 by rebel and military officials.

Residents in the area of fighting along the Verugal River, off Sri Lanka's northeastern coast and some 150 miles from the capital, Colombo, fled gunfire again early Saturday in a mopping-up operation by the mainstream Liberation Tigers of Tamileelam, or LTTE.

The military hopes to prevent the internal clash between rival Tamil Tiger factions from spilling over into civilian areas and sucking the army into the conflict.

"We don't want to be dragged into the situation, but will be taking all necessary steps for the safety and security of the people in the government-controlled areas," said a military spokesman, Col. Sumeda Perera.

International Briefs

More than 50 inmates escape in Philippines

ISABELA, Philippines - More than 50 inmates, including many suspected members of a Muslim extremist group, used a smuggled pistol to escape from a southern Philippine prison on Saturday, officials said. At least nine were killed by police.

Provincial spokesman Christopher Puno said 53 of 137 inmates at the Basilan Provincial Jail, including many members of the al-Qaida-linked Abu Sayyaf group, escaped.

At least nine were killed and eight others were recaptured, said Senior Inspector William Gadayan, police chief of Isabela city, the capital of Basilan. He said three guards were injured in the breakout, one seriously.

The escape came just two days after soldiers outside Isabela killed six alleged Abu Sayyaf members, including Hamsiraji Sali, one of five guerrilla leaders wanted by Washington in the deaths of two American hostages.

Gadayan said the escape might have been in retaliation for Sali's death and an effort by the Abu Sayyaf to regroup.

Thousands wait in lines to give aid to *Hamas*

GAZA CITY, Gaza Strip - Thousands of Palestinians in impoverished Gaza waited in long lines outside mosques Saturday to contribute what little funds they had to <u>Hamas</u>' fight against Israel, the Islamic militant group said.

<u>Hamas</u>, the largest opposition group, is negotiating with Yasser Arafat's Palestinian Authority on how to run Gaza after a planned Israeli withdrawal. The group, which opposes the existence of Israel, has killed more than 300 Israelis in attacks since 2000.

Late Saturday, two Israeli tanks moved about 100 yards into Palestinian territory near the Gaza Strip settlement of Netzarim, witnesses said. They said the tanks fired machine guns and three shells. There were no reports of injuries.

The military denied its troops were operating in the area.

Also Saturday, an 11-year-old girl was killed in her kitchen in the Gaza town of Khan Younis when she was hit by a stray bullet, witnesses said.

Protest turns violent

TAIPEI, Taiwan - Tossing bottles and rocks, hundreds of Taiwanese protesters were blasted by police water cannons Saturday after a rally demanding an independent investigation of the bizarre shooting that injured President Chen Shui-bian one day before his narrow re-election.

The rowdy protests have become a weekend tradition since Chen won the March 10 vote and opposition candidate Lien Chan challenging the results. Lien has insinuated that Chen might have staged the unexplained shooting, and he wants a special task force to probe the event.

Load-Date: April 11, 2004



Day of the terrorist

DAILY MAIL (London) September 1, 2004

Copyright 2004 Associated Newspapers Ltd.

Section: ED_1ST; Pg. 8

Length: 1133 words

Byline: MATTHEW KALMAN

Body

AT LEAST 16 people were killed in suicide bombings on two buses in Israel yesterday.

Nearly 100 were injured in the simultaneous attacks by Palestinian terrorists in the southern city of Beersheba, many seriously.

They were the first deadly bombings in Israel for five months, despite weekly attempts by militants.

<u>Hamas</u> claimed responsibility for the blasts, on two crowded buses about 200ft apart and within seconds of each other.

The bombs were packed with bolts and shards of metal, causing maximum injury and death.

But the actions of one of the bus drivers saved many lives.

Having seen the explosion on the other bus in front of his, Yaacov Cohen opened the doors to allow passengers off to help, meaning many had escaped to safety by the time of the second blast.

'I opened the doors and most of my passengers got off the bus,' said Mr Cohen, who was being treated in hospital last night.

'Then I felt the explosion.

'I got off, wiped the dust and fragments off myself and looked behind me. I couldn't cope with the sight. Then the emergency services arrived.' Regional police commander Dudi Cohen said: 'His courage and alertness prevented a much bigger disaster.' The attacks, shortly before 3pm local time, came a day after the Israeli transport minister requested funding for an extra 500 guards on public transport across the country.

They demonstrated that <u>Hamas</u> militant groups were not a spent force despite repeated Israeli assassinations of their leaders and the building of the West Bank barrier.

A cell from nearby Hebron claimed responsibility. The same cell blew up a bus in Jerusalem a year ago, shattering a weeks-old ceasefire.

A leaflet distributed in Hebron by <u>Hamas</u>'s terror wing, the Kassem Brigades, said the attack was in revenge for Israel's assassination of its leaders Sheikh Ahmed Yassin and Abdel-Aziz Rantissi in March and April.

Day of the terrorist

'This is but one of a series of responses in which the Iz a Din al-Kassem Brigades have vowed to carry out in response to the martyrdom of the leaders of our movement,' said the leaflet.

Last night, as thousands of supporters took to the streets in Gaza, <u>Hamas</u> released a video of the two suicide bombers.

Nassem Jabari, 22, and Ahmad Qawasme, 26, posed self-consciously next to rifles and posters of the two assassinated leaders.

Palestinian leaders officially condemned the bombing.

'The Palestinian Authority condemns any attacks that target civilians, whether Israelis or Palestinian,' said cabinet minister Saeb Erekat.

However, only a few weeks ago Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat led a chanting crowd at his Ramallah headquarters, urging them to send 'a million martyrs' to liberate Jerusalem.

Beersheba, which has a sizeable Arab population, has been largely spared the bloody attacks carried out in other major Israeli cities.

The only incident during the current intifada was a shooting at the gate of an army base in October 2002 in which two **women** died.

The city is only 25 miles east of Gaza City, but lies behind a border fence which has proved almost impenetrable to would-be terrorists.

Just yesterday morning, a potential suicide bomber was stopped and disarmed at the Erez crossing point from Gaza.

The Beersheba attack could make it harder for Israeli prime minister Ariel Sharon to overcome resistance to his plan to evacuate occupied Gaza and parts of the West Bank to 'disengage' from conflict with Palestinians.

Protesters quickly descended on the scene, waving banners condemning the plan.

In Iraq, 12 hostages executed on video

AN EXTREMIST Iraqi group has killed 12 Nepalese hostages and showed grisly pictures of the executions.

The Army of Ansar al-Sunna posted on a website a statement, photographs and a video showing a beheading of one hostage and the shooting of 11 in the back of the head.

It was the worst violence against captives since a wave of kidnappings began in April.

The horrific pictures were released as France intensified its efforts to save two French reporters held hostage in Iraq by a separate militant group.

The Nepalese were kidnapped earlier this month after going to Iraq to work as cooks and cleaners for a Jordanian firm

The killing of men from a tiny country that had nothing to do with the invasion will send shockwaves through foreign firms doing business in Iraq.

The Ansar al-Sunna statement said: 'We have carried out the sentence of God against 12 Nepalese who came from their country to fight the Muslims and to serve the Jews and the Christians believing in Buddha as their God.' A dozen foreign hostages had been killed previously.

Day of the terrorist

Around 20 hostages are still being held, many of them truck drivers from poor countries seeking good money by plying Iraq's dangerous highways.

The kidnappings have scared away some foreign firms, disrupted supplies to U.S. troops and discouraged investment in the ravaged economy.

In Russia yesterday, French President Jacques Chirac renewed his call for the release of the two journalists. He was meeting antiwar allies Russian President Vladimir Putin and German Chancellor Gerhard Schroeder.

The kidnappers had demanded that France repeal its ban on headscarves in schools, which is part of a broader law that also bars Jewish skullcaps and large Christian crosses.

The journalists were kidnapped by the Islamic Army in Iraq, a little known group which claimed responsibility for the death of an Italian journalist last week.

In Moscow, widow's revenge

TEN people were killed last night when a woman blew herself up in a Moscow shopping street.

At least 50 others including children were wounded in the blast near an underground station on Prospekt Mira, ironically meaning Avenue of Peace.

Ten were said to be 'very seriously injured' by the bomb, which was filled with metal bolts.

It came as Russian secret services scoured the country for two suspected Chechen 'black widow suicide bombers'.

A week ago two Russian passenger jets were destroyed, killing 89 people.

The main suspects for the downing of the jets were two Chechen <u>women</u>, Amnat Nagayeva and Satsita Dzhebirkhanova, both thought to have died in the crashes.

But police said two more Chechen <u>women</u>, linked to the pair, were on the run and thought to be planning another attack.

Earlier, there were warnings about the two, Roza Nagayeva, 29, sister of Anmat, and Maryam Taburova, 27, who shared a flat in the Chechen capital Grozny with the suspected plane bombers.

The two plane bombers had both lost their brothers allegedly killed by Russian paratroopers in the military conflict that has engulfed the Caucasus region, it was claimed yesterday.

Relatives of all four <u>women</u> deny that they were politically active, and insist they would not get involved with terrorism.

A group calling itself the Islambouli Brigades has claimed responsibility for both crashes.

Load-Date: September 2, 2004



Our say

The Cairns Post/The Cairns Sun (Australia)

April 19, 2004 Monday

Copyright 2004 Nationwide News Pty Limited

Section: OPINION; Pg. 12

Length: 411 words

Body

Monday, April 19, 2004

Isabel a star on the rise

AUSTRALIA'S television fans have confirmed what Far North Queenslanders already knew: Isabel Lucas is simply sensational.

The former St Monica's College student last night won a Logie for most popular <u>female</u> talent for her starring role on Channel 7's Home and Away.

Discovered under a mango tree at the Port Douglas markets, Isabel is now a household name across the country.

Her onscreen debut started with small steps. For her first few episodes she was known simply as Jane Doe after being found wandering on a beach.

This beautiful girl who apparently couldn't speak was new to Home and Away's Summer Bay and new to television and the fans loved her.

Before long, her secret identity was revealed.

Jane Doe was actually Natasha "Tasha" Andrews, a girl apparently brought up by survivalists who taught her to distrust everything and dropped out of society to live in a fortress preparing for Y2K.

The fans just couldn't get enough of her struggle to cope with the real world after the death of her mysterious parents, a struggle that continues to be played out in their living rooms five nights a week.

Isabel has come a long way way in a very short space of time and with the continued support of her family she can look forward to a bright and successful future in the sometimes demanding and unforgiving world of showbiz.

Young hopefuls will think of her when they wonder if dreams can came true, especially if they live a long way away from the big smoke.

Yes, dreams to come. Our girl Isabel is proof positive of that.

No end to killing

AND the killing goes on.

Our say

Israel's assassination of top <u>Hamas</u> leader Abdel-Aziz al-Rantissi will ensure there will be peace no time soon in the Middle East.

Israel believes it was acting justifiably when one of its helicopter gunships slammed two missiles into Rantissi's car on Saturday.

It's a safe bet the Palestinian suicide bombers will also believe they have right on their side when they detonate their deadly payloads on Israeli buses, in Israeli restaurants and on packed Israeli streets in retaliation.

Rantissi was assassinated less than a month after Israeli military might eliminated <u>Hamas</u>'s spiritual leader and cofounder, Sheikh Ahmed Yassin.

The assassinations were in response to deadly Palestinian suicide attacks that have killed scores of Israelis.

Hundreds have already died. Hundreds more will die as both sides exact their revenge.

What will it take for it all to end?

Load-Date: April 18, 2004



Herald Sun EDITORIAL

Herald Sun (Melbourne, Australia)
February 11, 2005 Friday

Copyright 2005 Nationwide News Pty Limited

Section: ED; Pg. 24 Length: 455 words

Body

Lid put on Rau case

THE Federal Government has given comfort to critics of its detention policy by holding a closed inquiry into the Cornelia Rau affair.

The inquiry, by former federal police commissioner Mick Palmer, smacks of a political fix to a bigger problem.

Anything less than a full and frank inquiry will be seen as avoiding a full examination of the Government's broader detention policy.

There are serious issues to be examined and they should be exposed to a public inquiry, not heard behind closed doors by a former federal police commissioner.

Why was Ms Rau handcuffed and kept for long periods in solitary confinement in the Baxter detention centre when she was in need of psychiatric care?

Why was she not identified as the woman listed by her family as a missing person after she left a psychiatric unit in Sydney?

Why was the South Australian public advocate considering taking legal action even before Ms Rau was found to be an Australian resident wrongly incarcerated as an illegal immigrant?

If the Howard Government is so sure of a system that keeps <u>women</u> and children behind razor wire, it must allow it to be publicly examined. Saying the policy works is not good enough.

While the Government is unlikely to bow to public pressure for an open inquiry in the Rau case, it must realise that a Senate review will surely follow.

The Senate has until July 1 before coming under Government control as a result of Labor's disastrous campaign in last year's federal election.

A bloody path

THE agreement between the Palestinian Authority and Israel to end hostilities could never have been achieved while Yasser Arafat was alive.

Herald Sun EDITORIAL

At the same time, those who think diplomacy has won must remember that two of the most violent Arab groups, *Hamas* and Islamic Jihad, refuse to be bound by the agreement.

The stated goal of <u>Hamas</u> and Islamic Jihad is the destruction of the Jewish state and only the Palestinians themselves can change this.

Sadly, as with all change in the Middle East, peace is at the end of a bloody path.

Pass the baton

MELBOURNE is a winner before the Queen's baton has left Buckingham Palace on its way to Australia for the 2006 Commonwealth Games.

The baton, the Commonwealth Games equivalent of the Olympic torch, will be carried through 71 countries before it arrives at the MCG.

Melbourne firm Charlwood Design has put two "baton-cams" inside what is described as "an elegant baton for an elegant city".

Millions are expected to watch the baton's progress on the internet as the baton is tracked by global positioning satellite as it passes through the countries of the Commonwealth.

It's all part of a Melbourne gold medal performance, on and off the field.

Load-Date: February 10, 2005



ARAFAT FEARS HE'S NEXT ON ISRAELIS' DEATH LIST

Belfast News Letter (Northern Ireland)

March 23, 2004, Tuesday

Copyright 2004 Century Newspapers Limited

Section: 1st Edition; NEWS; Pg. 15

Length: 431 words

Body

PALESTINIAN leader Yasser Arafat fears he is the next target for Israeli military assassination squads who killed *Hamas* founder Sheik Ahmed Yassin in a helicopter missile strike yesterday.

An Arafat aide said: "He feels his turn is next and he is sad and worried."

The death of the blind, wheelchair bound Yassin outside a Gaza City mosque unleashed threats of unprecedented revenge by Palestinian militants against Israel and the United States.

Yassin, in his 60s, was the most prominent Palestinian leader killed by Israel in more than three years of fighting.

His assassination was seen as a major escalation that drew condemnation from the Arab world and many European countries.

More than 200,000 Palestinians, some carrying billowing green <u>Hamas</u> flags, flooded the streets for the funeral procession, the largest gathering in Gaza City in recent memory.

Mourners jostled to touch Yassin's flag-draped coffin, and women ululated and threw flowers and candy.

Two Israeli helicopters flew above and the sky was blackened from the smoke of burning tyres.

At the cemetery, Yassin's body was carried to the grave between two rows of 200 militants each. The men were armed with antitank missiles and machine guns.

Thousands of Palestinians also took to the streets in the West Bank.

"Words cannot describe the emotion of anger and hate inside our hearts," said Ismail Haniyeh, a close Yassin associate.

Israeli Prime Minister Ariel Sharon called Yassin the "mastermind of Palestinian terror" and a "mass-murderer who is among Israel's greatest enemies".

Sharon said Israel will press ahead with its war on terror, signalling more targeted attacks and raids.

"The war against terror has not ended and will continue day after day, everywhere," he said.

Israeli Defence Minister Shaul Mofaz said Yassin's "hands are soaked in the blood of Israeli children".

ARAFAT FEARS HE'S NEXT ON ISRAELIS' DEATH LIST

In addition to Yassin, 12 Palestinians were killed yesterday, seven in the air strike, four in clashes with Israeli troops and one while handling explosives.

US National Security adviser Condoleezza Rice urged both sides to show restraint.

"It is very important that everyone step back and try now to be calm in the region," Rice said.

At daybreak, Israeli helicopters fired three missiles as Yassin, his bodyguards and dozens of others left a neighbourhood mosque in Gaza City.

The dead included several bodyguards and Yassin's son-in-law.

Seventeen people were wounded, among them two of Yassin's sons. Only a charred metal seat and two twisted wheels were left of Yassin's wheelchair and a blood-soaked brown shoe lay in the street.

Load-Date: March 24, 2004



FREED PALESTINIANS WARN RELEASE WILL NOT SECURE PEACE

The Independent (London)
February 22, 2005, Tuesday

Copyright 2005 Independent Print Ltd

Section: First Edition; FOREIGN NEWS; Pg. 22,23

Length: 709 words

Byline: DONALD MACINTYRE IN HEBRON

Highlight: Tareq Abu Sharkh celebrated his release from prison yesterday, 21 months early, but he warned that there would not be peace until all prisoners were freed AP; Military police said the freed prisoners had signed

pledges saying they would not take part in violent activity AP

Body

AMID A cacophony of jubilant shooting, firecrackers and continuously honking car horns, Tareq Abu Sharkh, an al-Aqsa Martyrs Brigade militant who was released from jail yesterday, literally stopped the traffic as he was hugged and kissed by friends and well-wishers in the middle of a busy Hebron intersection.

Mr Abu Sharkh, 31, was living proof that for all the criticisms by militant factions that Israel's gesture to the new Palestinian leadership - the release of 500 inmates - was too limited, the homecoming of a prisoner is still a cause for unrestrained celebration in his local community.

He had earlier been carried shoulder-high in Hebron after his release from Israeli custody, 21 months before the end of his five-and-a-half year sentence. But Mr Abu Sharkh, who said he had been convicted of shooting at Israeli troops, warned that his release from Beersheeva jail, and that of his fellow prisoners, would not be enough to consolidate the new but fragile hopes for peace.

He said: "My happiness is mixed with pain because I still have brothers who are in prison. People say that this is a good gesture by Israel but it is a very small step. There will be no peace without releasing all the prisoners. We are bringing a message to the Palestinian Authority, that you should not forget that."

The call was echoed by Adnan Yusef Yunis Abu Tabani, released yesterday after being held without charge in "administrative detention" for suspected <u>Hamas</u> membership. Sporting a green <u>Hamas</u> supporter's baseball cap, Mr Abu Tabani said: "This is like a Palestinian wedding. But our happiness is not complete. We have left behind 7,500 prisoners, including 200 <u>female</u> prisoners." Breaking into English, he added: "If peace will come to our land, Israel must release all of the prisoners."

The released prisoners were also treated to heroes' welcomes in Gaza and several cities across the West Bank, but in a village close to Jenin they were overshadowed when a 30-year-old bystander was killed accidentally, and four others were wounded by celebratory gunfire.

The 500 released prisoners were the first of 900 whom Ariel Sharon, Israel's Prime Minister, pledged to free after Mahmoud Abbas was elected as the Palestinian President. The release forms a central part of Mr Abbas's efforts to secure a halt to violence. Mr Abbas has made it clear that he regards the further release of prisoners as the highest priority among the confidence-building measures he needs from Israel to sustain peace.

FREED PALESTINIANS WARN RELEASE WILL NOT SECURE PEACE

Palestinian officials said that the average sentence of the prisoners was three to 10 years, and that about 380 had between one and two years of their sentences left to serve, with the rest having shorter periods of their terms remaining.

The Israeli authorities said that no prisoners who were convicted of killing Israelis were freed, but Mr Sharon has indicated that he might consider releasing some "with blood on their hands" after a successful disengagement from Gaza.

There were chaotic scenes briefly, after two buses carrying prisoners under Israeli military escort from the Tarqumia checkpoint outside Hebron - their hands outstretched through the open windows - failed to stop at the end of a side road where several hundred relatives were being forced to keep to the verge by troops.

The families rushed for their cars and drove in an impromptu motorcade - some waving <u>Hamas</u> and Islamic Jihad flags - for about three miles to the city to find the released prisoners.

Military police said the freed prisoners had signed pledges saying they would not take part in violent activity.

But Aziz Halabi, whose son was released after serving two-thirds of an 18-month sentence for Islamic Jihad membership, said he and another son, who was still serving a 17-year jail sentence, would "continue the struggle" if required to do so. He said all his sons were members of the faction, adding, "I praise God for that."

Umm Salah, the mother of another released prisoner, said her son had only once seen his two-year-old daughter, Asma, since he was jailed. He was imprisoned when he was unable to tell troops how to find his two wanted brothers. "We couldn't send her picture to the prison so we published it three times in the Al-Quds newspaper," she said.

Load-Date: February 22, 2005



Abbas tells forces to try to halt attacks; Israel sees his order against militants as 'small but positive'

The International Herald Tribune
January 18, 2005 Tuesday

Copyright 2005 International Herald Tribune

Section: NEWS; Pg. 1

Length: 808 words

Byline: Greg Myre

Dateline: GAZA:

Body

Facing strong pressure from Israel, the Palestinian leader, Mahmoud Abbas, has instructed Palestinian security forces to try to prevent attacks against Israel and to investigate a deadly assault last week in the Gaza Strip, Palestinian officials said Monday.

Abbas's order came only two days after he was sworn in as president of the Palestinian Authority and one day after Prime Minister Ariel Sharon of Israel announced that the Israeli military had free rein to pursue armed factions in Gaza.

Zalman Shoval, an adviser to Sharon, described Abbas's move "as a small but positive sign."

Israel did not lift its threat of a possible large-scale incursion into Gaza, but any such offensive appeared to be on hold, at least for now, according to Israeli media reports.

The New York Times

"What we really expect him to do is put his security forces in the parts of the Gaza Strip where the rockets are being fired." Shoval said of Abbas.

The Palestinian rockets, with a range of barely eight kilometers, or five miles, are fired regularly from the northern Gaza Strip at the Israeli town of Sederot, which is just outside Gaza's perimeter fence.

Palestinians shot two rockets Monday at Sederot, and mortars were fired at Jewish settlements in southern Gaza, the military said. The attacks caused no injuries or damage.

Elsewhere in Gaza, Israeli troops shot and killed two Palestinian gunmen who approached a road in southern Gaza reserved for Jewish settlers, the military said. Islamic Jihad, a faction behind many attacks against Israel, said the two men were from its group.

Abbas has been speaking out against Palestinian bombing and shooting attacks. But until the decision Monday, announced at a cabinet meeting, he had not indicated that he would call on security forces to confront the armed Palestinian factions.

Abbas tells forces to try to halt attacks; Israel sees his order against militants as 'small but positive'

"There are intensified instructions to the Palestinian security forces to assume their responsibilities," Azzam al-Ahmed, the Palestinian communications minister, told reporters after the cabinet session in the West Bank city of Ramallah. "The attacks by the Palestinian side must come to an end, but Israeli military operations must also end."

In addition, Abbas ordered the security forces to investigate an assault on a crossing point between Israel and Gaza that killed six Israeli civilians Thursday.

Following that attack, Sharon suspended Israeli contact with Abbas and the Palestinian leadership.

A group of liberal Israeli politicians, including several current and former members of Parliament, met Abbas in Ramallah and said afterward they believed he was sincere about trying to stop Palestinian attacks.

"Mr. Abbas is totally committed to ending the violence by various means, that is clear to us," said Yossi Beilin, leader of the leftist Yahad Party.

Abbas did not comment publicly on his decision, and fellow cabinet members did not provide details on how security forces might act to halt the daily Palestinian attacks, most of which are currently launched in Gaza. Under the late Yasser Arafat, Palestinian security forces never made a sustained effort to prevent attacks during the past four years.

Israel accuses Palestinian security forces of frequently assisting the armed factions, or of participating directly in attacks against Israeli targets.

A senior Palestinian security official, who spoke on condition of anonymity, said the security services had not received any new orders from Abbas and were waiting for him to visit Gaza later this week to discuss matters.

Abbas, commonly known as Abu Mazen, is also expected to meet the armed factions in Gaza. They have been engaged in dialogue with him, though they reject his call to halt attacks.

"The resistance did not begin with a decision by Abu Mazen, and it won't end with a decision by him," said Sami Abu Zuhri, a spokesman for <u>Hamas</u>. He said "there is no way such a decision will be implemented in the field because the resistance is a project for all the Palestinian people."

<u>Hamas</u> and other factions say they would consider laying down their weapons only if Israel also agrees to halt raids on Palestinian areas.

Mokhaimer Abusada, a political science professor at Al-Azhar University in Gaza City, said he believed that <u>Hamas</u> would be deeply reluctant to agree to a truce when it knows that Israel intends to withdraw its soldiers and settlers from Gaza this summer.

Meanwhile, in the tense region where the borders of Israel, Lebanon and Syria converge, the Lebanese guerrilla group Hezbollah detonated a bomb close to an Israeli Army bulldozer but it caused no injuries, the Israeli military said.

Israel responded with air strikes in southern Lebanon that targeted two Hezbollah bases, the military added. In Lebanon, security officials said that two <u>women</u> were injured in the strikes, several miles north of the border, The Associated Press reported from Beirut.

Load-Date: January 18, 2005



Battles in Gaza City kill 8 Palestinians

The Philadelphia Inquirer

JANUARY 29, 2004 Thursday CITY-D EDITION

Copyright 2004 Philadelphia Newspapers, LLC All Rights Reserved

The Philadelphia Inquirer

Found on Philly . com

Section: NATIONAL; Pg. A03

Length: 437 words

Byline: Ibrahim Barzak ASSOCIATED PRESS

Dateline: GAZA CITY, Gaza Strip

Body

Israeli troops clashed with militants yesterday in prolonged street battles across Gaza City, killing eight Palestinians. The flare-up of violence complicated a new U.S. effort to restart peace talks.

The Palestinian deaths - and subsequent demands for reprisals made at angry funeral processions - jeopardized modest moves toward reviving the U.S.-backed road map peace plan and threatened yet another escalation in more than three years of Middle East violence.

Palestinian leaders said the fighting had frustrated the first high-level U.S. diplomatic mission in a month, by envoys John Wolf and David Satterfield. The two Americans met with Palestinian Prime Minister Ahmed Qureia in the West Bank city of Ramallah in a bid to revive long-stalled peace efforts.

The fighting began near the isolated Jewish settlement of Netzarim in the heart of the Gaza Strip.

The army said militants fired antitank missiles and set off a bomb, prompting troops to fire back. Two Palestinians were killed in that skirmish, said Dr. Moawia Hassanein, a Palestinian hospital official.

The army then entered a Gaza City neighborhood near Netzarim and a fierce battle began. Six other Palestinians were killed and several were wounded, Hassanein said.

A rocket-propelled grenade whizzed just a few yards in front of two Israeli tanks, leaving a streak of white smoke. The tanks swiveled their barrels and fired machine guns.

During the long battle with an unusually large force of as many as 200 Palestinian gunmen, an armored Israeli bulldozer uprooted a small patch of olive and orange trees, and tanks crushed some parked cars.

At least five of the dead were armed men - four from the Islamic Jihad group and one from <u>Hamas</u> - and three were believed to be bystanders, hospital officials said. Israel's military said that no soldiers were injured and that all the Palestinians slain had been armed.

Battles in Gaza City kill 8 Palestinians

Later yesterday, thousands of Palestinians jammed the streets of Gaza to mourn the dead. Some fired weapons in the air, and <u>women</u> watched from balconies as the bodies, wrapped tightly in flags of Islamic groups, were hoisted above the crowd on stretchers.

Islamic Jihad vowed to avenge the killing of its gunmen. <u>Hamas</u> said the "barbaric Zionist aggression is a greeting and a reception for the American delegation."

Wolf and Satterfield urged Qureia to meet soon with Israeli Prime Minister Ariel Sharon. Qureia wants assurances a summit will produce results.

"We told them, 'OK, help in the preparation for the meeting,' " Qureia told reporters afterward. "If there is a successful meeting, a meeting with good indications for our people, we are ready."

Load-Date: August 21, 2005



Now comes the hard part

Courier Mail (Queensland, Australia)

January 12, 2005 Wednesday

Copyright 2005 Nationwide News Pty Limited

Section: FEATURES; Pg. 23

Length: 840 words **Byline:** John Hartley

Body

Abbas will need to remove many of its older members . . . who are widely seen as corrupt and inefficient.

ACHIEVING a result in the Palestinian election represents the first step in a long journey. While most analysts concentrate on the Israeli-Palestinian security issue, or the likely problems Mahmoud Abbas will have with militant groups such as *Hamas*, the new president also faces challenges from within his own faction. Indeed the election may be the easy part.

The January 9 election, to choose a successor to Yasser Arafat as president or chairman of the Palestinian Authority, was but one of four elections. The first, which occurred in late December, elected representatives to 26 West Bank municipal councils. This was a historic occasion as it was the first such vote in more than four decades. All major political factions took part, including *Hamas*, and of the 1000 candidates, 140 were *women*. A similar election is scheduled for the Gaza Strip on January 27.

Legislative council elections, the first since 1996, also are scheduled for later this year. If recent municipal council elections are any indication a new, younger breed of candidate is likely to emerge with stronger representation from <u>women</u>, militant groups and independents. Such an outcome may challenge the corruption and inefficiency of the Palestinian Authority and those elected may be more prepared to withstand Israeli and US attempts to influence Palestinian affairs.

All indications suggest the majority of Palestinians are tired of the levels of violence, corruption and poverty, the lack of employment and economic opportunity and the constant pressure of Israeli security forces. While controlling Palestinian militants and establishing suitable relations with Israel represent real challenges, Abbas must also introduce institutional reform, improve Palestinian security and replace many of the former regime's powerbrokers. This will not be easy despite his mandate.

Abbas, however, is a realist. As one of the main negotiators of the Oslo Accords, he knows and understands many Israelis. He recognises there will be little progress with Israel unless Palestinian violence ends.

His approach, therefore, probably involves two elements: to encourage the militant groups to renounce violence in favour of political action and to reform the Palestinian security service.

The Palestinian security services have 14 separate and often rival factions. Such rivalry was encouraged by Arafat and led to a breakdown in law and order and clashes between groups.

Now comes the hard part

Abbas reportedly wants to reduce the groups to three and to place them under the command of the respected General Nasser Youssef, an appointment previously opposed by Arafat.

A reformed security service that was seen to be serving a new Palestine could absorb many militants, particularly if they already are affiliated with Fatah, the main Palestinian political movement. Others, such as <u>Hamas</u> and Islamic Jihad, will not want to confront a revitalised Palestinian security service and may be willing to engage in a political process. Other factions, however, have no interest in seeking any compromise to their stated intention of the destruction of Israel.

But an even greater challenge facing Abbas is to reform Fatah, the political movement that supported his nomination for presidency following Arafat's death. Abbas will need to remove many of its older members, most of whom returned with Arafat in 1994 after years in exile, and who are widely seen as corrupt and inefficient.

Abbas already has signalled his intentions. During his brief and often difficult period as the first Palestinian prime minister, he experienced the frustration of incompetence and corruption of the Palestinian Authority. He has promised to conduct internal Fatah elections to provide new members and to select candidates for the Legislative Council. Such members are expected to be in their 40s and to have grown up after the 1967 Middle East war in which Israel occupied the West Bank and the Gaza Strip.

Israel also has a role to play in bolstering Abbas's authority. It must seek to improve conditions in the occupied territories and move quickly to implement its stated evacuation of the Gaza Strip. Bolstered by its support from the Labour Party, the Sharon Government is well positioned to do this.

Above all, Israel must avoid giving the impression that its support is temporary and that it will soon revert to using all means to undermine Abbas in order to retain permanent control of much of the West Bank and Jerusalem.

The international community must also support Abbas materially and by restraining Israel. The next few months will be critical if Israelis and Palestinians are to enter meaningful talks and to return to the "road map" that represents the only long-term solution.

Abbas is confronted by many challenges. He needs to deliver reform and confidence quickly if he is to avoid the title of "America's candidate".

Major-General (ret) John Hartley was head of the Defence Intelligence Organisation from 1992-95

Load-Date: January 11, 2005



The New York Times

March 13, 2005 Sunday

Late Edition - Final

Copyright 2005 The New York Times Company

Section: Section 6; Column 3; Magazine Desk; Pg. 39

Length: 8277 words

Byline: By James Bennet

James Bennet, a staff writer for the magazine, was chief of the New York Times bureau in Jerusalem from September 2001 through last summer.

Body

The day they buried Yasir Arafat in the Ramallah fort that had become his prison, the most remarkable sight was not the thousands who brushed aside Palestinian security to swarm over the walls and bid him an impassioned farewell, some with semiautomatic gunfire. It was not Uri Avnery, the dogged Israeli dove, comparing Arafat to Moses for leading his people from bondage to die within sight of his promised land; it was not the delegation of Moonies from Rockville, Md., who sat primly amid the mob. One grows accustomed to such things. This was Palestine after all, and Palestine is really a state of mind, or a state of being, but not, in any event, a state. Its rules are its own rules, those of a place that is not wholly real, that is dreamlike and a little scary -- an Oz at once remembered and mythic with a small number, yet more than its share, of flying monkeys.

What was most remarkable that day was that the crowd simply vanished. The Palestinians buried their Old Man, their epic hero, and they went home to eat, to break the fast of the Muslim holiday of Ramadan. They went home to get on with their lives. It was not as if they drifted away. It was as if they teleported. They left behind an honor guard by the grave, a few spent mourners sprawled on a dirtied red carpet and a startlingly tranquil dusk.

This struck me as a very hopeful sign. On subsequent visits to Palestine, I was impressed by the absence of passion about Arafat's death, by its bearable lightness, even though its cause was never disclosed and Palestinians took it for granted that Israel had poisoned him. The posters of Arafat tore, faded, then vanished. Visitors came to the grave, but by the handful. Their mood tended to be reflective. A few days after Arafat's burial, I visited the guards outside his Gaza City headquarters, which like the Ramallah compound had been bombed repeatedly by Israel. They said they would protect this ruin by the Mediterranean forever, as a memorial. Then one blustery day in February, the governing Palestinian Authority obliterated it, leaving a trim sand lot and a clean sweep to the sea.

People were sad about Arafat's death. Even those who were thwarted by him felt bereft -- fatherless, as one Palestine Liberation Organization official who disdained Arafat put it, with surprise at his own reaction. But it was not as if they felt suddenly leaderless. They were used to Arafat's absence; they missed him while he was still alive.

"I don't really speak about real, effective accomplishments," Haider Abdel Shafi said in Gaza City after a long pause, when I asked him to name Arafat's achievements. At 86, he is a grand old man of the movement and a longtime critic of Arafat. "Arafat left us in a real way to drift along," he added.

Now for Palestinians, he said, "the challenge is on the level of to be or not to be."

Yasir Arafat was wrong about a lot of things. He was wrong to believe, as two of his closest associates told me he did, that Israel would never elect Ariel Sharon to be prime minister, that after rejecting Ehud Barak's offer at Camp David in the summer of 2000 the Palestinian leader could exploit the second intifada, which began that fall, to continue negotiating concessions from a re-elected Barak. He was wrong to believe after the Sept. 11 attacks that the Bush administration would tilt to him and away from Israel, to court the Muslim world. He was wrong to believe the following spring that Sharon would never risk international criticism by launching a giant offensive into the West Bank, and he ignored the pleas of aides who begged him to pre-empt Sharon by cracking down on militants. The invasion came, and the governing Palestinian Authority, created by the Oslo accords, lost control of the major Palestinian cities. Israel began forbidding even the Palestinian Police to function, saying they included terrorists.

One night in Arafat's office in Ramallah, after Israel had trapped him there, I asked if he still expected to see a Palestinian state in his lifetime. "No doubt," he replied without hesitation. "No doubt." Well, he was wrong about a lot of things.

But he was right about at least one big thing. Arafat's core insight, derived in the 1960's from Frantz Fanon, was to reject the ascendant pan-Arabism of Egypt's Gamal Abdel Nasser and to posit instead a Palestinian exceptionalism. He believed that a distinct Palestinian nationalism would take shape through armed struggle with Israel. After Israel humiliated Nasser and the Arab armies in the Six-Day War in 1967, Arafat and his vision emerged as the heroic alternative. The Palestinians are divided by class, religion and geography, yet, drawn together by opposition to Israel, they have attained a national coherence that other recovering wards of British colonialism -- like the Iraqis -- lack.

As the struggle for nationhood took shape, a yearning grew not just for any state but for a democratic one. In their diaspora, Palestinians worked or studied under dictatorships and democracies and appreciated the difference. Those living under Israeli occupation in the West Bank and Gaza after the Six-Day War came to resent authority. Liberated in a way by their very statelessness -- lacking a glass house -- Palestinians developed what the political scientist Khalil Shikaki has called a "culture of criticism," freely ridiculing Arab autocrats and declaring they could do better. Hardest for some Palestinians to admit is the influence of Israel, of the parliamentary debates and acerbic press they followed on television and in the newspapers. To be Palestinian is to be intimately, painfully acquainted with paradox. It is to know that, in part, you owe your national character and your democratic dream to the very people who occupied your land and compromised your rights.

This national coherence and democratic aspiration combine to explain why, on Arafat's death, the Palestinian public pivoted from Arafat to Mahmoud Abbas and why it did it so smoothly. More than four years into their latest violent conflict with Israel, Palestinians drew together behind Arafat's longtime No. 2, Abbas, who turns 70 this month, as one of the few national figures remaining -- one with the credentials to span the divided populations of the West Bank, Gaza Strip and the diaspora. In an election Jan. 9, he won more than 60 percent of the vote. That he did so well was evidence to Palestinians of their national unity; that he did not do better was evidence to them of the strength of their democratic institutions. Hassan Khreisheh, an opposition member of the Palestinian Parliament, tied these themes together when he proudly declared at the swearing-in of Abbas, "Our people have put an end to the 99.999 percent that Arab leaders have become accustomed to." Palestinians were now exceptional, he was saying, because they had democracy.

But these strands in the Palestinian identity do not usually pull in the same direction. With national liberation as his goal, Arafat was able to slough off such niceties of nation-building as creating an independent court system, just as low-level militants are still able to avoid licensing their cars. Who could dun men who are risking their lives for the cause? For many Palestinians, building a state before they have one puts the cart before the horse. Khaled Al Batish, a leader of Islamic Jihad, told me that he supported democratic reforms but "these democratic steps won't last if the occupation remains. The occupation will confuse matters, and the focus will be on resistance." Even the most reform-minded Palestinians bridle at the fact that President George W. Bush has made democratic change a condition for negotiations. "I always preach the need to look in the mirror -- responsibility, accountability, all of that," Salam Fayyad, the Palestinian minister of finance and the official closest to the Bush administration, said with some

heat. "But you should not mistake the depth of my feeling about how unfair it is to put conditions on our freedom." We were speaking in his Ramallah office, which looks out on an Israeli settlement.

For Abbas, nation-building is the path to national liberation. It is the armed struggle that must give way. Over the counsel of some advisers, who feared he was touching the third rail of Palestinian politics, Abbas called for a halt to violence during his campaign this winter. "I told them everything openly -- that I'm against the armed intifada, I'm against the rockets," Abbas told me one night in February in Gaza City. "It was in the interest of our people. So I told them the truth, and for that I believe -- I don't know -- they elected me."

Much has been made of the fact that Abbas wears a suit rather than a uniform and headdress, as Arafat did. His style is not that of a charismatic leader but of a negotiator, and both Palestinians and Israelis suspect him of being soft. He has a negotiator's surface mildness, not a politician's riveting passion -- possibly a severe handicap for the leader of a liberation movement. He prefers not to dwell on old grievances ("It's better not to talk about history or religion," he told me once with a wry smile at the improbability of this sentiment's being realized), and in the interview he tried to avoid assigning blame for this intifada. Ultimately, he said Israel started it, but that "both sides" were responsible for its duration. He refused to call the uprising a mistake, saying that what's done is done. It was, he said, time to talk. Yet his mildness should not be mistaken for uncertainty, as Arafat's bluster was sometimes mistaken for decision. While Abbas is conciliatory in trying to achieve his principles, he is certain about the principles themselves. He did not much want his new job and told me he planned to keep it for only a year or two, maybe three. He comes across as entirely confident and in command, even a little supercilious. When he wants to smoke -- and he often does -- his practice is to tilt a cigarette tip into the air and wait for an aide to snap to with a lighter.

Since he was in his 20's, Abbas worked in Arafat's shadow, quarreling with him, sometimes breaking with him, but ultimately serving beside him. "He was a real, real leader," Abbas said. He acknowledged that he often disagreed with Arafat -- even that they did not speak for what proved the last year of Arafat's life, until just before he died in a Paris hospital. "At the last I went to him," Abbas told me. "I talked to him, and I followed him to Paris. He is my brother, but the brothers also have their own differences." Abbas, and the world, can now test if those differences matter. Arafat could never completely break with armed conflict; his fortress became not only his prison but also the Palestinians'. Abbas wants Palestine to make sense abroad. By ending what he calls the armed intifada and creating an orderly Palestinian state-in-waiting, he seeks to rally the world to the Palestinian cause and, above all, to recruit an American president who equates democracy with freedom and freedom with peace. To do this, Abbas will have to persuade Palestinians to be patient and to embrace, for now, yet another paradox in their national life --democracy without freedom. It is the only way that he sees to eventually exchange the dream of Palestine, and the nightmare of Palestine, for a state of Palestine.

The Israeli-Palestinian conflict -- a narcissistic face-off that pays little notice to the world around it -- counsels cynicism as the safest guide. Yet the seemingly endless, and in fact episodic, violence disguises the fact that over the last 20 years, the two peoples have moved toward recognizing each other's rights to statehood. Still, Abbas's strategy is one for the long term. Arafat's departure may have removed an impediment to calm and to statebuilding. But it seems less likely to have removed an obstacle to their higher forms, peace and sovereignty. It may simply lay bare how far apart even leaders who wear suits remain.

Abbas's approach is different, but his stated goals are like Arafat's. He said that he considered Arafat "a model for the pragmatic and moderate people," and he should be taken at his word. Abbas also rejected the deal that Barak offered at Camp David. Like other Palestinians who support a two-state solution, Abbas argues that the Palestinian leadership made its territorial concession many years ago, agreeing to settle for the West Bank, Gaza and East Jerusalem. That amounts to a mere 22 percent of historic Palestine, Abbas likes to point out. A refugee himself, Abbas is no less insistent than Arafat that Israel recognize a "right of return" for refugees of the 1948 Arab-Israeli war and their descendants, though he has explored ways to limit any resulting immigration into Israel. But the intifada has made the Israelis far less likely to offer as much as Barak did. While Abbas struggles to build a state, Sharon is forging ahead with plans that may well define it. As he tries to pull Israelis out of Gaza and four settlements on the northern West Bank, Sharon is building Israel's barrier elsewhere on the West Bank and tightening its hold on the big settlements there. He is chipping away at Abbas's 22 percent.

Abbas knows all this. When I asked him if he expected to see a Palestinian state in his lifetime, he replied: "I hope. I hope we will see it." Most Palestinians I spoke to think that he will not. An optimist in Palestine these days is someone who believes that calm will prevail for a few years, before the next intifada begins.

To the outside world, Abbas may look like the one-eyed man in the land of the blind. He is trying to persuade Palestinians of things that seem obvious: that firing crude rockets into Israeli fields harms Palestinians more than Israelis, by summoning overwhelming Israeli retaliation; that dispatching the young to blow themselves up among Israelis is also a form of national suicide. Yet seen from inside Palestine, the violence has developed a logic of its own. Militants in Gaza and on the West Bank believe that it is they who see the world as it is.

Rashid Abu Shbak proudly flashed his right thumb when I walked into his office in Gaza City two days after Abbas was elected. His nail was stained purplish black. Like all Palestinians who had voted, he looked as if he had banged his thumb with a hammer. In theory, Abu Shbak bears great responsibility for making this latest attempt at calm succeed. He is the chief of the Palestinian Preventive Security force in the Gaza Strip, the notional front-line force in any strategy to stop militants. Gaza is emerging as the proving ground for a Palestinian state because of Sharon's plan to remove the 8,500 Israeli settlers who live there and the many thousands more troops who guard them.

"After four and a half years of intifada, four and a half years of chaos -- of absence of law and order -- the mission is very tough for Abu Mazen," Abu Shbak said, referring to Abbas by his nickname. (It means "Father of Mazen"; Mazen, Abbas's eldest son, died three years ago.) He added, "I hope in the coming days there will be changes."

Abu Shbak was talking like a man inheriting a big mess. Yet like many of Abbas's men, he had been in the same post for years. I had a memory of him pounding his desk almost two years ago and declaring of rockets that militants launched into Israel, "We are convinced that the firing of Qassams must be stopped!" At the time, maybe I should have paid more attention to the passive voice. But I had spent enough time in Palestine to know why a security chief could call for action and supply none. Inevitably, a devastating Israeli raid to stop the rockets would provide a reason, or pretext, not to act. Sure enough, the Israelis came, and just as surely, the rocket fire intensified.

Skip forward again to January. Our conversation was getting weirder. "The security apparatus should abide by the law," Abu Shbak declared indignantly. I could only agree; for more than two years, the security services had been like private militias. But Abu Shbak was not referring to the rule of law in general. He dropped a half-inch-thick stack of paper on his desk: a bill spelling out just what the Preventive Security was supposed to do. "In the last 10 years," Abu Shbak explained, "there was no law."

The door opened, and two men entered. One was Samir Mashharawi, a rising leader of 39, a politician-slash-security-man with wide-spaced eyes, a dimpled chin and an aura of cool, assured intelligence. Like many Palestinian men of his age, he cut his teeth in the first intifada, learned Hebrew in Israeli prisons and came to chafe under the leadership of Arafat and members of his generation who returned from decades in exile with little understanding of Israelis or even life under occupation.

It was Mashharawi who, one evening in Gaza City, gave me the most elegant description I have heard of Palestinian-Israeli bargaining. Palestinian officials were then negotiating, unsuccessfully, not for their own state but for the Israelis to pull their troops back to their positions before the uprising. Mashharawi recalled how, during one of his terms in prison, he and other inmates demanded chairs and tables. So the Israelis took their mattresses. The Palestinians demanded the mattresses back. "We forgot that we asked for the chairs and tables," he continued. "After a month, they returned the mattresses. And we felt very happy because we achieved something." I said this reminded me of the Jewish story in which a rabbi advises a man to bring a goat into his home; when, at the rabbi's instructions, he eventually takes the goat out, the man's wife no longer finds her house too small. Mashharawi nodded. "Israeli diplomacy," he said, "is based on this idea."

I did not know the man accompanying Mashharawi. He wore work boots, black jeans and a baggy khaki coat. He had the weary, aged look of the hard-core militant. The hard boys of the militant groups tend to swagger and pose, as if a photographer at any moment might snap their portraits for martyr posters. Their leaders, at least those who have lived into their 30's, have seen too much for that.

"Ah," Abu Shbak exclaimed, brightening at the sight of the second man. "By chance you meet the leader of the Abu Al Reesh Brigades!"

The Abu Al Reesh Brigades is a militant offshoot of Fatah, Arafat's mainstream, secular-leaning faction, which dominates the Palestinian Authority and to which Abbas, Abu Shbak and Mashharawi belong. Abu Al Reesh is part of the loose confederation of Fatah freedom fighters, terrorists and gangsters that also includes the Al Aksa Martyrs Brigades. This man, Abu Amani, 35, was among the Gaza militants most wanted by Israel. Militants say that the Israelis call him the Fox, though militants tend to say things like that, and it is not always clear how they would know.

It struck me as unusual, even by Gazan standards, that the Fox would pay a call on the head of Preventive Security.

"He was my teacher in Israeli jail," Abu Amani explained, nodding at the benignly beaming Abu Shbak. "It's my duty to visit him." For two years, Abu Amani said, he had not been able to visit Abu Shbak in Gaza City because he could not cross the intervening Israeli checkpoints. But the Israelis had loosened restrictions to permit voting. "I took advantage of the elections," he said.

The road map, the negotiating template drawn up by the United States, the United Nations, the European Union and Russia, calls on the Palestinian Authority to immediately begin "sustained, targeted and effective operations aimed at confronting all those engaged in terror and dismantlement of terrorist capabilities and infrastructure." But Abbas is trying to co-opt militants, not confront them. As Mashharawi told me later, he was meeting with militants to broker Abbas's cease-fire. The relationship between Abu Shbak and Abu Amani helps to explain why the new Palestinian leader is using this approach. They are not just old friends. They are comrades in the same struggle -- a struggle not only for statehood but also for political control of Palestine right now.

In its early days, the uprising against Israel functioned partly as Palestinian diplomacy by other means. But it became Palestinian politics by other means. From the West Bank and Gaza, Palestinian factions began competing to conduct sensational attacks as much to score political points against one another as to kill and terrify Israelis. Within Fatah -- a word that translates as "conquest" -- militants like Abu Amani are seen as having preserved the faction from a challenge by the Islamic Resistance Movement, known by its acronym, *Hamas*, which is also an Arabic word that means "zeal." The day after meeting Abu Amani, I sat in a Gaza City coffee shop with three Fatah militants. The fighters said that they would normally never go to such a public place, but that since I was an American, they felt safe from Israeli attack. One of them, Abu Haroun, 27, was a member of Abu Al Reesh. He said that he supported Abbas, but that when it came to resistance, "We have our own vision."

"What sustained Fatah were the military activities that Al Aksa and Abu Al Reesh did in the West Bank and Gaza Strip," he said. "This revived Fatah. Abu Mazen must understand it."

When I asked if he would accept a job with the security services, which is how Abbas hopes to co-opt the militants, he looked blank. Most of his comrades already worked for the security services, he said. "We're Fatah," he said. "It's their duty to get us jobs." He had seen many friends die, he said, and he was not going to settle for getting his mattress back. He had a list of demands, including an Israeli withdrawal to the 1967 lines, and little expectation the Israelis would meet it. "Nobody should blame Abu Mazen later if they find out he is taking the same path as Arafat," he said. Abbas has shown no sign of promoting any alternative resistance, like civil disobedience. When negotiations stall, these men see only one road.

The father of two girls, Abu Haroun said he did not relish fighting, but that he had little choice. "Resistance is not a hobby," he added. That is a mantra I have often heard from such men. It means, I think, that this is not a game, that violence is not entered into lightly or abandoned easily.

The fighters were willing to quiet things down, but they would keep their weapons handy. "And the day we feel they aren't doing what they promised," Abu Haroun said, "we will use them again." It was not clear if by "they" he meant the Israelis, the Palestinian leadership or both. Moments later, he left, saying that next time we should meet elsewhere; the cappuccino machine here was just too loud. Unlike the men of <u>Hamas</u> and Islamic Jihad, these

Fatah militants say they want a two-state solution. That is why, for Fatah, there is a strategic component to this violent interfactional politicking. It is perhaps the most twisted rule of Palestine, but it makes sense to those who advocate it. Marwan Barghouti, the fiery West Bank leader of the uprising and probably the most skillful Fatah politician after Arafat, explained it to me one day in the spring of 2002. "It's very helpful for the peace," he said that day of the violence.

I had asked Barghouti, then in hiding, about recent high-profile Fatah killings, including the first suicide bombing by a woman. He insisted that he supported attacking only settlers and soldiers in occupied territory, resistance that Palestinians believe to be legal under international law. But he said proudly that all the attacks had rebuilt Fatah's popularity. As a result, Barghouti said, Fatah was again strong enough to make an agreement stick. Because it had killed so many Israelis, it could make peace. "Do you think a very weak organization can protect a historical agreement?" he asked. Yet in salvaging a Palestinian constituency, Fatah, and Arafat, sacrificed their Israeli one. With Al Aksa suicide bombers exploding in Tel Aviv, Israelis no longer saw any difference between the factions. Fatah seemed as intent as *Hamas* on destroying Israel. Israel arrested Barghouti shortly after I saw him, and he was convicted in an Israeli court last year of murder charges, which he denied.

There is a final reason that violence is likely to remain at hand for the Palestinian national movement: Palestinians have good cause to believe that it is working. Although the outside world sees the intifada as purely a disaster for the Palestinians, within Palestine, the violence seems to have succeeded, at a high cost. It has resulted in something, at least in prospect, that all the negotiating by men like Abbas never achieved: the actual evacuation of Israeli settlements.

In mid-February, I returned to Gaza to see if the Abbas administration and the prospect of Israeli withdrawal were changing life on the ground. There were signs of progress. Abbas had ordered the demolition of buildings erected without permits along the beach during the intifada. Most striking, along the trashed roads of the Jabaliya refugee camp, uniformed police officers were stopping cars and demanding to see proof of insurance. For Gazans, this was like having the lights turned on after years in the dark.

Small as they were, these steps signaled change, and not just in Gaza. They also demonstrated a surprising political savvy by Abbas. In 2003, he served for four months in the newly created post of prime minister. With no constituency of his own, he was outmaneuvered by Arafat and by Sharon, who did not think the prime minister had a chance. He quit, confirming his reputation as a sulker. He was now starting to dispel that reputation. With Arafat gone, Abbas, at heart a closed-door diplomat, was beginning to act like a politician. During his campaign he kissed babies and gave speeches in isolated places long ignored by the Palestinian leadership, like Khan Yunis in southern Gaza and Jenin in the northern West Bank. He donned an Al Aksa Martyrs cap at one stop, and he opposed violence less as morally wrong than as undercutting Palestinian interests. He was careful to praise "martyrs," a term that refers to all Palestinians who died in the conflict. Criticizing them is the true third rail of Palestinian politics. Sometimes Abbas sounded like his old comrade. The distinction was that no Palestinian doubted where he stood on ending the intifada. "All my political life was under the table, was secret," Abbas told me. "Now I was obliged to go outside to talk to the people. It is the first time in my life." He began to laugh. "I don't know how it happened!"

He had a very long way to go. "We are starting below zero, not from zero," Abbas said. "From every corner, we have to start from the very beginning. It is not impossible. It is difficult, very difficult. But not impossible." The Israelis had halted their armored raids, and they had stopped hunting accused militants from the skies. But in Gaza, as on the West Bank, people were feeling few other changes. An Israeli withdrawal seemed a long way off.

On the day Abbas met with Sharon at the Egyptian resort of Sharm el Sheikh to announce their cease-fire, I visited Khan Yunis. It abuts Israel's Gush Qatif settlement bloc, which is surrounded by a wall more than 40 feet high of concrete and steel, braced by guard towers. Israel has responded to the mortar and rocket fire into Gush Qatif with repeated raids into Khan Yunis, churning the landscape into a heaving sea of broken concrete and twisted rebar. Down a dirt track about a hundred yards from the wall stands a three-story cinder-block tenement. Beside it lie the remains of neighboring houses. Its own walls are so pocked with bullet holes, scores of them, that the building resembles a cheese grater. On the second floor lived Ghada Brais, 27, with her four children. The only toy I saw

was a toddler's walker. You could fit apples through some of the bullet holes in the walls. She kept her apartment spotless.

Brais's husband, Yousef, 28, left for Canada two years ago to find work. He called and sent money, but she had no identity papers and so could not join him. She was trapped. She did not speak in slogans. Instead she talked about constant shooting at night and about trying to act as if she were not scared. She spoke about her children's bedwetting. She was particularly concerned about her eldest, a 9-year-old boy named Barah. "I think the intifada interfered with his studies," she said. "He always wants to be in the streets. I go crazy when his grades get really bad." She tried to keep him indoors, but he insisted on going out to play and had taken to running along the settlement's wall; one bullet had grazed his leg, she said. "I can't control him," she said. She said she hoped the Israelis would follow through and remove the settlements. But she did not expect her children to recover quickly. "I think it will always remain in their minds," she said.

It lacks the headline-grabbing drama of attacks or reprisals, but the steady expansion of Israeli settlements has been an engine of this uprising. To Palestinians, it proved that Israel would never permit a Palestinian state. Abbas is betting that if he can stop the fighting, he can shift international attention from suicide bombers to settlements, which are growing on the West Bank.

In Gaza City, I met another woman from Khan Yunis, Rana El Farra. Wearing winter coats, we spoke in the family's apartment, its windows open despite the day's chill. Open windows are less likely to shatter from sudden shifts in air pressure; the apartment is across the street from a Palestinian security headquarters, a frequent Israeli bombing target.

On one table stood two dozen containers of cobalt-blue mouthwash. El Farra asks Gazans to gargle it, then return it to her to provide DNA samples, which she isolates in a gel. A molecular biologist, El Farra is archiving Gaza's DNA in hopes of curing diseases like the diabetes that contributed to her beloved father's death, as well as of comparing the oral histories of Gaza's clans with their DNA footprints. "I prepare the samples here, and then DHL them to the States," she said in her idiomatic English. She sends them to Utah for sequencing at Brigham Young University, where she got her master's. She loved Utah, feeling at home with its conservative values, its big families. "Provo is just like Khan Yunis," she explained. "Only it's cleaner." A lively woman with a musical laugh, the married mother of a 3-year-old girl, El Farra teaches cell biology at Al Azhar University. She adores "Friends" -- she identifies with Monica -- and she recently finished Hillary Rodham Clinton's memoir.

El Farra and people like her are the real political face of <u>Hamas</u>. About three years ago, a year into this uprising, El Farra became more religious. She began covering her hair. "Islam is the best pole you can hold onto when things get really tough," she said. She saw no contradiction between her science and her religion, finding God's handiwork in the intricate, complete systems of cells.

But she did find contradictions in her politics, and trying to follow her thinking was like racing through a series of switchbacks up a steep mountain trail. She is hopeful that Abbas will improve life for Palestinians, but she did not vote for him because she is fed up with his faction. "Fatah didn't do anything in the last 10 years," she said. She said she will probably support <u>Hamas</u> if it fields candidates in legislative elections scheduled for July because its leaders were not corrupt and they were serious about improving government services. But she supported <u>Hamas</u> only for internal reform, not conducting relations with Israel. At that level, she wanted a Fatah politician to represent her, because Fatah supports negotiations. But she did not expect negotiations to succeed.

"We just need a break," she said. "I know the war between the Israelis and the Palestinians will be there until God stops the whole system. But we just need a break of five years." She explained, "We got used to this system, of taking this break for some time, probably 10 years, and then, when things reach a point where no one can deal with them anymore, then war will be for some time."

El Farra agreed with Abbas that it was wrong to carry out armed attacks -- at least for now. "I don't think it's the right time for suicide bombings," she said. But she argued that violence was ultimately necessary because she thought Israel responded to nothing else. "When they say no to peace, we have to be able to answer back," she said. She thought the two sides would never settle their differences -- because Israeli Jews would never yield the

man-made plateau in Jerusalem that they call the Temple Mount and because Muslims would never relinquish their claim to the same plot, which they call the Noble Sanctuary. No matter how tired the Palestinians became, she said, they would not abandon this goal, because future "generations will probably curse us."

"It's very contradictory, the feelings that we have and our reality," she said at last. "The reality is pushing very hard." She slapped one hand into the other. "Our feelings and beliefs are pushing hard, too. You know what I mean? It's very contradictory. And I see this with all the people, and I see it with myself too. See, you want to have peace; you want to live; you want to have children; you want to be able to live a normal life. But at the same time you cannot just give up on everything in return for this." She paused, then added more quietly, "For me, I think we all need psychotherapy here, at least in Gaza."

From this welter of political impulses, Abbas was trying to wrest a political deal with <u>Hamas</u>. He was trying to persuade <u>Hamas</u> to sell high -- to join the Palestinian political system at a moment when <u>Hamas</u> was very popular. His strategy was to contain it, just as the Israeli system contains parties that reject any Palestinian state. Islamic Jihad would follow <u>Hamas</u>, Abbas's advisers said. Hunted by Israel, under pressure from the United States and Europe and attuned to the mood in the street, <u>Hamas</u> politicians in Gaza and the West Bank wanted to calm things down, according to numerous Palestinian officials.

While I was in Gaza, I encountered a <u>Hamas</u> leader named Nizar Rayan. Rayan earned a master's degree in Jordan with a thesis on martyrdom. (His doctoral thesis was on the future of Islam.) A mountain of a man with four wives -- "I love <u>women</u>," he once told me -- he is one of <u>Hamas</u>'s most charismatic leaders, pulling young men into the movement. He has been in hiding from Israel for 18 months. He was very proud of his second son, killed at 16 in a suicidal shooting attack on a settlement. "To get back our land," he said another time, "it seems to me we have to lose half of this generation." He called Israeli Jews "Europe's trash." But gone were the days when he would bring his laptop to an interview so he could call up scriptural justifications for suicide bombings. In February, he was happy to have his picture taken, but he did not want to say much beyond "Hello, nice to see you." <u>Hamas</u> was having only its more polished spokesmen and sophists speak with the media. It was treading very carefully.

In municipal elections in Gaza in January, candidates from <u>Hamas</u> trounced Fatah candidates in several areas. In its disciplined way, <u>Hamas</u> ran engineers and academics -- people like El Farra; Fatah had put forth people with no such credentials. Abbas said <u>Hamas</u> had committed to field legislative candidates; <u>Hamas</u> had previously refused to run for the Palestinian Parliament because it was a creature of the Oslo agreement. Abbas told me that he would be happy to appoint ministers from <u>Hamas</u>. "If they want to participate, why not?" he asked. "It's good for us." <u>Hamas</u> was almost certain not to contest the national leadership. "If they rule, what are their choices?" asked Ziad Abu Amr, a legislator and political scientist who is Abbas's chief liaison to <u>Hamas</u>. "Do they go and negotiate with Israel or do they declare all-out war? Can they afford this? I don't think so." Abu Amr thought <u>Hamas</u> could win as many as half the parliamentary seats. Even if <u>Hamas</u> wins a small minority of seats, it will supply an effective opposition, promoting debate and legitimizing what is otherwise government by Fatah. It might also, at last, wake Fatah up to its political decay.

It was obvious in Gaza that Fatah's weakness was still Abbas's biggest internal problem. Regardless of the ferocity of its militants, Fatah was facing a reckoning for its failure at nation-building. Abbas needed the truce with Israel to build his national institutions, but he needed the institutions to keep the truce. Palestinians were referring to the halt in violence not as a cease-fire but merely as a "tahdiyah" -- a "Iull." Palestinian officials were concerned that leaders of *Hamas* and Islamic Jihad in Damascus would not back the political deal. And they were particularly worried about the Lebanese guerrilla group Hezbollah, which Israeli intelligence officers also said was financing and directing some Al Aksa cells in the West Bank. Allies of Abbas were pressing Palestinian security chiefs to cut off this money. In late February, an Islamic Jihad suicide bomber killed five Israelis and wounded dozens at a Tel Aviv nightclub. Israel blamed Syria and warned that if Abbas did not act against Islamic Jihad and other groups, it would.

Over time, Abbas was betting that a massive jobs program, together with an Israeli withdrawal, would strengthen his hand. But for now, his chief political ally, a temporary one, was the exhaustion of his people. He could not even be certain his orders were being carried out. Abu Amr told me that he had asked Abbas why he had stopped demolishing illegal buildings. He said Abbas was surprised the work had halted and had immediately reissued his

order. "He still has to institutionalize his authority," Abu Amr said. Abbas was depending on some Fatah officials with reputations for corruption. The campaign over, he had also stopped making public speeches. Many reformist politicians feared he was not moving fast enough. He was locked in a debilitating standoff with the prime minister, Ahmed Qurei, another longtime negotiator who, several Palestinian politicians said, felt he should have been Arafat's successor. Qurei resisted appointing new faces to the government until he faced a parliamentary revolt. No wonder Gazans were mocking Fatah by calling it by a feminine form, "Fat'hiah" -- a name that brought to mind a doddering peasant woman.

One day while I was in Gaza, gunmen from two large families burst into a Gaza City prison and shot dead two accused murderers. They dragged a third Palestinian prisoner to a refugee camp, where they beat him and burned him with cigarettes before killing him. That day, *Hamas* militants fired off some rockets, prompting two other groups -- not wanting to cede the political stage -- to do the same; each group followed its salvo with a press statement. Then something surprising happened: Abbas fired several security officials for not stopping the mayhem. They were men he could afford to fire -- either responsible enough not to fight back or lacking any constituency -- but the move nevertheless spoke of a new accountability. My own most hopeful experience in Gaza also came that day. I was visiting Mashharawi in his heavily guarded office. He was still working the phones and meeting with militants, reminding them of their "national duty," keeping the lid on. On one wall hung a framed poster that was a gift from the Abu Al Reesh Brigades. It showed a man lying amid rubble and bore the words, "You purify my soul, you martyr." A visitor appeared -- none other than Abu Amani, the Fox. He seemed transformed. He had exchanged his heavy coat and boots for a black jacket and street shoes, and he looked about 10 years younger. He was smiling. It turned out he had remained in Gaza City, rather than return to Khan Yunis, to enjoy his new freedom. "When you saw me last time, you could tell I was exhausted," he said, grinning. "Now, we can move more freely, sleep more." Maybe resistance was not a hobby. But at least some militants, given a real choice and national leadership, were eager to give calm a chance.

With the Israelis easing travel restrictions, word in mid-February was that one could drive from the growing fortification of the Israeli barrier around Jerusalem to Jenin without hitting a checkpoint. After leaving Gaza, I gave it a try. It was not a frictionless passage -- Israeli soldiers were stopping Palestinian cars by the side of the road, and I passed through one checkpoint -- yet the road was more open, the Israeli military presence less obvious, than I had seen it. Besides, on the West Bank, spring was coming. The almond trees were blooming white, and the first poppies with their startling red were spangling green fields that would soon bake to dust. Spring is always an ambiguous moment in Palestine: a time of hope, yet also the time of year that makes the land seem most worth the contest.

I had come to Jenin to visit an acquaintance, Mahmoud Hawashin. Hawashin is not a militant leader or a politician, though he functions as a liaison between them. He is not a religious thinker or a deeply educated man, though in an environment that does not always favor it, he thinks for himself. He is broad-shouldered, with a close-shaved scalp and something of the appearance of Laurence Fishburne, together with that actor's air of steeliness and potential menace. He is 34, though he seems years older. He leads a considered life. He trimmed his ambitions to fit his unyielding environment rather than conserve them as dreams. It is a kind of courage found, if not celebrated, in Palestine like everywhere else. He grew up in Jenin's refugee camp, a forge of extremism, and still lives there. At 15, during the first intifada, he was jailed by Israel for a year and a half. He dreamed of becoming an electrical engineer, but could not afford the tuition. He now works as an electrician on the side while doing one of the toughest jobs in Jenin: he is in charge of collecting utility fees. Jenin residents took to not paying their bills during the uprising and even to attacking the collectors. Hawashin once told me, with bitterness, that he knew he had gotten his managerial city job -- he is one of few residents of the camp to have one -- because officials believed his credentials as a fighter and ties in the camp would ease collections. Like other residents of the camps, he felt discriminated against. "If I go to the U.S., in five years I can get residency," he said once. "We are 50 years living here in Jenin, and we have never been considered residents."

"My dream as a refugee is not to return back to my original village," he said. "It's to buy a piece of land here and register it under my own name." He wanted a house with a garden -- "a normal house, where I can keep my memories to myself." He had bought the land, but he could not yet afford to build.

Most militants are from the camps, and when Israel forbade the Palestinian Police to operate, the militants began taking control of cities like Jenin, in some cases avenging themselves on elites. Jenin is now effectively run by an Al Aksa leader, Zacharia Zubeida. Part of the challenge for Abbas is to make sure that West Bank enclaves like Jenin do not feel forgotten as he focuses on Gaza. For Abbas to consolidate control, he must somehow sideline the local warlords. Yet in a sign of the militants' power, the day I saw Hawashin he was arranging a meeting for the mayor with Zubeida; he said the mayor was hoping Zubeida would intervene on his behalf with Abbas to secure money for the city. Hawashin respected Zubeida, but it alarmed him that his own children looked up to the militant. "I want them to have a childhood," he said. "I don't want them to spend a day in jail."

Once, while Arafat was alive, Hawashin astonished me by saying that his people needed a "Palestinian Sharon." He did not admire Sharon's policies, but he did respect his dedication to his nation's interests. "Abu Mazen could be that person," Hawashin said when I caught up with him in his office last month. While city workers processed bills around him, he sat at the head of a long table. The walls, like most walls in Jenin, were plastered with images of the dead, but they also bore photographs of Hawashin's children and more prosaic pictures of workers repairing electric lines.

Hawashin admired Abbas's courage in criticizing the armed intifada. Hawashin had long argued that Palestinians let themselves be led by emotion rather than reason, that the violence of the uprising -- of all the fights with Israel -- had only left the Palestinians further behind. Now he was hearing a Palestinian leader say similar things. "There's a shared quality you can find in both Abu Mazen and Sharon, which is clarity and frankness," he said. "Sharon is clear with his own people and in telling the world what he wants." The parallel may run deeper. Abbas is trying a Palestinian version of Sharon's own unilateralism. In pushing for a pullout from Gaza, Sharon is trying to break the zero-sum logic of the conflict, to persuade his people that a move that appears to benefit the Palestinians is actually in Israel's interest. For his part, Abbas is trying to end Palestinian violence and promote democracy to serve the Palestinian interest, not Israel's. These are not concessions to each other. They are concessions to reality. But realists can disagree as strongly as myth-makers, and for better reasons.

Hawashin argued that most Palestinians wanted internal reforms long before Israel or the Bush administration demanded them. Many Palestinians believe Arafat encouraged the intifada to give an outlet to discontent with his own rule. Hawashin gestured with a broad hand at the portrait of Arafat above his head. "Unfortunately, our symbol -- and we consider him a model -- his real mistake was not to establish institutions in Fatah or the Palestinian Authority." In Jenin, he said, Palestinians did not yet feel any change, but they were anxious for it. "Everyone knows the reality," he said. "Israel brought us to a point where we started looking just for bread." He said that he would settle for "the minimum of my dreams," but he thought that minimum was well above Israel's maximum concession.

What is known rather grimly as a "final status" deal does appear a long way off. There is a possible intermediate step, and Abbas fears it. He worries that the Israelis and Americans will seize on a Gaza withdrawal to push for a possibility mentioned in the road map, the creation of "an independent Palestinian state with provisional borders." No one knows exactly what this would be. But it would give the appearance of a great step forward, an achievement for Bush on the order of Oslo. Abbas says he would reject it as a trap, a version of what Sharon calls a "long-term interim agreement" that would defer resolution of the toughest issues. Abbas thinks it could create a state that hopscotched from Gaza through enclaves on the West Bank, while downgrading the conflict to just another border dispute and releasing international pressure on Israel for further concessions. From a historical perspective, it is an astounding possibility: that Ariel Sharon could wind up insisting on a Palestinian state over the objections of a Palestinian leader. If Bush backs it, it may be an offer Abbas cannot refuse.

Sharon's aides say that he believes a long-term interim arrangement will allow the adversaries to cool off and learn to live together. As time goes by, they say, the precise borders will matter less. Yet the historical pattern is the opposite. It is when Palestinians are feeling rested and prosperous that their political demands come once more to the fore. Nation-building makes people impatient for national liberation. Like other Palestinians, Hawashin is already anticipating the fire next time. "There will be another intifada, of course," he told me. The Palestinians will once again be ruled by their hearts, not their heads, he said, and in their hearts they will never surrender.

"I don't consider myself a defeated person," Hawashin said. "I consider myself a weak person."

I left Jenin by crossing through the barrier at the town's edge. Built here of electrified fencing, it stretched into the distance on either hand, flanked by a dirt road and stacked coils of concertina wire. The old checkpoint, an ad hoc array of concrete blocks and armored vehicles, was gone. In its place was a giant yellow steel gate, a separate passageway to examine pedestrians and a building of glass and steel. The soldier smiled as he took my passport. It looked, as the major checkpoints increasingly do, like an international border crossing. As I drove past it, between the rich brown furrows of Israel's Jezreel Valley, a paraglider circled overhead against the blue sky. From up there, it must all look so peaceful and sensible: Israelis on one side, Palestinians on the other, a bright, sharp line in between. I wondered what he would think if an errant breeze carried him into Palestine.

http://www.nytimes.com

Graphic

Photos: Yasir Arafat's grave at the presidential compound in Ramallah.

Nizar Rayan, a *Hamas* leader in Gaza whose master's thesis was on martyrdom.

Rana El Farra, a molecular biologist and professor who is archiving Gaza's DNA.

Mahmoud Hawashin, who grew up in Jenin's refugee camp and is now in charge of collecting utility fees. (Photographs by Taryn Simon for The New York Times)

Load-Date: March 13, 2005



U.S., Israel must back Palestinian president

The Philadelphia Inquirer

JANUARY 9, 2005 Sunday CITY-D EDITION

Copyright 2005 Philadelphia Newspapers, LLC All Rights Reserved

The Philadelphia Inquirer

Found on Philly . com

Section: CURRENTS; Pg. D01

Length: 770 words

Byline: Trudy Rubin

Dateline: RAMALLAH

Body

The election campaign for a new Palestinian president presents a sharp contrast to the violent run-up to Iraqi elections.

Something very important is happening here. The man who will win today's vote, Mahmoud Abbas, looks like a gray-haired technocrat and lacks the populist charisma of his predecessor, Yasir Arafat. Yet the reforms Abbas has proposed in the way Palestinians run their affairs and the way they deal with Israel offer the last slim hope that negotiations for a peace settlement can be revived.

Abbas is a pragmatist who wants to make things happen, not spout rhetoric. Watching his campaign and talking to Palestinians around him give the clear impression that real change for the better is possible. But these positive changes won't happen unless Israel and the United States want them enough to back Abbas to the hilt.

This is not a flamboyant American-style campaign. It's difficult for the candidates to travel around in a West Bank cut by Israeli roadblocks and checkpoints. But there are billboards and posters plastered around cities and towns with photos of Abbas and a handful of lesser hopefuls.

At a Ramallah <u>women</u>'s rally, about 800 <u>women</u> crowd into Salim Effendi hall. They ululate and wave Palestinian flags and shout, "Abu Mazen is our choice." (Palestinians refer to Abbas as Abu Mazen.)

A huge cloth banner of the candidate drapes the stage wall, and the small size of the adjacent banner of Arafat makes clear that we have entered a new Palestinian political era. In a hoarse voice, Abbas repeats Palestinian demands for a state with Jerusalem as its capital. But then he talks bluntly of the need for Palestinians to carry out serious political, economic and security reforms:

"We need strong courts and respect for law and no one above the law."

U.S., Israel must back Palestinian president

In the post-Arafat era, "rule of law" has become a Palestinian buzz phrase meant to underline the need to shift from an era in which Arafat made his own laws. At another rally, a young Palestinian fighter tells me: "In the past, President Arafat was the institution. Now everyone has to build the Palestinian institutions."

The next Palestinian president will not have the exclusive control of money and security forces that Arafat did. Abbas has worked to unify the leading Palestinian political party, Fatah, behind a single platform stating that the struggle for a state should be waged by peaceful, not military, means.

And so far - though it may not last - he has gotten even Fatah militants to agree. In Nablus, a hotbed of violence, he told young activists at a rally last week: "We support the intifadah, but we are against the use of arms in the intifadah."

In fact, Abbas opposed the violent intifadah from the beginning. Since Arafat's death, however, he has been holding a dialogue with the militant Islamist group <u>Hamas</u> in an effort to convince its members that the independence struggle must revert to negotiations. He hasn't yet succeeded.

But here is where the role of Israel and the United States becomes essential.

Israel wants Abbas to crush <u>Hamas</u>. But Palestinian officials close to Abbas, who support his stand, say it is impossible to wage a civil war at this point.

Polls show that Palestinians will support an end to the violence if they think that will lead back to negotiations. But they won't support a real crackdown on *Hamas* unless they believe the Islamists are blocking positive change.

The Palestinian public will be looking for Abbas to produce a freeze in the rapid expansion of Israeli settlements on the West Bank. (West Bankers fear Israeli withdrawal from Gaza is meant to cement Israel's hold on the West Bank). They want clear signs that peace talks will resume at some point.

So the success of Abbas - who won't have the powers of a strongman - rests on his being able to convince his public that he can deliver the goods. He will need to show such progress in the next few months to avoid being labeled a failure.

"We need the Israeli side [to help], if Israel wants Abu Mazen to succeed," says Qaddura Faris, a Palestinian cabinet member who supports an end to violence. Faris says that the Palestinians and Israelis are like a prisoner and a guard bound together with handcuffs. One cannot move forward without the other.

The role of the United States in encouraging that forward movement will be essential. When Abbas was briefly prime minister under Arafat, the White House failed to back him. This time around, the election of Abbas offers too precious an opportunity to waste.

Contact columnist Trudy Rubin at 215-854-5823 or <u>trubin@phillynews.com</u>. Read her recent work at <u>http://go.philly.com/trudyrubin</u>.

Notes

Worldview

Load-Date: September 6, 2005



TO LABOUR PARTY CONFERENCE, 2001: THE SHADOW OVER BLAIR; THE KALEIDOSCOPE HAS BEEN SHAKEN. THE PIECES ARE IN FLUX. SOON THEY

The Independent (London)
September 27, 2004, Monday

Copyright 2004 Independent Print Ltd

Section: First Edition; TITLE PAGE

Length: 685 words

Byline: COLIN BROWN AND HUGH MACLEOD IN DAMASCUS ASSASSINATION <u>Hamas</u> leader killed by car bomb in Damascus - Syria condemns terrorist act' by Israel KIDNAP British hostage Ken Bigley reported still alive' on 11th day in captivity - but under threat of death BOMBING US targets Zarqawi loyalists in Fallujah, but doctors say many innocent civilians were killed

Body

THE WAR in Iraq last night cast a pall over Tony Blair's hopes for using the Labour Party conference in Brighton as the springboard for his ambitions for a third term.

The Prime Minister, who was swept to power on a wave of optimism about the new politics he would introduce, was brought down to earth by the hostage crisis surrounding Kenneth Bigley, the assassination a Palestinian *Hamas* leader in Syria, death and suicide bombs in Iraq and a rebel vote by delegates to force Iraq on to the agenda for the conference.

Mr Blair, who prayed for Mr Bigley yesterday at a church service with his wife, Cherie, was left wondering how he can draw a line under the war and move back on to the domestic agenda, on which he has to fight the general election. Nothing seems to be working for him.

Iraq's collapse into chaos has made the country a rallying point for an endless supply of young extremists willing to die in a jihad, or holy war. Iraq has now replaced Afghanistan and Chechnya as the magnet for foreign fighters. New American new figures also show that insurgent attacks on contractors and US, British and Iraqi forces have increased dramatically since sovereignty was handed back in June.

As many as seven car bombs have been detonated in a single day this month and two more detonated yesterday. The US also claimed to have killed or captured more than 100 militants loyal to Abu Musab al-Zarqawi in Fallujah over the past four weeks, while local doctors and residents say the US attacks have killed innocent <u>women</u> and chidren.

Attacks on the insurgents continued over the weekend as appeals went out for the release of Mr Bigley who was abducted in Baghdad 11 days ago.

Two American contractors taken with him have been beheaded with the grisly video evidence broadcast on the internet. Yesterday the temperature escalated once again as the *Hamas* leader Izz El-Deen Sheikh Khalil was killed

TO LABOUR PARTY CONFERENCE, 2001: THE SHADOW OVER BLAIR; THE KALEIDOSCOPE HAS BEEN SHAKEN. THE PIECES ARE IN FLUX. SOON THEY

when his car exploded as he tried to start it at about 10.45 am outside his home in the south of Damascus. Israel refused to confirm or deny its involvement, but unofficial sources said its security services carried

out the attack. Damascus denounced the bombing as an act of "Israeli terror".

Three years ago, Mr Blair spoke of the "high ideals" that were the driving force behind his Government. When he makes his keynote speech to the conference tomorrow, he is planning to strike a defiant note, insisting that the war on Iraq was right. The Prime Minister dismissed reports on BBC's Breakfast with Frost that he had undergone a "wobble" earlier this year over his low personal standing in the polls as a result of the Iraq war. "I am not the wobbling sort," he said.

Iraq now threatens to be his nemesis. One poll yesterday showed that Labour's majority could be slashed to 24 seats at the general election. The Cabinet, as this newspaper revealed last week, has been warned that Labour could lose three million votes because voters are dismayed at the way Mr Blair has been blown off course.

The leadership planned to recover the momentum at this week's conference, by rolling out policies on pensions, working families and schools that will form the centrepiece of the general election manifesto.

Mr Blair prepared the ground by announcing that the second war for Iraq had begun, thus challenging supporters to back him or the terrorists who are wreaking mayhem in Iraq.

The hostage crisis brought home the bloody conflict that ordinary Iraqis are living each day. Paul Bigley, a brother of the hostage, issued a warning to Mr Blair yesterday at an anti-war rally at the conference: "My brother is still alive - and you need to keep him alive." He bitterly protested that Mr Blair would have "blood on his hands" if his brother is murdered.

The Prime Minister used a series of interviews to stand firm over his policy on Iraq, insisting that he could not countenance giving in to the terrorists. He invoked the wartime spirit in an interview in The Observer to rally support in the country for the war. He did concede, however, that the coalition had made an error in disbanding the Iraqi army after the war.

Load-Date: September 27, 2004



The Queen finds a feathered friend at start of Canada trip

The Evening Standard (London)

May 18, 2005

Copyright 2005 Associated Newspapers Ltd.

Section: C_MERGE; Pg. 10

Length: 480 words

Body

The Queen finds a feathered friend at start of Canada trip CHIEF Bird's feathered headdress may not be quite as grand as the Imperial State Crown worn by the Queen for the State Opening of Parliament yesterday.

But it certainly put in the shade the minimalist pillbox she sported today at the start of her visit to Canada. The chief was her guide at the First Nations University - in aptly named Regina, Saskatchewan.

Gunman shot dead in Gaza ISRAELI forces today shot dead a <u>Hamas</u> gunman in the Gaza Strip, near the Egyptian border. Military sources said troops opened fire under attack from automatic weapons and antitank missiles.

<u>Hamas</u> said the gunman was on a "jihadic mission". The incident strained a truce observed by militant groups after the Israel-Palestinian ceasefire declared in February.

Witness plea in shooting of father who chased robbers POLICE today made a new plea for witnesses to the shooting of Michael Smith, 46, right, who suffered critical stomach wounds chasing robbers from his local pub.

Father of three Mr Smith was shot as the two gunmen fled the Britannia in Bow at about 11pm last Thursday. Detectives want anyone who was in the vicinity to call 0202 8345 4219.

Jane Fonda movie banned JANE FONDA'S new film Monster-In-Law has been banned from two Kentucky cinemas because of her Vietnam war protests. Owner Ike Boutwell displayed pictures outside his Elizabethtown cinema of Fonda with a North Vietnamese antiaircraft crew in 1972, saying: "When people do something, they need to be held responsible for their actions."

Bus and car crash into shop FIVE people were injured when a bus and a car crashed into a shopfront in West Croydon this morning. Four people were cut from the wreckage by fire crews following the accident at the junction of Sumner Road and London Road. The bus driver and a passer-by were taken to hospital by ambulance.

Dulwich cuts Thai links DULWICH COLLEGE is severing its eightyearold links with its college in Thailand.

The south London independent school cut its ties with Dulwich International College in Phuket after weeks of talks failed to solve differences over the Thai school's management. The Asian campus will be known as the British International College.

<u>Women</u> breadwinners on rise RECORD numbers of <u>women</u> now earn more than their partners, new figures show. For a fifth of couples the woman is now chief breadwinner. But Whitehall's equality unit found <u>women</u>'s average £161 a week is still half the male average.

The Queen finds a feathered friend at start of Canada trip

And another thing...

Lovers of Jack Russell terriers in the US have won a battle they hope will help stop the breed evolving into a mere show dog. An appeals court in San Francisco ruled that the Jack Russell Terrier Club of America may expel members who join other clubs with different breed standards.

Purists fear the dog - originally bred in England for hunting - could lose its working traits.

Load-Date: May 19, 2005



AN EVIL MAN WE MUST BAN

The Express July 7, 2004

Copyright 2004 EXPRESS NEWSPAPERS

Section: NEWS; Pg. 6

Length: 485 words

Byline: By James Slack Home Affairs Correspondent

Body

THE visit to Britain by a hate-filled Muslim cleric who supports wife beating and suicide bomb attacks by children should be banned, the Government was urged last night.

Extremist Yusuf Al-Qaradawi, who has defended the beheading of a Western hostage in Iraq, is already barred from visiting America. But Foreign Secretary Jack Straw has issued the Egyptian with a visa to speak at a London conference for Muslim <u>women</u> next Monday.

Labour MP Louise Ellman called for the trip to be blocked. She pointed to alleged links between Dr Al-Qaradawi, who is the spiritual leader of the Egyptian terror group The Muslim Brotherhood, and <u>Hamas</u>. She said: "It is outrageous that at a time of heightened security concerns and when the Government is clamping down on terror, somebody with close links to <u>Hamas</u> who has already been outlawed in the US is permitted to come to this country. He may well make inflammatory speeches inciting hatred. It will create enormous security problems at a very sensitive time."

Dr Al-Qaradawi is based in Qatar but was born in Egypt - the same country as hook-handed cleric Abu Hamza. AlQaradawi insists Israeli civilians are legitimate targets for Palestinian attacks and has even encouraged <u>women</u> and children to become suicide bombers.

Asked about children launching suicide attacks, he said: "The Israelis might have nuclear bombs but we have the children bomb and these human bombs must continue until liberation."

Al-Qaradawi, who is also head of the European Council on Fatwa and Research, has condemned the September 11 attacks, but describes Western civilisation as "wretched". He has attacked homosexuality as a "disease that needs a cure" and has discussed whether the punishment should be death.

Al-Qaradawi says <u>women</u> who are "disobedient" should be beaten and he has also refused to condemn outright the beheading of American hostage Nicholas Berg in Iraq. The cleric said the brutal slaughter, which was video taped, must be viewed "in the right context".

He is to be guest of honour at a conference on Muslim <u>women</u>'s dress organised by The Muslim <u>Women</u> Society and the Muslim Association of Britain. The groups set up the "Assembly for the Protection of Hijab", the religious dress which has been banned in France and Germany.

Ms Ellman said Home Secretary David Blunkett had the power to ban AlQaradawi. In 2002, Mr Blunkett successfully prevented Louis Farrakhan, controversial leader of The Nation of Islam, from entering Britain.

AN EVIL MAN WE MUST BAN

But last night a Home Office spokesman insisted Al-Qaradawi's visit was a matter for the Foreign Office, which was asked to grant his visa application.

The Foreign Office said Mr Straw had granted the application. A spokesman refused to comment on his application but said: "Everyone applying for a visa has to satisfy the visa regulations. Visa officers will carry out a number of checks and will also ensure all criteria are satisfied."

Load-Date: July 7, 2004



Dems' GM crop fears a lot of mumbo jumbo

Canberra Times (Australia)

March 26, 2004 Friday

Final Edition

Copyright 2004 The Federal Capital Press of Australia Pty Limited

Section: A;

Length: 479 words

Body

AS A LONG-time supporter of environmental groups and a Greens voter at the last Federal election, I am mystifiedby the irrational oppositionto GM crops, exemplified in comments by Democrats Senator John Cherry (CT, March 24, p12). As agriculture spokesman, he claims the recent decision by Western Australia to ban GM crops is "extremely sensiblein light of all the scientificevidence". Like so many unthinking opponents of this technology, he has apparently jumped on a political bandwagon that presumably he considers will earn the Democrats some environmental votes. However, I can assure the Democrats that some greens supporters are disillusioned with the ill-informed, unscientific and blatantly opportunistic campaign against GM crops, and considerit a wanton waste of hard-won public moneys that could be put to better use in the conservation movement. What scientific evidence does Senator Cherry have to support his dire warnings of potential environmental disasters? An unbiased look at the wealth of information does not support this view. Furthermore, is he really suggesting that the existing regulatory controls over environmental releases and food approvals are not scientifically robust? I put my faith in the evidence based regulatory processes already in place, rather than the mumbo jumbo that appears to be driving the Democrats' environmental policy on this issue. NEIL BULLEN

Hughes Terrorists' aim iskill and maim

ALL THE things Charles Dearling (CT Letters, March 24) accuses Israel of can be attributed to the Palestinians. Does he not realise the suicide bombers do not have a specific target but are used to kill as many innocent civilians as possible. The suicide bombers only incite more violence and revenge killings. Hamas leaders declared the gloves are off a long time prior to this recent killing. The suicide bombers are not mourned after their cowardlydeeds but looked on as heroes. I can't say I have heard any comment from Kofi Annan to the effect that any cowardly acts by Hamas (orchestrated by the blind quadriplegic in the wheelchair) were legal. If Weetangera was continuallytargeted by suicide bombers, and relatives and friends of Charles were continuallybeing killed and maimed, what sort of a reactionwould Charles take? I think the gloves would be off, quick smart. T. JONES CalwellMurderers allBALANCE in politics is rare. Balance in the under-world of terrorism is hallucinatory. Unless you are hallucinating, it should be remembered that Sheik Yassinsent many young politicians to their deaths on the false premise that, somehow, by murdering innocent men, women and children, a special place exists for the killers: it does - but it is not in any heaven. Murderers, whether clothed in sack-cloth or white silk, and those that incite murder, all end up in the one place, and it is not next to any God. ROSS LIGHTFOOTS enator for Western Australia

Load-Date: March 25, 2004



History paints an awful future

Western Morning News (Plymouth)

March 25, 2004

default

Copyright 2004 Western Morning News

Section: Features; General; Others; Pg. 15

Length: 806 words

Body

How do you defend yourself against an enemy, bent on your extermination? N May 27, 1942, SS General Reinhard Heydrich was fatally wounded when a bomb was lobbed into the front seat of his Mercedes by two Yugoslav Partisans, Jan Kubis and Josef Gabcik. Kubis and Gabcik had been trained in Britain and parachuted in by the RAF.

Heydrich was a Nazi's Nazi. He had presided over the Wannsee Conference, convened to settle arrangements for the extermination of European Jewry. In the reprisals that followed, the towns of Lidice and Lezaky were erased from the face of the earth.

Kubis and Gabcik were regarded as heroes at the time; that reputation remains to this very day.

On March 21, 2004, Sheikh Ahmed Yassin was killed instantly by an Israel Apache helicopter. Yassin was the founder of <u>Hamas</u>, an organisation which holds that Israel, by its very existence, is an affront to Islam and that Palestine is the property of Muslims until the Day of Judgement.

That vision of Israel's destiny has led to the mutilation and murder of hundreds of men, <u>women</u> and children, Jewish and Muslim, at the hands of suicide bombers. Yassin was not merely complicit in that vision; he both conceived and gloried in it. His view of Israel's right to exist and his estimation of the worth of individual Jewish lives mirrored Heydrich's precisely.

On this occasion, however, the British government is not training those responsible for the assassination. Instead, it is to the forefront of condemnation of the Israeli government which sanctioned the assault. With the weasel-worded casuistry of his trade, the Foreign Secretary, Jack Straw, declared that while "All of us understand Israel's need to protect itself ... it is not entitled to go in for this kind of unlawful killing." A Conservative Foreign Secretary would probably have taken the same line.

But how do you defend yourself against an enemy, bent on your extermination, with a proven track record of mayhem and murder to that end? Where law conflicts, which duty prevails? Should the protection of your own citizens take second place to the rag-bag morality of the United Nations? And even if the justification for this approach is at the very least questionable, even more so is the assumption that, again in Jack Straw's words, "the assassination was very unlikely to achieve its objectives". It has already. Yassin is dead. That was the intent. It is wholly simplistic to say that this will provoke <u>Hamas</u> to reprisals. <u>Hamas</u> is Reprisal Incarnate. It already does everything it can to slaughter Jews and destroy the state of Israel. Killing its leaders inhibits its ability to do that. That is the brutal, bloody logic of Yassin's passing.

History paints an awful future

And the future? The comedian, Jeremy Hardy, came closer to it than he meant when he said that under George Bush's now defunct Road Map for Peace, "Yasser Arafat and Ariel Sharon should sit down and talk things over like good Christians." The point here is that you cannot come to a judgement about whether Jews or Arabs are right, merely by examining the chronology of outrage. You can only play that game if you trace the conflict back to the atrocity of your choice and then look no further.

Yet if Western politicians, our own included, are ever to make any meaningful contribution they will need to have at least a rudimentary understanding of how the West has contributed to this nightmare.

How many government ministers, let alone our Members of Parliament, have ever heard of the Balfour Declaration? Pronounced on November 2, 1917, and adopted by the League of Nations in 1922, the Declaration called for "the establishment of a national home for the Jewish people", irrespective of the rights and wishes of those who were already living there, for reasons which owed rather more to the convenience of the European powers than they did to any genuine concern for the interests of Europe's persecuted Jewish minorities.

Incredibly for some years earlier, the British government had been working for the creation of a Jewish homeland in Uganda, a proposal only abandoned when it was finally rejected by the Seventh Zionist Conference in 1905.

"Peace," Mao Tse Tung famously declared, "comes through the barrel of a gun." In that sense Sharon and Yassin are right. They both represent a vision of the future, which their respective adherents will defend to the death of every last one of them.

For those raised on European liberal principles, this seems as tragic as it is incomprehensible. To those involved, it is merely the inexorable denouement of their own shared history.

If there is a lesson here, it is surely that European intervention has compounded, rather than alleviated, the misery. History as ever is the best guide to the future. It's just that for politicians the implications of history are sometimes too awful to contemplate.

Load-Date: March 27, 2004



Israeli PM links peace with Syria to pullout from Golan Heights

Times Colonist (Victoria, British Columbia)

January 20, 2004 Tuesday Final Edition

Copyright 2004 CanWest Interactive, a division of CanWest Global Communications Corp. All Rights Reserved

Section: News; Pg. A9; News

Length: 463 words

Dateline: JERUSALEM

Body

JERUSALEM (AP) -- Addressing two of Israel's thorniest issues, Prime Minister Ariel Sharon told legislators Monday that peace with Syria would require a full withdrawal from the Golan Heights and he ordered a review of the contentious West Bank separation barrier.

Sharon's comments on the Golan, made to parliament's defence and foreign affairs committee, were an unprecedented admission by the career hardliner. In the past, right-wing Israeli governments insisted a peace deal could be reached without a withdrawal from the strategic plateau captured in the 1967 Mideast War. Associated Press

The prime minister did not tell the closed-door meeting whether he was willing to pay what he defined as the price for peace. However, one committee member said it was clear from the context that Sharon is not ready to return the Golan in exchange for a peace deal.

Also Monday, the founder of <u>Hamas</u> announced a change in strategy, saying the Islamic militant group would increasingly recruit <u>female</u> suicide bombers. Last week, <u>Hamas</u> sent its first <u>female</u> assailant, a 22-year-old woman who blew herself up at the Gaza-Israel crossing and killed four Israeli border guards.

Sheik Ahmed Yassin told reporters in Gaza there had not been a need in the past for <u>women</u> to carry out bombings. Now, he said, <u>women</u> must step up and fulfil their "obligations." He suggested male bombers were increasingly being held back by Israeli security measures.

Sharon's meeting with the parliamentary committee came at a sensitive time.

Israel is preparing to defend the security barrier next month before the world court in The Hague. The government also is considering how to react to offers by Syrian President Bashar Assad to restart peace talks, which broke down in 2000.

In an interview published Monday in the London-based newspaper Asharq al-Awsat, Assad appeared pessimistic about the chances of talks with Sharon.

"From the beginning and until this moment, the U.S. administration did not wish to throw itself into the peace process," Assad said. "As for Sharon ... it is hard for him to succeed on a peace platform."

Sharon was asked by a legislator at Monday's parliamentary committee meeting if now is a good time to renew talks with Syria, said Sharon's spokesman, Raanan Gissin.

Israeli PM links peace with Syria to pullout from Golan Heights

"No one should have any illusions: the price of peace with Syria is leaving the Golan Heights," Gissin quoted the prime minister as saying.

Ran Cohen, a committee member from the left-wing Meretz party, said Sharon suggested that such a pullback would be too much for Israel to bear.

"His main declaration was that he is not ready to withdraw from the Golan, even for peace with Syria," Cohen said.

"He didn't agree to pay the price that President Assad asks to complete a peace treaty with Syria."

Load-Date: January 20, 2004



America should open a dialogue with Islamists

Financial Times (London, England)

May 28, 2005 Saturday

USA Edition 1

Copyright 2005 The Financial Times Limited

Section: COMMENT & ANALYSIS; Pg. 7

Length: 919 words

Byline: By ROULA KHALAF

Body

American officials have a selection of colourful expressions to describe the recent democratic stirrings in the Middle East, for which they are always quick to claim credit. In the past week alone, high-level Americans have variously said that the Arab world is living a "springtime of hope", undergoing a "metamorphosis" and experiencing a "vital moment of incredible events".

In a region where America has been deeply unpopular, US officials - so often on the defensive - are now also addressing Arab audiences with new-found self-confidence. In a more amusing moment at a recent World Economic Forum gathering in Jordan, Elizabeth Cheney, daughter of the US vice-president and head of Middle East democratisation efforts at the US State Department, snapped at Amr Moussa, head of the Arab League, accusing him of bringing up the Palestinian issue just to win applause: "We should stop using (the Israeli-Palestinian conflict) as an excuse not to deal with reform and not to deal with democracy." She had a point, of course, even if she was booed by the audience while Mr Moussa was cheered.

But the US may be getting ahead of itself. It is true that Washington has helped unleash feverish debate over reforms in many Arab countries, but whether it will persist in its push for political change is far from certain. For while it celebrates political progress, the US is already being forced to confront an uncomfortable reality: that Islamist groups, moderate as well as radical, may be the greatest beneficiaries of its policy. Perhaps more quickly than it imagined, America has to decide whether it would be ready to accept the outcome of greater democracy in the Arab world. That includes the assortment of political groups rooted in religion and broadly labelled "Islamist".

The gains made by <u>Hamas</u>, the Palestinian militant group, in last month's local elections in the West Bank and Gaza Strip marked a sober awakening for the Palestinian Authority, Israel and Washington. By winning a majority of council seats in some of the largest constituencies, <u>Hamas</u> has given the mainstream and secular Fatah movement an additional reason to try to delay the legislative elections next month.

I suspect we will not hear calls from Washington to hold the Palestinian poll on time, at least not with the same intensity that the US has approached Lebanon's legislative elections starting on Sunday. Although Hizbollah, Lebanon's Shia Islamist group, is taking part, the vote is expected to hand a majority of parliament seats to the anti-Syrian opposition, an outcome strongly favoured by Washington. There are also worrying signs that US eagerness for political reforms in Egypt, where the largest opposition is the banned but non-violent Muslim Brotherhood, is waning. When Ayman Nour, a liberal Egyptian MP who wanted to run for president, was arrested earlier this year, the US loudly protested, in effect winning his release.

America should open a dialogue with Islamists

The vigorous American defence of Mr Nour encouraged others, including the Islamists, to step up their criticism of Hosni Mubarak, the Egyptian president. But the subsequent detention of numerous Muslim Brotherhood members - including, in the past week, some of its top leaders - seems to have gone largely unnoticed in Washington.

The Bush administration is understandably torn between a desire to promote democracy and a real fear of political Islam. One way to address this dilemma is to launch a dialogue, starting at least with non-violent Islamists. Ms Cheney argues that armed groups have no role in the political system and must choose between bullets and ballots. Islamists who reject violence, meanwhile, should be held to certain standards and accept red lines such as respect for <u>women</u>'s rights. Liberal, secular groups, she says, are at a huge disadvantage: unlike governments and Islamists (who at least at times have had access to the mosque) the liberals have been denied outlets to express their ideas. If people in the Middle East have an honest choice, she maintains, they will not choose the extreme option.

But while Islamists have used the mosque and promoted their cause through a network of social services, they have also born the brunt of government repression. And that has contributed to their radicalisation. Governments, moreover, cannot be encouraged to adopt selective policies, in which Islamists are repressed and liberals are embraced. Nor is there any guarantee that greater opportunity to express liberal views will prove convincing in societies that are still largely religiously conservative.

So it may well be a long time before liberals acceptable to the US are able to challenge Islamists as the largest and most organised opposition in the region. The risk for the US is that failure to show understanding of Islamist demands could wreck its entire democratisation project.

Perhaps a better strategy for Washington would be to speak to the more moderate Islamists. A dialogue could help convince Americans that such groups are not necessarily undemocratic. It would also reassure groups committed to pluralism that their political aspirations would not be blocked.

The British government is considering a more ambitious strategy of direct engagement with Hizbollah and <u>Hamas</u>, recognising that both could soon be participating in governments that will be formed after elections. Political parties based on religion and usually opposed to US policies may be unpleasant - but they are part of the Middle East reality.

The writer is the FT's Middle East editor

Load-Date: May 27, 2005



Comment & Analysis: Blood on their hands

The Guardian (London) - Final Edition

March 23, 2004

Copyright 2004 Guardian Newspapers Limited

Section: Guardian Leader Pages, Pg. 21

Length: 772 words **Byline:** Anas Altikriti

Body

The three rocket missiles that were fired yesterday from a US-supplied Israeli helicopter at the break of day, on a procession of 15 Palestinians returning home after dawn prayers in a nearby mosque, may have brought to an end any prospect of peace in the Middle East.

At the centre of the group of worshippers was no ordinary individual. Ahmed Yassin was neither ordinary in his physical appearance, nor in his stature at the heart of a conflict at the root of global problems over the past five decades.

A 67-year-old quadriplegic, paralysed from the neck downwards and suffering from serious ailments, including severe visual and hearing disabilities, Sheikh Yassin was considered by some to be Israel's worst nightmare. But for millions of Muslims all over the world, he was seen not only as the founder of <u>Hamas</u>, but as the spiritual father of the latest phase of Palestinian armed struggle for freedom, liberation and the reclamation of their occupied homeland. It was also Yassin who insisted that his people's struggle must remain within the boundaries of Palestine, and continuously offered Israel the chance of a truce, which was repeatedly turned down.

Yesterday the Israeli forces were issued with a direct order from the highest level to target and kill this man in his wheelchair. The aims of this mission may seem obscure to some, but to many they are cynically cold-blooded and foolish.

If the Israeli prime minister and his cabinet thought that eliminating Ahmed Yassin would bring closer the chance of peace and resolution to a conflict that has brought unspoken misery and bloodshed, then it is a government suffering from serious self-delusion.

Already <u>Hamas</u>, Islamic Jihad, the al-Aqsa Brigades and other Palestinian armed groups have pledged to fight an open war against Israel, and, in the process, to stop at no boundary and to shy away from no target. One can only expect more bloodshed and an escalation of the cycle of violence that will scupper any prospect of a settlement within the foreseeable future.

The foreign secretary's statement yesterday denouncing the Israeli attack - as well as the French government's similar response - was welcomed by Muslims in Britain and throughout the world. But these responses also raise the question of where Europe truly stands on Israeli killings in the occupied territories and the Palestinians' right to resist.

Comment & Analysis: Blood on their hands

Only last year, the European Union decided to proscribe <u>Hamas</u> - under pressure from the British government - condemning it as a terrorist organisation and thereby effectively granting Israel a licence to kill at will. And that is what it has been doing ever since. But this latest prize is likely to be one that will haunt not only Israel, but also those who have one way or another encouraged Sharon's "hunting season". In the eyes of Muslims and all those horrified by recent events, Jack Straw and his counterparts across Europe have blood on their hands.

In an attempt to legitimise its actions, Israel has invoked a language calculated to go down well with the global powers-that-be, such as "terrorists", "war on terror" and "the Palestinian al-Qaida". In the midst of all the blood and suffering, the world has managed to offer carte blanche to a government in breach of numerous UN resolutions, to kill citizens whose lands it occupies. And while we condemn without question a suicide attack carried out by a lone Palestinian youngster, we accept the legality and even applaud the courage of a soldier armed to the teeth, firing rocket missiles into densely populated residential areas from hundreds of feet up in the sky.

The Muslim community in Britain, together with Muslims worldwide, criticised the US-made "war on terror", not because they somehow condoned or welcomed terrorism. They do not. But at the heart of this staged and false campaign is a grave and dangerous principle. It is the principle that terrorism and bloodshed unleashed by states and elected leaders is somehow excusable and acceptable. It is the principle that might is right, and whoever holds the gun must be the bearer of truth.

If ever an example of state terrorism was called for, Israel unequivocally fits the bill. But the world's standards continue to be overturned and transformed. As a result, nations linger under occupation, innocent <u>women</u> and children die, and the future of us all is bleaker than ever before.

The murder of Sheikh Ahmed Yassin is a turning point in the history of the struggle of a people. Alas, it is not a turning point that brings promise or hope.

Anas Altikriti is president of the Muslim Association of Britain

anas@fastmail.fm

Load-Date: March 23, 2004



International Briefs

Telegraph Herald (Dubuque, IA)
September 19, 2005 Monday

Copyright 2005 Woodward Communications, Inc.

Section: National/World; Pg. d3

Length: 532 words

Byline: ASSOCIATED PRESS

Dateline: NEW YORK

Body

Sharon pursues **Hamas** disarmament

Israeli Prime Minister Ariel Sharon said Sunday that he has asked U.N. and European leaders to press for the disarming of *Hamas* militants and the abolition of their covenant - Israel's destruction.

Sharon told American Jewish leaders that Israel won't cooperate in Palestinian elections scheduled for January unless those conditions are met. Israeli assistance is considered vital for smooth elections.

Meanwhile, hundreds of Palestinian troops sealed off Gaza's border with Egypt on Sunday, ending a weeklong freefor-all along the frontier that angered Israeli officials and undermined Palestinian leader Mahmoud Abbas' efforts to bring Gaza under control.

Putin rules out return to Cold War with U.S.

MOSCOW - Russian President Vladimir Putin said Sunday that it was impossible for Russia to resume its Cold War rivalry with the United States.

"We are not adversaries. We are partners in many areas of international activities," he said.

But Putin reiterated his opposition to a U.S.-European push to refer Iran to the U.N. Security Council for consideration of sanctions over its nuclear program. He also said the United States should pull its troops out of Iraq within two years, saying the U.S.-led coalition's military presence in Iraq is fueling the insurgency.

Lack of progress seen in reducing poverty

UNITED NATIONS - Leaders from Africa, Asia and Latin America lamented Sunday that there has been scant progress in meeting the pledges set five years ago to reduce poverty and disease.

A grim U.N. report recently said that about 40 percent of the world's people still struggle to survive on less than \$2 a day.

Prospects for meeting U.N. development goals that include cutting extreme poverty by half by 2015 dominated the final document issued at the end of last week's U.N. summit that attracted a record 151 world leaders. In the first

International Briefs

two days of the General Assembly's follow-up ministerial meeting, the plight of the world's poor remained in the spotlight.

Businesswoman to run in Saudi election

RIYADH, Saudi Arabia - Businesswoman Madhawi Al-Hassoun has signed up as the first woman in this ultraconservative Islamic kingdom to run in an election.

Her candidacy in a local chamber of commerce board election comes after the Saudi government intervened to allow **women** to vote and run in the contest.

"Saudi <u>women</u> candidates will prove that they are capable of being members of the chamber while at the same time adhering to religious rules, customs and traditions that govern our society," al-Hassoun said after registering her name Saturday evening in Jiddah, the kingdom's second biggest city.

Indonesia begins troop withdrawal from Aceh

LHOKSEUMAWE, Indonesia - About 800 Indonesian troops sailed out of Aceh province on Sunday at the start of a withdrawal agreed under a peace deal to end one of Southeast Asia's longest-running wars.

The troops were the first batch of about 30,000 set to leave the province before the end of the year.

A peace agreement signed last month in Finland between the government and Acehnese rebels is seen as the province's best chance in years to permanently end three decades of fighting which has killed nearly 15,000 people.

Load-Date: September 19, 2005



Former settlements stormed: Buildings besieged, burned in a fury. Feverish crowds intent on obliterating hated 'symbols of the occupation' - Correction Appended

The Gazette (Montreal)
September 12, 2005 Monday
Final Edition

Correction Appended

Copyright 2005 CanWest Interactive, a division of CanWest Global Communications Corp. All Rights Reserved

Section: NEWS; Pg. A3

Length: 443 words

Byline: DION NISSENBAUM, Knight Ridder Newspapers; AP contributed to this report

Dateline: NETZARIM, Gaza

Body

Hundreds of Palestinians stormed into this former Israeli settlement early today and set its major buildings on fire, only hours after Israeli forces officially ended their 38-year military rule here.

First to go was the settlement's former synagogue, whose interior was quickly torn apart by the crowd and whose roof was festooned with the banners of the Fatah and *Hamas* Palestinian organizations.

Then the building was set on fire.

"I want to destroy everything here as they did the Al Aqsa mosque," said Mahmoud Malahi, who told a reporter he had lost a leg to an Israeli tank when he was 15. "It's a symbol of occupation. Destroying it is a symbol of Islam."

Palestinian security forces watched the destruction but made no effort to intervene.

The settlement was the nearest former Israeli stronghold to Gaza City, and Palestinians streamed into it only hours after Israeli forces lowered their flags in Gaza and streamed out.

Gunfire could be heard throughout the settlement as Palestinians fell upon the former synagogue whose holy scriptures had been removed. The crowds also besieged other major buildings and it appeared likely that all the buildings would be demolished.

Palestinians also entered other former settlements shortly after Israel officially ended its military rule of the 1.3 million residents of the Gaza Strip.

Throughout the territory, triumphant Palestinian troops accompanied by cheering, flag-waving crowds, took control of abandoned Jewish settlements early today.

Former settlements stormed: Buildings besieged, burned in a fury. Feverish crowds intent on obliterating hated 'symbols of the occupation'

Fireworks lit up the night sky and gunmen fired in the air in celebration and crowds set fire to the synagogue in the abandoned Morag settlement, closest to Palestinian towns.

In another synagogue, gunmen climbed on the roof and waved flags of militant groups, including *Hamas*, shouting "God is great."

"It is only the first step to more liberation ... tomorrow we liberate all of Palestine," Gaza resident Mohammed Khamish Habboush shouted into a mosque loudspeaker.

Early this morning, Palestinians started carrying off what was left in the debris in the settlements, including chairs, tables and shopping carts. Young men tore down electricity poles, grabbing the wires, and several people carried off window frames.

In Netzarim, women ululated in celebration.

The withdrawal marks the first time the Palestinians will have control over a defined territory. They hope to build their state in Gaza, the West Bank and east Jerusalem, which are areas that Israel captured in the 1967 Israeli-Arab war.

Gaza is seen as a testing ground for Palestinian aspirations to statehood, but many Palestinians fear that after the Gaza pullout, Israel will not hand over additional territory.

Correction

A Knight Ridder Newspapers story from the Gaza Strip that appeared in Monday's paper included a quote from a Palestinian demonstrator that wrongly equated the destruction of a former synagogue at Netzarim in the Gaza Strip to Israeli actions regarding the Al Aqsa mosque in Jerusalem. The story should have clarified that the Israelis have not destroyed or vandalized the mosque. The Gazette regrets the errors.

Correction-Date: September 14, 2005

Graphic

Colour Photo: ARIEL SCHALIT, AP; Israeli soldiers fold flag to end last night's pullout ceremony at the military headquarters near evacuated settlement of Neve Dekalim.

Load-Date: September 12, 2005



Attacks spur Israeli assault on camp: Security cabinet approves large-scale operation against Jebaliya

The Vancouver Sun (British Columbia)

October 2, 2004 Saturday

Final Edition

Copyright 2004 CanWest Interactive, a division of CanWest Global Communications Corp. All Rights Reserved

Section: NEWS; Pg. A15

Length: 454 words

Byline: Ibrahim Barzak, Associated Press

Dateline: JEBALIYA REFUGEE CAMP, Gaza Strip

Body

JEBALIYA REFUGEE CAMP, Gaza Strip -- Armoured vehicles massed on Gaza's border Friday after Israel's security cabinet approved a large-scale military operation -- dubbed Days of Penitence -- to stop Palestinian rocket fire.

Defence Minister Shaul Mofaz had ordered troops to "exact a price" from the terrorists, security officials said, after a <u>Hamas</u> rocket killed two children, aged two and four, in an Israeli border town.

Later, Israeli helicopters fired missiles at a house in Gaza City, Palestinian witnesses said. Israel often carries out targeted killings of terrorist leaders.

Hundreds of troops, backed by tanks and helicopters, have been operating in northern Gaza since Wednesday, but more soldiers were expected to move into the area in the coming hours.

The cabinet approved the offensive late Thursday, at the end of a day of heavy fighting between troops and Palestinian gunmen in the Jebaliya refugee camp, the Palestinians' largest and most densely populated.

On Thursday, 28 Palestinians were killed and 139 wounded, most of them in Jebaliya. It was the highest single-day toll in 30 months.

On Friday, five Palestinians were killed and at least 22 were wounded in fighting in the camp. The army said troops fired at one group of gunmen planting explosives and at another setting up a rocket launcher.

A sixth Palestinian died of injuries sustained the day before.

On Friday, in separate incidents, Israeli troops fired two tanks shells and a missile from an aircraft at a group attempting to launch a rocket.

Several people were wounded, one critically, Palestinian hospital officials and witnesses said. At least three of the wounded were gunmen involved in the fighting.

Attacks spur Israeli assault on camp: Security cabinet approves large-scale operation against Jebaliya

Prime Minister Ariel Sharon told the security cabinet he was determined to stop the rocket fire. "What can we do?" a participant quoted Sharon as saying. "The Jews, too, have a right to live."

In addition to the two children, three Israelis were killed in Gaza on Thursday: two soldiers and a woman settler.

However, Justice Minister Yosef Lapid, a member of the security cabinet, said it would be impossible to stop the crude rockets for good.

"It's such a simple weapon," he said. "It's impossible to ensure there won't be some pipe with explosives hidden in somebody's backyard."

Palestinians have been stepping up attacks in recent months in hopes of portraying Israel's planned withdrawal from Gaza in 2005 as a retreat under fire. The army has been pounding the terrorists in intensifying strikes to deny them such claims.

After a relatively quiet night, gunmen were taking up positions in Jebaliya alleys Friday. In one incident, two *Hamas* members were killed by an Israeli missile as they tried to fire a homemade Qassam rocket, the army said.

Graphic

Photo: Kevin Frayer, Associated Press; Israeli soldiers comfort one another at the graveside of Victor Ariel, killed along with a *female* Israeli settler in attacks on Thursday.

Load-Date: October 2, 2004



WORLD DIGEST

St. Louis Post-Dispatch (Missouri)

October 24, 2004 Sunday Five Star Lift Edition

Copyright 2004 St. Louis Post-Dispatch, Inc.

Section: NEWS; World Digest; Pg. A16

Length: 475 words

Byline: FROM NEWS SERVICES

Body

SERBIA-MONTENEGRO

Serbs boycott general elections

Kosovo's Serb minority largely boycotted general elections Saturday, dealing a blow to international efforts to create multiethnic harmony in the province.

The Albanian majority, however, eagerly cast ballots it hoped would bring the former Yugoslav territory closer to independence, but the lopsided turnout could further delay talks on Kosovo's future.

Kosovo's ethnic Albanians want independence, while Kosovo Serbs and Belgrade want the province to remain part of Serbia-Montenegro, the successor to Yugoslavia.

The election is Kosovo's second since it came under U.N. and NATO rule in 1999. Preliminary results from Saturday's vote were expected Monday, and final results a week later.

KAZAKHSTAN

Crew returns home from space station

The Soyuz spacecraft carrying a U.S.-Russian crew landed safely and on target Sunday in Kazakhstan.

The bell-shaped Soyuz TMA-4 made two orbits of the Earth before landing.

The craft carried Russian cosmonaut Gennady Padalka and American partner Mike Fincke. Padalka and Fincke had been in space since April on the international space station.

Seated in the Soyuz alongside them was cosmonaut Yuri Shargin, who had spent eight days on the station.

GAZA STRIP

Hamas militants kill suspected informer

<u>Hamas</u> militants killed a Palestinian whose information they said helped Israel assassinate the group's founder and nine others, dumping the collaborator's bullet-ridden body on a Gaza City street where it was found Saturday.

WORLD DIGEST

Palestinian militants have killed dozens of alleged informers in the West Bank, but such attacks have been rare in the Gaza Strip, where the Palestinian security services still function to some degree.

Also Saturday, a team of Tunisian doctors arrived in the West Bank city of Ramallah to examine Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat, 75, who is recovering from the flu. The doctors met briefly with Arafat and were expected to examine him Sunday, officials said.

MEXICO

Gunmen abduct 3 U.S. citizens, kill 2

Four gunmen abducted three U.S. citizens on a rural highway in southern Mexico, fatally shot two of them and left the third -- a pregnant woman -- bound and gagged, authorities said Saturday. Four suspects were later arrested.

Reynaldo Valdez, 22, from Houston, was traveling with Miami natives Ashley Linn Diniger, 16, and Vanessa Burgos, 22, to visit Valdez's mother in Cutzamala de Pinzon, according to investigator Antonio Nogeda.

The three had left Cutzamala de Pinzon late Thursday when a vehicle carrying four men forced their vehicle off the road near Tierra Caliente, Nogeda said.

The gunmen put the Americans into a sedan without license plates, drove them to a nearby community and robbed them. The abductors later tried to sexually assault the two <u>women</u>, then shot Valdez and Diniger at close range, Nogeda said.

They spared the life of Burgos.

Graphic

photo; Photo by AFP/GETTY IMAGES - Serbs in Kosovo gather Saturday to attend prayer in the ethnically divided town of Kosovska Mitrovica. Serbs mostly boycotted general elections in the province.

Load-Date: October 24, 2004



DOOM & GLOOM

MX (Melbourne, Australia) September 28, 2004 Tuesday

Copyright 2004 Nationwide News Pty Limited

Section: NEWS; Pg. 8

Length: 475 words

Body

CEREMONY CUT AFTER BUS TRAGEDY

THE Athens Paralympics cancelled celebrations at its closing ceremony after seven schoolchildren travelling to watch the event died in a bus crash yesterday.

The school bus, on its way to Athens from central Greece, collided with a truck. Thirty people were injured, 26 of them pupils in their teens, police said. Only four people escaped unscathed.

TERROR CHIEF DIES OF HEART ATTACK

THE alleged top al-Qaida operative in Lebanon, who was arrested 10 days ago after authorities uncovered a plot to bomb embassies and kill diplomats, died of a heart attack today.

Ismail Mohammed al-Khatib, in his early 50s, was rushed from police custody in Beirut to the Bahanes Hospital after suffering a heart attack, but doctors were unable to save him.

THE MOTHER OF ALL CLEAN-UPS

FLORIDA embarked on one of the biggest clean-up operations in US history today after Hurricane Jeanne, the fourth hurricane to hit the state in six weeks, killed at least six people and left more than 1 million without power.

More than 5000 emergency workers have been sent to Florida, joining thousands of police and other rescuers involved in the operation.

CALL FOR REVENGE AT FUNERAL

THOUSANDS of Palestinians, many shouting calls for revenge, today buried a member of the militant group <u>Hamas</u> who was killed in a car bomb assassination.

Izz Eldine Subhi Sheik Khalil, 42, was killed in al-Zahraa neighbourhood in Damascus yesterday when a bomb tore apart his car. The killing was the first of a *Hamas* member in Syria.

THAIS CONFIRM BIRD FLU CASE

THAI officials today confirmed a woman had caught bird flu, but played down fears of the first case of human-to-human transmission of the virus after the deaths of two relatives.

DOOM & GLOOM

The woman, who had been in contact with dead chickens, was the second Thai confirmed with the deadly H5N1 form of the disease.

ALLIGATOR KILLS WOMAN SWIMMER

A US woman, 20, died after an alligator bit off her arm as she apparently went out for a late-night swim in a lake near her grandparents' house in Florida.

The body of Michelle Reeves was found by her father in a lake, sheriff's spokeswoman Ileana LiMarzi said.

MUM IN COURT OVER SON'S DEATH

A BRITISH woman, 22, appeared in court in the south of England today, charged with the murder of her 15-month-old son.

Marianne Williams appeared at Winchester Crown Court on suspicion of giving her son Joshua a salt overdose in February.

AIRPORT COLLAPSE KILLS 8

A HUGE wall collapsed at an unfinished terminal at Dubai airport yesterday, killing at least eight workers.

"The wall fell down, and we all ran to help, but there wasn't anything we could do," worker Daljinder Singh said.

NURSE CHARGED WITH MURDER

BRITISH police today charged a nurse, 51, with three counts of murder after the deaths of three elderly <u>female</u> patients.

Ann Grigg-Booth will appear in court on October 12.

Load-Date: September 28, 2004



PM greets Abbas, offers \$12 million to Palestinians: Canada and the world must do much more at this crucial moment, Martin says

The Gazette (Montreal)
May 28, 2005 Saturday
Final Edition

Copyright 2005 CanWest Interactive, a division of CanWest Global Communications Corp. All Rights Reserved

Section: NEWS; Pg. A12

Length: 511 words

Byline: GRANT ROBERTSON, CanWest News Service

Dateline: OTTAWA

Body

Canada pledged \$12 million in financial support to Palestinian Authority President Mahmoud Abbas yesterday, but Prime Minister Paul Martin said the dollars were merely a down payment on Canada's efforts to broker peace in the Middle East.

The aid package includes money for judicial reforms, support for coming Palestinian elections, housing construction and aid for Palestinian refugees in Lebanon, Martin said.

The figure is a fraction of the \$50 million in direct funding Abbas received a day earlier from U.S. President George W. Bush.

Abbas was visiting Ottawa for the first time since being elected in January. Martin praised him for boosting the peace process by rejecting the use of violence.

The Palestinian Authority's opposition to <u>Hamas</u>, which Canada has listed as a terrorist organization, has created an opportunity, Martin said.

"These initiatives are just a down payment. Canada and the international community must clearly do much more at this crucial moment in the Middle East," he told reporters.

"I feel that there is a real window of opportunity that is being created by the transition in the Palestinian Authority as well as Israel's decision to withdraw from Gaza and parts of the West Bank, to reinvigorate the peace process."

Both the prime minister and Abbas condemned <u>Hamas</u> as "terrorists" and the Palestinian leader reiterated his stance that there is no room for the group under his rule. "There needs to be one and only one authority of Palestinian land," Abbas said. "We will not accept to have more than one military in our lands."

Abbas, who was in Ottawa for less than eight hours, thanked Canada for its generosity, which will ensure "Canada will have a special place in the region. We do expect that Canada will be playing a very important role."

The aid package totals:

PM greets Abbas, offers \$12 million to Palestinians: Canada and the world must do much more at this crucial moment, Martin says

- \$12.2 million and consists entirely of new spending, the federal government said, including:
- \$5 million for judicial reform to create an independent Palestinian court system.
- \$1.2 million to oversee Legislative Council elections. Canada will also deploy 50 observers.
- \$5 million for housing support in the West Bank and Gaza, which is also intended to create jobs and bolster the economy.
- \$500,000 to assist the Palestinian Authority with border management, with a focus on security and trade.
- \$500,000 for an existing program to help Palestinian refugee <u>women</u> in Lebanon pursue undergraduate university degrees.

Canada is also deploying four more security officers to Egypt's Sinai Peninsula to act as observers, bringing the total to 32.

Foreign Affairs critic Stockwell Day said the aid package addresses key problems, but the Tories have concerns about how effective the money can be, especially if it's divided up over several years.

"\$12 million disappears quite quickly," Day said, adding more security forces are needed to oversee the withdrawals planned for this summer.

"We hear about four more military being assigned to a grand total of 32 that are in Gaza right now. That also is a very limited contribution in our view to what may be unfolding this summer."

Graphic

Colour Photo: JIM YOUNG, REUTERS; Palestinian President Mahmoud Abbas (right) meets Prime Minister Paul Martin on Parliament Hill yesterday.

Load-Date: May 28, 2005



EPA: Mercury contaminates almost all lakes and rivers

St. Petersburg Times (Florida)

August 25, 2004 Wednesday 0 South Pinellas Edition

Copyright 2004 Times Publishing Company

Section: NATIONAL; Pg. 7A; DIGEST

Length: 506 words
Series: IN BRIEF

Dateline: WASHINGTON; DENVER; BALTIMORE

Body

The head of the Environmental Protection Agency said Tuesday that fish in virtually all of the nation's lakes and rivers are contaminated with mercury, a highly toxic chemical that poses health risks for pregnant <u>women</u> and young children.

EPA administrator Michael Leavitt drew his conclusion from the agency's latest annual survey of fish advisories, which showed that 48 states - all but Wyoming and Alaska - issued warnings about mercury last year. That compared with 44 states in 1993, when the surveys were first conducted. Compiled from Times Wires

"Mercury is everywhere," Leavitt said.

Leavitt said that the widespread presence of mercury reflected a surge in monitoring - not an increase in emissions - as part of growing state efforts to warn local anglers about the fish they are catching. Last year, states issued 3,094 advisories for toxic substances, compared with 1,233 in 1993.

Florida issued 66 fish consumption advisories for its lakes and rivers in 2003.

Time reporter speaks to prosecutors in leak case

WASHINGTON - Avoiding potential jail time, a Time magazine reporter has given a statement to prosecutors investigating the Bush administration leak of a covert CIA officer's identity.

In a statement Tuesday, Time said reporter Matthew Cooper agreed to give a deposition after Lewis "Scooter" Libby, Vice President Dick Cheney's chief of staff, released Cooper from a promise of confidentiality about a conversation the two had last year.

Cooper was held in contempt this month by U.S. District Judge Thomas Hogan for refusing to testify in the leak probe. Hogan rejected Time's claims, as well as those of Meet the Press host Tim Russert, that the First Amendment protected them from having to testify.

Investigators are trying to find out who in the Bush administration leaked the identity of CIA officer Valerie Plame, whose name was published by syndicated columnist Robert Novak on July 14, 2003. Novak cited two "senior administration officials" as his sources. It can be a felony to leak the name of an undercover officer.

Judge restricts use of cameras in Bryant case

DENVER - The judge in the Kobe Bryant rape case on Tuesday sharply restricted how the news media may cover the trial using television and still cameras, saying he was worried too much exposure could threaten the fairness of the proceedings.

District Judge Terry Ruckriegle said no cameras will be allowed during witness testimony or jury selection. Still photography will be allowed during opening statements and closing arguments. Video and audio coverage will be allowed during closing arguments.

Hamas operative arrested

BALTIMORE - A man described as a high-ranking <u>Hamas</u> operative was arrested after he drove across the Chesapeake Bay Bridge while his wife videotaped close-up shots of the structure, authorities said Tuesday.

Ismael Selim Elbarasse, long suspected by authorities of having financial ties to the Palestinian extremist group, was taken into custody last week and held as a material witness in an unrelated terrorism case in Chicago.

Load-Date: August 25, 2004



Blasts from the past Though the current wave of suicide bombings began in Lebanon in the 1970s, the act of killing yourself for your beliefs has a cultural ancestry extending back to the Middle Ages

Financial Times (London, England)

July 2, 2005 Saturday

Copyright 2005 The Financial Times Limited

Section: FT WEEKEND MAGAZINE - Books; Pg. 26

Length: 1934 words

Byline: By LOUISE RICHARDSON

Body

There are many reasons for the current fascination with suicide terrorism. It is disconcerting to encounter a person who is willing to sacrifice his or her life in furtherance of a cause. This does not quite fit the image we like to have of "terrorists" as one- dimensional evil-doers or deranged psychopaths. In taking their own lives, suicide terrorists are staking a claim to moral superiority that is quite incompatible with our notion of their moral depravity. It is, moreover, demoralising to find the principle of deterrence, quite simply, eviscerated.

This principle of deterrence was the edifice on which the postwar security of the west was built. It sufficed to defend us against the armed ranks of the Soviet Union yet has been rendered useless by a few hundred vagabond fighters. We are also frightened by its destructive power, seen most dramatically in the carnage of September 11 2001, but also in the daily pictures from Iraq, the West Bank and Gaza.

The authors who examine this subject employ a number of different datasets to compute how much more lethal suicide attacks are than conventional attacks. They differ on the order of magnitude, but all agree that suicide attacks are, indeed, significantly more lethal. Like hijackings in the 1970s, suicide attacks today seem to have become the terrorist weapon of choice. Their randomness and viciousness make us all feel vulnerable.

We are fascinated by suicide terrorism because we cannot understand it. How can so many young men (and, increasingly, <u>women</u> and parents) be willing to throw away their lives in an act of brutal destruction, murdering others in the process? This question has concerned observers for centuries. The most frequently cited precursors to contemporary suicide bombers (though there were, in fact, many others) were the Assassins of the Middle Ages. Their actions so fascinated others that it was widely believed for centuries afterwards that they were on hashish when carrying out their suicide missions. Only recently have we learned that they were intoxicated only by a ferocious commitment to their cause.

This is the question that three new books attempt to address. And reading Anne Marie Oliver and Paul Steinberg's The Road to Martyrs' Square is more likely to feed than satiate our fascination. This is a highly unusual and - its subject matter notwithstanding - thoroughly enjoyable book. Part memoir, part travelogue, part portfolio and review of street media - from graffiti to pre-mission videotapes - the book provides just what it promises: a journey into the world of the suicide bomber.

Blasts from the past Though the current wave of suicide bombings began in Lebanon in the 1970s, the act of killing yourself for your beliefs has a cultural ance....

The book consists of three, not particularly well integrated, parts. The first provides an account of the authors' time in Gaza and the West Bank, and their evolving relationships with members of <u>Hamas</u> during the first intifada. The second introduces a unique and quite fascinating collection of major scripts of the intifada, replete with the symbols of self-sacrifice, martyrdom, jihad and victory. Finally, they present scenes from the videotaped last words of a cell of <u>Hamas</u> suicide bombers, interwoven with interviews with their families.

Oliver and Steinberg are interested in drawing a portrait, not analysing a movement. They write with humour and often affection for their subjects, and keep their own personalities entirely out of the story. With a light hand they provide a cogent account of the distinctions and the tensions between the nationalists and the Islamists, and the gradual institutionalisation of <u>Hamas</u> over the course of the first intifada. They provide harrowing accounts of the interrogation of collaborators and the murder of an Israeli. They describe not a cult of martyrdom, but an entire social system that supports martyrdom. Without proffering analysis, they describe tight social networks, intense small-group loyalty and the motivating power of the desire for revenge.

The presentation of the final video is riveting. The authors describe the irrational exuberance - or what they call the "ecstatic obliteration" - of this group of young men, for whom life has never been better, more intense or so full of meaning, than on the night before they kill themselves and others. Far from being depressed, suicidal types, these are excited and happy young men revelling in being the centre of attention. Oliver and Steinberg write: "What the rank-and-file (of *Hamas*) seemed to live and die for, in the end, was neither hospitals nor politics nor ideology nor religion nor the Apocalypse, but rather an ecstatic camaraderie in the face of death on the path of Allah."

The scholarly collection Making Sense of Suicide Missions, edited by Diego Gambetta, a professor of sociology at Oxford, is very different in tone. Gambetta brings together a remarkable group of academics from different disciplines and countries who bring a formidable array of research and analysis to their attempt to make sense of suicide missions.

This is an important book, and the best treatment of the subject I've read. Its value is due in part to the breadth of cases its authors consider. Unusually, a chapter is devoted to the Japanese kamikaze, and another to "Dying Without Killing", which explores the history of self-immolations. A broad range of questions is asked, such as a chapter exploring "Killing without Dying", which looks at terrorist campaigns that have not included suicide missions. The book also presents a powerful range of methodological approaches, from Stephen Holmes's fascinating (and at times, fanciful) philosophical conjectures, to the Italian Luca Ricolfi's painstaking compilation of quantitative data.

These books were all written before the dramatic increase in the use of suicide bombers in Iraq. This massive escalation has rendered obsolete much of the carefully constructed quantitative data. The point that 80 per cent of all suicide missions have been undertaken either by the Tamil Tigers (200) or by Palestinian groups (224) needs to be revised. There appear to have been close to 100 suicide missions in Iraq this May alone.

There is little in these works that would lead us to anticipate such an extraordinary escalation - from, according to the political scientist Robert Pape, three a year in the 1980s, to 10 a year in the 1990s, to 25 a year in 2000 and 2001, to hundreds upon hundreds this year. The one trend that is confirmed is the increase in the number of Islamic terrorist groups using suicide tactics, from 43 per cent before September 11 2001 to 75 per cent soon afterwards (that figure would be considerably higher today). Moreover, one would have to argue that Sunni and Shia Muslims belong to different religions to sustain the view that 90 per cent of suicide missions are against people of a different religion.

The real significance of Making Sense of Suicide Missions, however, is not in the quantitatively driven conclusions, but in its treatment of the more difficult question of motivations. From different perspectives, and relying on assorted cases, several of the authors attack the myth that suicide terrorism is a religious phenomenon. The more empirically oriented point to the case of Sri Lanka, in which suicide attacks have long been part of the arsenal of the entirely secular Tamil Tigers. The more philosophical carefully parse the statements of Osama bin Laden and the perpetrators of September 11 and find them too wholly secular. As Holmes argues, they hit the twin towers not as icons of blasphemy but of arrogant power. Al-Qaeda is not fighting the west until it says "there is no God but Allah",

Blasts from the past Though the current wave of suicide bombings began in Lebanon in the 1970s, the act of killing yourself for your beliefs has a cultural ance....

but until it gets out of the Middle East. He makes a compelling case that it was not religion, not Islam, but the pooled insurgencies of the Arab Middle East and a specific narrative of blame that made the US the target of al- Qaeda.

Gambetta has also noticed that all suicide missions are backed up by organisations. All are conducted by the weaker party in a conflict, often (as in the Japanese case) but not always (as in the case of the Tamil Tigers) when they are backed up against a wall. Very different types of organisation deploy suicide missions, but none do so exclusively. All who do have strong ties of group camaraderie. Suicide operations are invariably undertaken against democracies. The current wave of suicide missions, however diverse geographically and organisationally, can all be traced to Lebanon in 1973-1986.

Recognising the inherent complexity of the subject, Gambetta's volume eschews the search for a single explanation for suicide missions. His authors see that the tactic, like terrorism itself, is employed by different groups, in furtherance of different objectives, in different parts of the world. They recognise that the motivation of the organisation is often quite separate from the motivation of the individual. Looking at institutional efforts to raise the barrier to defection, they point to practices such as the support planes on kamikaze missions, an elite Tamil Tiger's pre- mission "last supper" with his revered leader, or the final video of Palestinian martyrs. They readily concede, however, that most organisations have more volunteers than they wish to deploy.

Compared to the rigorous analysis of the Gambetta volume, and the riveting storytelling of Oliver and Steinberg, Mia Bloom's superficial and disorganised treatment in Dying to Kill has little to contribute to our understanding of the subject. By contrast, Luca Ricolfi's careful analysis in Making Sense gives credence to Oliver and Steinberg's observations. For the Palestinians the key is the social milieu; becoming a martyr is the quickest route to the highest status. A desire for glory, coupled with strong group ties, is often what it takes to translate a cocktail of emotions (humiliation, rage, vengefulness), metaphysical beliefs and the desire for financial rewards into a willingness to die in order to kill. (There is often more interest in the dying than the killing, as evidenced by the sometimes remarkable lack of attention to deploying the suicide bomb to maximum effect.) The sense of group loyalty rises from the pages of The Road to Martyrs' Square, and finds support in Ricolfi's tracing of the clustering of martyrs' places of origin: in one extreme case, eight out of 11 members of a football team from Hebron, six of whom lived next door to one another, become *Hamas* suicide attackers.

In the end, one begins to wonder if suicide missions, or martyrdom operations, are indeed a unique phenomenon. Military historians long ago persuaded us that what drove young men over the trenches, and out of the foxholes, was loyalty to their small band of brothers. In all our societies we reserve the highest honours for those who have given their lives for their country. Having read these studies one is left wondering whether suicide bombers are so different. Had the members of the *Hamas* cell whose final videotape is depicted by Oliver and Steinberg ever learnt Latin, and had an eye for dramatic effect, one could imagine them ending their video reciting in unison Horace's ode into the camera: "Dulce et decorum est pro patria mori." (It is sweet and proper to die for your country.)

Louise Richardson is executive dean at Radcliffe Institute for Advanced Study, Harvard University.

MAKING SENSE OF SUICIDE MISSIONS

edited by Diego Gambetta

OUP Pounds 25, 392 pages

THE ROAD TO MARTYRS' SQUARE: A Journey Into the World of the Suicide Bomber

by Anne Marie Oliver and Paul Steinberg

OUP Pounds 14.99, 237 pages

DYING TO KILL: The Allure of Suicide Terror

by Mia Bloom

Blasts from the past Though the current wave of suicide bombings began in Lebanon in the 1970s, the act of killing yourself for your beliefs has a cultural ance....

Columbia University Press Dollars 24.95, 272 pages

Load-Date: July 1, 2005



ARAFAT'S DEADLY ARMY OF "ROSES";

Sunday Tribune June 06, 2004

Copyright 2004 The Sunday Tribune plc

Section: Pg. 19

Length: 495 words **Byline:** Eoghan Rice

Body

THE suicide bomber has become the defining image of the Middle East conflict. The civilian who walks into crowded public areas before detonating explosives wrapped around his waist; the civilian who will happily take his own life so long as one of 'the enemy' is also being killed.

It is a phenomenon that both intrigues and appals onlookers. Over the past two years, it has taken a new twist: **women** have joined the ranks of those willing to sacrifice their lives in order to kill Israeli civilians.

The sudden emergence of <u>female</u> suicide bombers is largely the consequence of a bitter struggle for control of the Palestinian people between Yasser Arafat and <u>Hamas</u>, according to Barbara Victor, author of a book on the subject, 'Army of Roses'.

Until 27 January 2002, women had been effectively barred from playing an active role in the intifada by Hamas.

On that day, Arafat, aware of his dwindling popularity, called on <u>women</u> - his 'army of roses' - to join the struggle against Israel. Later that day, Wafa Idris (26), entered a Jerusalem shopping centre and blew herself up, killing one Israeli man.

Victor, a CBS journalist, met Idris two months earlier in the Palestinian Red Crescent, where the future suicide bomber worked. "She was so charming and exuberant and full of life, " recalls Victor. "At one point, there was a picture on the screen in the office of a male suicide bomber about to go off to blow himself up. I watched her watch him and she became completely focused." The glorification of suicide bombers through posters and videos has led to what Victor describes as "a culture of death". She recalls interviewing children as young as six years of age who dream of becoming "martyrs". While Palestinian organisations glorify the bombings, Victor does not hesitate to identify the real problem.

"Everyone has a choice to do it suicide bombings," she says, "but it is only the poor, the oppressed and the marginalised who are carrying out these attacks. The children of the leadership aren't blowing themselves up." Male and <u>female</u> bombers are treated differently by the leadership. Male bombers are promised 72 virgins in Paradise for carrying out such acts, while <u>females</u> are merely told that they will be more beautiful than the virgins.

According to Victor, "Paradise is just one big singles bar".

ARAFAT'S DEADLY ARMY OF "ROSES";

Likewise, the families of male suicide bombers are given \$ 400 a month, but the families of <u>females</u> are given just \$ 200.

Victor analyses the cases of the four <u>women</u> who have joined the ranks of the suicide bombers and argues that, for many bombers, a martyr's death is merely the only alternative to suicide.

"There are suicides in every society. When you have a society which condemns suicide through the Koran but at the same time reveres it if it's done in a certain context, why wouldn't a depressed woman choose to take her own life under the guise of liberating Palestine? Some people just want to die and isn't this a wonderful way of doing it?"

Graphic

Wafa Idris: first bomber

Load-Date: June 8, 2004



QUICK NEWS

Hobart Mercury (Australia) September 29, 2005 Thursday

Copyright 2005 Nationwide News Pty Limited

Section: WORLD; Pg. 22

Length: 212 words

Body

Israeli missiles

pound Gaza

ISRAEL launched fresh air strikes on the Gaza Strip yesterday, the fifth anniversary of the outbreak of the Palestinian uprising, despite a pledge by *Hamas* militants to halt rocket attacks.

Helicopter gunships slammed missiles into offices of Palestinian leader Mahmoud Abbas's ruling Fatah party and Palestinian security buildings.

Israel postponed Sunday's planned meeting between Prime Minister Ariel Sharon and Abbas.

Iraqi bombing

A <u>FEMALE</u> suicide bomber blew herself up outside an army recruitment centre in the northern Iraqi town of Tal Afar yesterday, killing at least seven people and wounding 37, police said.

Tycoon killed

MINING magnate Brett Kebble, 41, has been gunned down at the wheel of his car in Johannesburg. Kebble had been executive director of Randgold and Exploration, JCI until he resigned last month amid claims of financial irregularities.

Fuel anger

INDONESIA has cleared the way for a rise in fuel prices on Saturday, slashing petrol subsidies despite growing public anger. Police are bracing for street protests and fuel-truck thefts.

Typhoon toll

TYPHOON Damrey weakened yesterday after causing widespread destruction and killing at least 43 people in a week-long sweep through the Philippines, southern China and Vietnam.

Load-Date: September 30, 2005



SHARON IS DRAGGING HIS PEOPLE TOWARDS AN ABYSS OF PERPETUAL WAR AND DEATH; YASSIN IS MORE DANGEROUS DEAD THAN ALIVE. HE WILL BECOME A GHOST AT

The Independent (London)

March 24, 2004, Wednesday

Copyright 2004 Independent Print Ltd

Section: First Edition; COMMENT; Pg. 29

Length: 1182 words

Byline: JOHANN HARI

Body

Sheikh Ahmed Yassin was a far-right theocrat. If the <u>Hamas</u> programme he inspired is ever put into practice, the dream of Palestinian liberation will turn into a nightmare on the day of an Israeli withdrawal. He explicitly wanted to turn a Palestinian state, when it finally came into existence, into a fundamentalist state under shariah law.

There would be no liberation for <u>women</u> in his Palestine. Dissenters would be dealt with as they are in all fundamentalist states. The savagery inflicted on any Jews who remained there would be too horrible to describe. I would be stoned to death there for being gay. It is understandable that some Palestinians, driven to psychosis by the ethnic cleansing of 1948 and the occupation forced on them since 1967, have sympathy for this programme. No outsider should weep for Yassin, or support <u>Hamas</u>.

Yet we should weep for this assassination. Some of our tears should be for the consequences in Israel itself: when Ariel Sharon gave the order to incinerate Yassin, he guaranteed the incineration of countless Israeli civilians - innocent people - in retaliation attacks. But we should grieve mostly because it reveals a startling ignorance on the part of the Israeli government. This ignorance will ensure they carry on slaying and oppressing Palestinians.

The Likud government still fails to understand the causes of suicide bombing. Encouraged by the American right, Sharon and Benjamin Netanyahu imagine that suicide bombing is the work of a few evil masterminds brainwashing impressionable young people into committing suicide massacres. This is why they have killed Yassin and may yet kill Yasser Arafat. They genuinely believe that if you take out these "terror masters" the attacks will be reduced. There is only one problem: I have met young men preparing to be suicide bombers, and this analysis bears no relation to reality.

The wave of suicide bombers currently massacring civilians in Israel are the children of the first Intifada. The formative experience of their lives was watching their parents stage a massive programme of peaceful resistance to occupation. Israel's response was clear: Yitzhak Rabin gave the order to "break their bones". No brainwashing is needed to turn these men to crazed violence; they learned it in their childhood from Israeli occupiers.

All that happens when Israel kills Palestinian figureheads is that humiliation stabs deeper into their gut. Yassin will now become a ghost at every Palestinian feast, urging martyrdom. He is far more dangerous - both to Israelis and to the cause of a secular Palestinian nationalism - dead than alive.

SHARON IS DRAGGING HIS PEOPLE TOWARDS AN ABYSS OF PERPETUAL WAR AND DEATH; YASSIN IS MORE DANGEROUS DEAD THAN ALIVE. HE WILL BECOME A GHOST AT

To understand this we can listen to the explanation for terrorism offered by a man once universally regarded in Britain as "Terrorist Number One": "All we wanted was to be a free people in our own country ... our enemies called us terrorists, but we used physical force only because we were faced by physical force ... For this reason we delivered attack against the oppressor, and our revolt burst into a great flame."

These are the words of Menachem Begin, who went on to become Israel's first Likud Prime Minister. He led the Irgun, a terrorist group who fought against the British occupation of Palestine in the 1940s. If anybody should understand how the unique agony of living without a state turns people to terrorism, it is the Israelis. Begin's compelling autobiography, The Revolt: Story of the Irgun, is a mirror-image of the writings of contemporary Palestinian terrorists. He coldly justifies the massacre of 91 people at the King David Hotel as "necessary" to ensure a free Israel.

It is a simple truth that if you deprive people of a state, they will fight for one. What we are witnessing today is a straightforward Palestinian war of independence. The only way to bring it to an end it is to grant independence. This can only mean a state comprising Gaza and the West Bank.

This would not be a magical solution to everything. There will still be some fanatics who seek not a two-state solution but a Greater Palestine cleansed of Jews. Yet opinion polls suggest that such Islamic fundamentalists would be a minority in a free Palestine, even after years of psychosis- inducing abuse. But how much longer can this last? How many more provocations before they are all driven mad?

The tragedy is that Israel is cursed with a leadership that is psychologically incapable of taking the road to peace. All opinion polls show that most Israeli citizens can see that Israel's only chance for survival is as one of two states, divided between the two peoples who share the tiny patch of land between the Jordan river and the Mediterranean Sea.

Yet Sharon sees all Arabs as part of a seething mob with whom there can be no discussion, no reasoning, no coexistence. Peaceniks and suicide bombers, Abu Mazen and Sheikh Yassin: they are all equally murderous, and only a fool would try to compromise with such savages. Sharon grew up in Kfar Malal, a small Jewish village that was eternally besieged by Palestinians. This sense of an absolute threat - they're coming for us, pass the ammunition - has never left him. For Sharon, the entire Middle East is an eternal Kfar Malal.

He is tipping Israel/Palestine towards a situation from which there can be no return. At the moment, a majority of Palestinians seek their own state divided from Israel along the 1967 borders. This is an agenda which can be met while leaving Israel safe and intact. Yet Sharon making it impossible to return to those borders, by constructing a fence that cuts deep into Palestinian territories.

The effect of this will not be what Sharon hopes: that the Palestinians will be so terrified that they will settle for the scraps that Likud is prepared to leave behind after a unilateral withdrawal. No; it will be that Palestinians will ditch the goal of two states altogether.

Ahmad Qureia, the Palestinian Prime Minister, made this clear when he explained that Sharon's unilateral moves would render the drive for a Palestinian state a "meaningless slogan." No viable state could exist on what Sharon proposes to - perhaps - leave behind. So the Palestinian goal will change.

"If the situation continues as it is now, we will go for the one-state solution," Qureia says. One big state encompassing both the Occupied Territories and Israel proper would mean an Arab majority and the end of Israel. Sharon - by refusing to see the difference between moderate and extreme Palestinians - is pushing the Palestinians further away from secular moderation and towards *Hamas* fanaticism and a thirst to eradicate all Israel. He has just united all Palestine behind a *Hamas* fanatic.

If one state becomes the Palestinian raison d'etre there will be perpetual war with no possibility of compromise, and I will still be writing laments for peace in the Middle East when I am an old man. This is the abyss towards

SHARON IS DRAGGING HIS PEOPLE TOWARDS AN ABYSS OF PERPETUAL WAR AND DEATH; YASSIN IS MORE DANGEROUS DEAD THAN ALIVE. HE WILL BECOME A GHOST AT

which Sharon is dragging his people. Unless he radically changes direction, his legacy will be rows of Jewish and Arab graves stretching out into infinity.

j.hari@independent.co.uk

Load-Date: March 24, 2004