

**Date and Time:** Friday, May 3, 2024 3:55:00PM EEST

**Job Number:** 223444362

## Documents (100)

1. [\*In Focus\*](#)

**Client/Matter:** -None-

**Search Terms:** Hamas

**Search Type:** Natural Language

**Narrowed by:**

**Content Type**  
News

**Narrowed by**

Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Jan 01, 2006 to Sep 30, 2006

2. [\*Mirror, mirror, on the world's wall\*](#)

**Client/Matter:** -None-

**Search Terms:** Hamas

**Search Type:** Natural Language

**Narrowed by:**

**Content Type**  
News

**Narrowed by**

Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Jan 01, 2006 to Sep 30, 2006

3. [\*Israeli PM names pro-withdrawal foreign minister: One of few women to join upper ranks\*](#)

**Client/Matter:** -None-

**Search Terms:** Hamas

**Search Type:** Natural Language

**Narrowed by:**

**Content Type**  
News

**Narrowed by**

Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Jan 01, 2006 to Sep 30, 2006

4. [\*Smooth-Talking Saudi Ambassador Fields Gentle Questions\*](#)

**Client/Matter:** -None-

**Search Terms:** Hamas

**Search Type:** Natural Language

**Narrowed by:**

**Content Type**  
News

**Narrowed by**

Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Jan 01, 2006 to Sep 30, 2006

5. [\*Barrier's hardships can't compare to terrorist violence\*](#)

**Client/Matter:** -None-

**Search Terms:** Hamas

**Search Type:** Natural Language

**Narrowed by:**

**Content Type**  
News

**Narrowed by**

Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Jan 01, 2006 to Sep 30, 2006

6. [\*Top Israel court backs curb on Arab spouses Ruling blocks reunification of families\*](#)

**Client/Matter:** -None-

**Search Terms:** Hamas

**Search Type:** Natural Language

**Narrowed by:**

**Content Type**  
News

**Narrowed by**

Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Jan 01, 2006 to Sep 30, 2006

7. [\*INNOCENTS ABROAD\*](#)

**Client/Matter:** -None-

**Search Terms:** Hamas

**Search Type:** Natural Language

**Narrowed by:**

**Content Type**  
News

**Narrowed by**

Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Jan 01, 2006 to Sep 30, 2006

8. [\*Married, but Israel forces them to live apart\*](#)

**Client/Matter:** -None-

**Search Terms:** Hamas

**Search Type:** Natural Language

**Narrowed by:**

**Content Type**  
News

**Narrowed by**

Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Jan 01, 2006 to Sep 30, 2006

9. [\*In Focus\*](#)

**Client/Matter:** -None-

**Search Terms:** Hamas

**Search Type:** Natural Language

**Narrowed by:**

**Content Type**  
News

**Narrowed by**

Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Jan 01, 2006 to Sep 30, 2006

10. [\*Almost three months of captivity\*](#)

**Client/Matter:** -None-

**Search Terms:** Hamas

**Search Type:** Natural Language

**Narrowed by:**

**Content Type**  
News

**Narrowed by**  
Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Jan 01, 2006 to Sep 30, 2006

11. [\*Passionate portrayal of an insecure idealist THEATRE\*](#)

**Client/Matter:** -None-

**Search Terms:** Hamas

**Search Type:** Natural Language

**Narrowed by:**

**Content Type**  
News

**Narrowed by**  
Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Jan 01, 2006 to Sep 30, 2006

12. [\*The familiar new face of British diplomacy FOREIGN OFFICE\*](#)

**Client/Matter:** -None-

**Search Terms:** Hamas

**Search Type:** Natural Language

**Narrowed by:**

**Content Type**  
News

**Narrowed by**  
Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Jan 01, 2006 to Sep 30, 2006

13. [\*Keeping the streets safe - from threats great and bird-sized - at home and abroad\*](#)

**Client/Matter:** -None-

**Search Terms:** Hamas

**Search Type:** Natural Language

**Narrowed by:**

**Content Type**  
News

**Narrowed by**  
Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Jan 01, 2006 to Sep 30, 2006

14. [\*Letters | Letters\*](#)

**Client/Matter:** -None-

**Search Terms:** Hamas

**Search Type:** Natural Language

**Narrowed by:**

**Content Type**  
News

**Narrowed by**  
Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Jan 01, 2006 to Sep 30, 2006

15. [\*Tribals seek revenge for Bajour killings\*](#)

**Client/Matter:** -None-

**Search Terms:** Hamas

**Search Type:** Natural Language

**Narrowed by:**

**Content Type**  
News

**Narrowed by**  
Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Jan 01, 2006 to Sep 30, 2006

16. [Cartoon protests hit london Threat to Danish Embassy and demo outside BBC HQ](#)

**Client/Matter:** -None-

**Search Terms:** Hamas

**Search Type:** Natural Language

**Narrowed by:**

**Content Type**  
News

**Narrowed by**  
Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Jan 01, 2006 to Sep 30, 2006

17. [THE CIVILIAN CASULTIES ARE AWFUL BUT ISRAEL IS FIGHTING FOR ITS EXISTENCE](#)

**Client/Matter:** -None-

**Search Terms:** Hamas

**Search Type:** Natural Language

**Narrowed by:**

**Content Type**  
News

**Narrowed by**  
Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Jan 01, 2006 to Sep 30, 2006

18. [ARTICLE: Viceroy Dubya comes calling](#)

**Client/Matter:** -None-

**Search Terms:** Hamas

**Search Type:** Natural Language

**Narrowed by:**

**Content Type**  
News

**Narrowed by**  
Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Jan 01, 2006 to Sep 30, 2006

19. [Hezbollah stages a massive 'victory' celebration](#)

**Client/Matter:** -None-

**Search Terms:** Hamas

**Search Type:** Natural Language

**Narrowed by:**

**Content Type**  
News

**Narrowed by**  
Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Jan 01, 2006 to Sep 30, 2006

20. [The failure of Israeli unilateralism Middle East II](#)

**Client/Matter:** -None-

**Search Terms:** Hamas

**Search Type:** Natural Language

**Narrowed by:**

**Content Type**  
News

**Narrowed by**  
Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Jan 01, 2006 to Sep 30, 2006

21. [Escalation feared as 10 reservists killed SINGLE STRIKE MIDDLE EAST CRISIS](#)

**Client/Matter:** -None-

**Search Terms:** Hamas

**Search Type:** Natural Language

**Narrowed by:**

**Content Type**  
News

**Narrowed by**  
Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Jan 01, 2006 to Sep 30, 2006

22. [\*NAVY GO IN CARRIER TO EVACUATE BRITS FROM ISRAELI BLITZ 15 CHILDREN DIE AS JETS POUND VILLAGERS HEZBOLLAH MUST BE REINED IN, SAYS BUSH\*](#)

**Client/Matter:** -None-

**Search Terms:** Hamas

**Search Type:** Natural Language

**Narrowed by:**

**Content Type**  
News

**Narrowed by**  
Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Jan 01, 2006 to Sep 30, 2006

23. [\*Israeli phone calls mean attack is on the way\*](#)

**Client/Matter:** -None-

**Search Terms:** Hamas

**Search Type:** Natural Language

**Narrowed by:**

**Content Type**  
News

**Narrowed by**  
Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Jan 01, 2006 to Sep 30, 2006

24. [\*CHILDREN KILLED IN AIRSTRIKE MASSACRE MIDDLE EAST 'JUST DAYS FROM OPEN WAR'\*](#)

**Client/Matter:** -None-

**Search Terms:** Hamas

**Search Type:** Natural Language

**Narrowed by:**

**Content Type**  
News

**Narrowed by**  
Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Jan 01, 2006 to Sep 30, 2006

25. [\*How Canadian labour can truly help Palestinians\*](#)

**Client/Matter:** -None-

**Search Terms:** Hamas

**Search Type:** Natural Language

**Narrowed by:**

**Content Type**  
News

**Narrowed by**  
Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Jan 01, 2006 to Sep 30, 2006

26. [\*Fire rains down in endless war\*](#)

**Client/Matter:** -None-

**Search Terms:** Hamas

**Search Type:** Natural Language

**Narrowed by:**

**Content Type**  
News

**Narrowed by**

Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Jan 01, 2006 to Sep 30, 2006

27. [ADVANTAGE HIZBULLAH](#)

**Client/Matter:** -None-

**Search Terms:** Hamas

**Search Type:** Natural Language

**Narrowed by:**

**Content Type**  
News

**Narrowed by**

Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Jan 01, 2006 to Sep 30, 2006

28. [13 killed as fighting intensifies in Gaza](#)

**Client/Matter:** -None-

**Search Terms:** Hamas

**Search Type:** Natural Language

**Narrowed by:**

**Content Type**  
News

**Narrowed by**

Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Jan 01, 2006 to Sep 30, 2006

29. [Another lady who is not for turning CRISIS IN LEBANON](#)

**Client/Matter:** -None-

**Search Terms:** Hamas

**Search Type:** Natural Language

**Narrowed by:**

**Content Type**  
News

**Narrowed by**

Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Jan 01, 2006 to Sep 30, 2006

30. [Arab world's reaction to alleged killing is muted American troops often commit such acts, many believe. Two U.S. probes are under way.](#)

**Client/Matter:** -None-

**Search Terms:** Hamas

**Search Type:** Natural Language

**Narrowed by:**

**Content Type**  
News

**Narrowed by**

Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Jan 01, 2006 to Sep 30, 2006

31. [World briefing: Egypt finds democracy can wait](#)

**Client/Matter:** -None-

**Search Terms:** Hamas

**Search Type:** Natural Language

**Narrowed by:**

**Content Type**  
News

**Narrowed by**

Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Jan 01, 2006 to Sep 30, 2006

32. [\*The world is not black and white even for one-eyed ignorants\*](#)

**Client/Matter:** -None-

**Search Terms:** Hamas

**Search Type:** Natural Language

**Narrowed by:**

**Content Type**  
News

**Narrowed by**

Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Jan 01, 2006 to Sep 30, 2006

33. [\*At Home With the Olmerts in Israel 's Corridors of Power\*](#)

**Client/Matter:** -None-

**Search Terms:** Hamas

**Search Type:** Natural Language

**Narrowed by:**

**Content Type**  
News

**Narrowed by**

Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Jan 01, 2006 to Sep 30, 2006

34. [\*WORLD IN BRIEF\*](#)

**Client/Matter:** -None-

**Search Terms:** Hamas

**Search Type:** Natural Language

**Narrowed by:**

**Content Type**  
News

**Narrowed by**

Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Jan 01, 2006 to Sep 30, 2006

35. [\*Carroll: Statements on video made under captors' threats Former hostage arrives in Germany on a U.S. military transport plane\*](#)

**Client/Matter:** -None-

**Search Terms:** Hamas

**Search Type:** Natural Language

**Narrowed by:**

**Content Type**  
News

**Narrowed by**

Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Jan 01, 2006 to Sep 30, 2006

36. [\*Letter - Evil men are using religion to pursue their own global agenda;\*](#)

**Client/Matter:** -None-

**Search Terms:** Hamas

**Search Type:** Natural Language

**Narrowed by:**

**Content Type**  
News

**Narrowed by**

Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Jan 01, 2006 to Sep 30, 2006

37. [Cherie's sister: How I was strip searched by Israeli police ... and given just a piece of loo paper to cover up my modesty](#)

**Client/Matter:** -None-

**Search Terms:** Hamas

**Search Type:** Natural Language

**Narrowed by:**

**Content Type**  
News

**Narrowed by**

Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Jan 01, 2006 to Sep 30, 2006

38. ['Radical Islam Week' sparks campus furor: University of Toronto](#)

**Client/Matter:** -None-

**Search Terms:** Hamas

**Search Type:** Natural Language

**Narrowed by:**

**Content Type**  
News

**Narrowed by**

Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Jan 01, 2006 to Sep 30, 2006

39. [A candidate called Hitler: Jamal Abu Roub, running in the West Bank, doesn't mind his controversial nickname](#)

**Client/Matter:** -None-

**Search Terms:** Hamas

**Search Type:** Natural Language

**Narrowed by:**

**Content Type**  
News

**Narrowed by**

Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Jan 01, 2006 to Sep 30, 2006

40. [Washington State U. group brings Jewish students together](#)

**Client/Matter:** -None-

**Search Terms:** Hamas

**Search Type:** Natural Language

**Narrowed by:**

**Content Type**  
News

**Narrowed by**

Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Jan 01, 2006 to Sep 30, 2006

41. [Frankly, my dear, I do give a damn](#)

**Client/Matter:** -None-

**Search Terms:** Hamas

**Search Type:** Natural Language



**Narrowed by:**

**Content Type**  
News

**Narrowed by**

Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Jan 01, 2006 to Sep 30, 2006

42. [Radical Islam seminar puts U of T on alert: Muslims urge boycott on grounds lectures will 'demonize and vilify'](#)

**Client/Matter:** -None-

**Search Terms:** Hamas

**Search Type:** Natural Language

**Narrowed by:**

**Content Type**  
News

**Narrowed by**

Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Jan 01, 2006 to Sep 30, 2006

43. [Harper unlikely to ever be called 'Stevemeister'](#)

**Client/Matter:** -None-

**Search Terms:** Hamas

**Search Type:** Natural Language

**Narrowed by:**

**Content Type**  
News

**Narrowed by**

Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Jan 01, 2006 to Sep 30, 2006

44. ['Radical Islam week' sparks U of T furor](#)

**Client/Matter:** -None-

**Search Terms:** Hamas

**Search Type:** Natural Language

**Narrowed by:**

**Content Type**  
News

**Narrowed by**

Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Jan 01, 2006 to Sep 30, 2006

45. [Danish leader draws battle lines Outrage is mixed with faith in allies and confidence in path](#)

**Client/Matter:** -None-

**Search Terms:** Hamas

**Search Type:** Natural Language

**Narrowed by:**

**Content Type**  
News

**Narrowed by**

Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Jan 01, 2006 to Sep 30, 2006

46. [Revealed: civilian toll of a deadly assault that has ravaged Gaza PALESTINIAN CRISIS](#)

**Client/Matter:** -None-

**Search Terms:** Hamas

**Search Type:** Natural Language

**Narrowed by:**

**Content Type**  
News

**Narrowed by**  
Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Jan 01, 2006 to Sep 30, 2006

47. [Hopes grow for Kember's freedom](#)

**Client/Matter:** -None-

**Search Terms:** Hamas

**Search Type:** Natural Language

**Narrowed by:**

**Content Type**  
News

**Narrowed by**  
Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Jan 01, 2006 to Sep 30, 2006

48. [And Now, Islamism Trumps Arabism](#)

**Client/Matter:** -None-

**Search Terms:** Hamas

**Search Type:** Natural Language

**Narrowed by:**

**Content Type**  
News

**Narrowed by**  
Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Jan 01, 2006 to Sep 30, 2006

49. [Immigration Tiff in Israel Splits Justices DATELINE JERUSALEM](#)

**Client/Matter:** -None-

**Search Terms:** Hamas

**Search Type:** Natural Language

**Narrowed by:**

**Content Type**  
News

**Narrowed by**  
Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Jan 01, 2006 to Sep 30, 2006

50. [Bravo to pro-war monks](#)

**Client/Matter:** -None-

**Search Terms:** Hamas

**Search Type:** Natural Language

**Narrowed by:**

**Content Type**  
News

**Narrowed by**  
Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Jan 01, 2006 to Sep 30, 2006

51. [Our vital role in Iraq 's road to freedom](#)

**Client/Matter:** -None-

**Search Terms:** Hamas

**Search Type:** Natural Language

**Narrowed by:**

**Content Type**  
News

**Narrowed by**  
Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Jan 01, 2006 to Sep 30, 2006

52. [\*Thinking Right Complacency won't subdue ruthless foe\*](#)

**Client/Matter:** -None-

**Search Terms:** Hamas

**Search Type:** Natural Language

**Narrowed by:**

**Content Type**  
News

**Narrowed by**  
Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Jan 01, 2006 to Sep 30, 2006

53. [\*DEATH AT QANA: The world reacts\*](#)

**Client/Matter:** -None-

**Search Terms:** Hamas

**Search Type:** Natural Language

**Narrowed by:**

**Content Type**  
News

**Narrowed by**  
Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Jan 01, 2006 to Sep 30, 2006

54. [\*Complacency won't subdue ruthless foe\*](#)

**Client/Matter:** -None-

**Search Terms:** Hamas

**Search Type:** Natural Language

**Narrowed by:**

**Content Type**  
News

**Narrowed by**  
Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Jan 01, 2006 to Sep 30, 2006

55. [\*Statue attack fuels fears of an Islamist Egypt\*](#)

**Client/Matter:** -None-

**Search Terms:** Hamas

**Search Type:** Natural Language

**Narrowed by:**

**Content Type**  
News

**Narrowed by**  
Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Jan 01, 2006 to Sep 30, 2006

56. [\*'Nobody here is a terrorist ... But we are all ready to fight'\*](#)

**Client/Matter:** -None-

**Search Terms:** Hamas

**Search Type:** Natural Language

**Narrowed by:**

**Content Type**  
News

**Narrowed by**  
Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Jan 01, 2006 to Sep 30, 2006

57. [\*Irresistible force, immovable object\*](#)

**Client/Matter:** -None-

**Search Terms:** Hamas

**Search Type:** Natural Language

**Narrowed by:**

**Content Type**  
News

**Narrowed by**

Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Jan 01, 2006 to Sep 30, 2006

58. [\*Syria : lift the veil and discover an enigma\*](#)

**Client/Matter:** -None-

**Search Terms:** Hamas

**Search Type:** Natural Language

**Narrowed by:**

**Content Type**  
News

**Narrowed by**

Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Jan 01, 2006 to Sep 30, 2006

59. [\*International Briefs\*](#)

**Client/Matter:** -None-

**Search Terms:** Hamas

**Search Type:** Natural Language

**Narrowed by:**

**Content Type**  
News

**Narrowed by**

Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Jan 01, 2006 to Sep 30, 2006

60. [\*Impeded by blinkers and blindfolds\*](#)

**Client/Matter:** -None-

**Search Terms:** Hamas

**Search Type:** Natural Language

**Narrowed by:**

**Content Type**  
News

**Narrowed by**

Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Jan 01, 2006 to Sep 30, 2006

61. [\*Creative Chaos Checkmated\*](#)

**Client/Matter:** -None-

**Search Terms:** Hamas

**Search Type:** Natural Language

**Narrowed by:**

**Content Type**  
News

**Narrowed by**

Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Jan 01, 2006 to Sep 30, 2006

62. [\*regional news Around the North ...\*](#)

**Client/Matter:** -None-

**Search Terms:** Hamas

**Search Type:** Natural Language

**Narrowed by:**

**Content Type**  
News

**Narrowed by**

Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Jan 01, 2006 to Sep 30, 2006

63. [\*East Carolina U. graduate studies in the Middle East\*](#)

**Client/Matter:** -None-

**Search Terms:** Hamas

**Search Type:** Natural Language

**Narrowed by:**

**Content Type**  
News

**Narrowed by**

Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Jan 01, 2006 to Sep 30, 2006

64. [\*A Democratic Catch-22\*](#)

**Client/Matter:** -None-

**Search Terms:** Hamas

**Search Type:** Natural Language

**Narrowed by:**

**Content Type**  
News

**Narrowed by**

Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Jan 01, 2006 to Sep 30, 2006

65. [\*Palestine Awareness Week needs to advocate peace\*](#)

**Client/Matter:** -None-

**Search Terms:** Hamas

**Search Type:** Natural Language

**Narrowed by:**

**Content Type**  
News

**Narrowed by**

Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Jan 01, 2006 to Sep 30, 2006

66. [\*Israel 101\*](#)

**Client/Matter:** -None-

**Search Terms:** Hamas

**Search Type:** Natural Language

**Narrowed by:**

**Content Type**  
News

**Narrowed by**

Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Jan 01, 2006 to Sep 30, 2006

67. [\*TO SERVE THE NATIONAL CITY AND THROUGH IT THE NATION Solomons mission going nowhere\*](#)

**Client/Matter:** -None-

**Search Terms:** Hamas

**Search Type:** Natural Language

**Narrowed by:**

**Content Type**  
News

**Narrowed by**  
Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Jan 01, 2006 to Sep 30, 2006

68. [Released journalist Returns to U.S. Reporter Jill Carroll avoids spotlight during reunion with family](#)

**Client/Matter:** -None-

**Search Terms:** Hamas

**Search Type:** Natural Language

**Narrowed by:**

**Content Type**  
News

**Narrowed by**  
Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Jan 01, 2006 to Sep 30, 2006

69. [OTHER FILMS](#)

**Client/Matter:** -None-

**Search Terms:** Hamas

**Search Type:** Natural Language

**Narrowed by:**

**Content Type**  
News

**Narrowed by**  
Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Jan 01, 2006 to Sep 30, 2006

70. [The female touch of Rice and Merkel has real clout MARTA DASSU and ULRIKE GUEROT](#)

**Client/Matter:** -None-

**Search Terms:** Hamas

**Search Type:** Natural Language

**Narrowed by:**

**Content Type**  
News

**Narrowed by**  
Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Jan 01, 2006 to Sep 30, 2006

71. [Cartoons of Muhammad](#)

**Client/Matter:** -None-

**Search Terms:** Hamas

**Search Type:** Natural Language

**Narrowed by:**

**Content Type**  
News

**Narrowed by**  
Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Jan 01, 2006 to Sep 30, 2006

72. [Time for Last Hurrah for America 's Al-Hurra](#)

**Client/Matter:** -None-

**Search Terms:** Hamas

**Search Type:** Natural Language

**Narrowed by:**

**Content Type**  
News

**Narrowed by**  
Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Jan 01, 2006 to Sep 30, 2006

73. [\*Dane Sees Greed and Politics in the Crisis\*](#)

**Client/Matter:** -None-

**Search Terms:** Hamas

**Search Type:** Natural Language

**Narrowed by:**

**Content Type**  
News

**Narrowed by**  
Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Jan 01, 2006 to Sep 30, 2006

74. [\*A man of pragmatism\*](#)

**Client/Matter:** -None-

**Search Terms:** Hamas

**Search Type:** Natural Language

**Narrowed by:**

**Content Type**  
News

**Narrowed by**  
Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Jan 01, 2006 to Sep 30, 2006

75. [\*Muslim backlash over cartoons forces Danish newspaper to apologise\*](#)

**Client/Matter:** -None-

**Search Terms:** Hamas

**Search Type:** Natural Language

**Narrowed by:**

**Content Type**  
News

**Narrowed by**  
Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Jan 01, 2006 to Sep 30, 2006

76. [\*Hard-to-kill militia chief is cut from different cloth\*](#)

**Client/Matter:** -None-

**Search Terms:** Hamas

**Search Type:** Natural Language

**Narrowed by:**

**Content Type**  
News

**Narrowed by**  
Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Jan 01, 2006 to Sep 30, 2006

77. [\*Know enemies, not slogans\*](#)

**Client/Matter:** -None-

**Search Terms:** Hamas

**Search Type:** Natural Language

**Narrowed by:**

**Content Type**  
News

**Narrowed by**  
Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Jan 01, 2006 to Sep 30, 2006

78. [\*NDP endorses call to pull out of Afghanistan : 'No sign the world is safer,' Layton tells convention delegates\*](#)

**Client/Matter:** -None-

**Search Terms:** Hamas

**Search Type:** Natural Language

**Narrowed by:**

**Content Type**  
News

**Narrowed by**  
Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Jan 01, 2006 to Sep 30, 2006

79. [West is not at war with Islam: Bush](#)

**Client/Matter:** -None-

**Search Terms:** Hamas

**Search Type:** Natural Language

**Narrowed by:**

**Content Type**  
News

**Narrowed by**  
Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Jan 01, 2006 to Sep 30, 2006

80. [A phone call means an Israeli missile is aimed at your house](#)

**Client/Matter:** -None-

**Search Terms:** Hamas

**Search Type:** Natural Language

**Narrowed by:**

**Content Type**  
News

**Narrowed by**  
Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Jan 01, 2006 to Sep 30, 2006

81. [America has emerged as a loser in the Middle East PHILIP GORDON and JEREMY SHAPIRO](#)

**Client/Matter:** -None-

**Search Terms:** Hamas

**Search Type:** Natural Language

**Narrowed by:**

**Content Type**  
News

**Narrowed by**  
Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Jan 01, 2006 to Sep 30, 2006

82. [Deafening silence that shames all moderate Muslims](#)

**Client/Matter:** -None-

**Search Terms:** Hamas

**Search Type:** Natural Language

**Narrowed by:**

**Content Type**  
News

**Narrowed by**  
Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Jan 01, 2006 to Sep 30, 2006

83. [Middle East crisis: Israelis take cover as rockets rain down on north: Barrage reminiscent of height of war in 1980s: One dead, dozens hurt as residents flock to bunkers](#)

**Client/Matter:** -None-



**Search Terms:** Hamas

**Search Type:** Natural Language

**Narrowed by:**

**Content Type**  
News

**Narrowed by**  
Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Jan 01, 2006 to Sep 30, 2006

84. [U. Michigan campus stage for anti-violence rally](#)

**Client/Matter:** -None-

**Search Terms:** Hamas

**Search Type:** Natural Language

**Narrowed by:**

**Content Type**  
News

**Narrowed by**  
Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Jan 01, 2006 to Sep 30, 2006

85. [Carrier heads for the Gulf to rescue Britons in Beirut hell ...but it's stilltwodays' sailing away](#)

**Client/Matter:** -None-

**Search Terms:** Hamas

**Search Type:** Natural Language

**Narrowed by:**

**Content Type**  
News

**Narrowed by**  
Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Jan 01, 2006 to Sep 30, 2006

86. [U.S. has wool pulled over its own eyes](#)

**Client/Matter:** -None-

**Search Terms:** Hamas

**Search Type:** Natural Language

**Narrowed by:**

**Content Type**  
News

**Narrowed by**  
Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Jan 01, 2006 to Sep 30, 2006

87. [Canada set to begin Lebanon evacuations](#)

**Client/Matter:** -None-

**Search Terms:** Hamas

**Search Type:** Natural Language

**Narrowed by:**

**Content Type**  
News

**Narrowed by**  
Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Jan 01, 2006 to Sep 30, 2006

88. [40 dead in Lebanon strikes](#)

**Client/Matter:** -None-

**Search Terms:** Hamas

**Search Type:** Natural Language

**Narrowed by:**

**Content Type**  
News

**Narrowed by**

Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Jan 01, 2006 to Sep 30, 2006

89. [Hezbollah and Israel](#)

**Client/Matter:** -None-

**Search Terms:** Hamas

**Search Type:** Natural Language

**Narrowed by:**

**Content Type**  
News

**Narrowed by**

Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Jan 01, 2006 to Sep 30, 2006

90. [Hezbollah reaping the whirlwind](#)

**Client/Matter:** -None-

**Search Terms:** Hamas

**Search Type:** Natural Language

**Narrowed by:**

**Content Type**  
News

**Narrowed by**

Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Jan 01, 2006 to Sep 30, 2006

91. [CULTURE CLASH Westerners see Muslims as: Intolerant and violent. Muslims see Westerners as: Greedy and selfish. Survey of people in 15 nations shows deteriorating relations.](#)

**Client/Matter:** -None-

**Search Terms:** Hamas

**Search Type:** Natural Language

**Narrowed by:**

**Content Type**  
News

**Narrowed by**

Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Jan 01, 2006 to Sep 30, 2006

92. [Is Annan Jumping the Gun?](#)

**Client/Matter:** -None-

**Search Terms:** Hamas

**Search Type:** Natural Language

**Narrowed by:**

**Content Type**  
News

**Narrowed by**

Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Jan 01, 2006 to Sep 30, 2006

93. [Schoolgirl becomes an icon for Palestinians](#)

**Client/Matter:** -None-

**Search Terms:** Hamas

**Search Type:** Natural Language

**Narrowed by:**

**Content Type**  
News

**Narrowed by**  
Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Jan 01, 2006 to Sep 30, 2006

94. [THE WEEK AHEAD](#)

**Client/Matter:** -None-

**Search Terms:** Hamas

**Search Type:** Natural Language

**Narrowed by:**

**Content Type**  
News

**Narrowed by**  
Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Jan 01, 2006 to Sep 30, 2006

95. [READERS WRITE](#)

**Client/Matter:** -None-

**Search Terms:** Hamas

**Search Type:** Natural Language

**Narrowed by:**

**Content Type**  
News

**Narrowed by**  
Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Jan 01, 2006 to Sep 30, 2006

96. [THE WEEK AHEAD](#)

**Client/Matter:** -None-

**Search Terms:** Hamas

**Search Type:** Natural Language

**Narrowed by:**

**Content Type**  
News

**Narrowed by**  
Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Jan 01, 2006 to Sep 30, 2006

97. [What Roosevelt can teach the DAB](#)

**Client/Matter:** -None-

**Search Terms:** Hamas

**Search Type:** Natural Language

**Narrowed by:**

**Content Type**  
News

**Narrowed by**  
Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Jan 01, 2006 to Sep 30, 2006

98. [ARTICLE: A dream deferred](#)

**Client/Matter:** -None-

**Search Terms:** Hamas

**Search Type:** Natural Language

**Narrowed by:**

**Content Type**  
News

**Narrowed by**  
Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Jan 01, 2006 to Sep 30, 2006

99. [\*High-schoolers want the First Amendment to be the first to go\*](#)

**Client/Matter:** -None-

**Search Terms:** Hamas

**Search Type:** Natural Language

**Narrowed by:**

**Content Type**  
News

**Narrowed by**

Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Jan 01, 2006 to  
Sep 30, 2006

100. [\*ARTICLE: A dream deferred\*](#)

**Client/Matter:** -None-

**Search Terms:** Hamas

**Search Type:** Natural Language

**Narrowed by:**

**Content Type**  
News

**Narrowed by**

Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Jan 01, 2006 to  
Sep 30, 2006

## *In Focus*

The Gazette (Montreal)

July 6, 2006 Thursday

Final Edition

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**Section:** NEWS; Pg. A2; In Focus

**Length:** 578 words

**Byline:** The Gazette

## **Body**

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### Israelis Push Deeper Into Northern Gaza

Israeli forces seized control of former Jewish settlements in the northern Gaza Strip today, effectively carving out a buffer zone after **Hamas** militants fired rockets into a major Israeli city for the second straight day. Details, Page A14

### Italian Spies Arrested

Two senior officials with the Italian intelligence agency were arrested yesterday in connection with the kidnapping of a radical Egyptian cleric in Milan in 2003. Details, Page A14

### Obrador Takes Lead

If recount numbers thus far hold up, leftist Mexican presidential candidate Andres Manuel Lopez Obrador would beat opponent Felipe Calderon of the ruling party. Calderon had maintained a one-per-cent lead, according to a preliminary count of Sunday's vote conducted by the Federal Electoral Institute. Details, Page A14

### Mixed Message in B.C.

Residents of Tumbler Ridge, B.C., were given the green light to return home yesterday, but new evacuation orders were issued for other communities in B.C. and Alberta threatened by a rash of forest fires. Details, Page A10

### Notorious Rapist Freed

Martin Ferrier, a violent sex offender who once expressed a wish to become Canada's "most prolific killer," walked out of an Ontario prison yesterday after serving his sentence - with no conditions attached to his freedom. And there are reports he plans to make his new home in Quebec. Details, Page A10

### Transit Tax Break Kicks in

A new tax credit program for transit users should yield a five-per-cent increase in ridership and take about 110,000 cars off congested city roads, federal Environment Minister Rona Ambrose said yesterday. Details, Page A10

### Guite Must Wait in Prison

## In Focus

Disgraced federal bureaucrat Chuck Guite will have to wait until later in the week to hear whether he'll be freed on bail to await the appeal of his fraud conviction. Details, Page A6

## Ottawa Assailed on Rights

Canada voted last week against a new United Nations declaration on aboriginal rights and that has damaged our reputation as a world leader in human rights, says Kenneth Deer, a Kahnawake Mohawk leader. Details, Page A7

## Too Frisky for Calgary

N'sabi, "a big, muscular bag of hormones," has become too amorous for the female gorillas at the Calgary Zoo, so he and his two brothers are being moved to a new bachelor pad at the Granby Zoo. Details, Page A8

## Business

## Hot Resto Dodges Bullet

Buona Notte, one of Montreal's trendiest bar/restaurants, has averted a lengthy summer shutdown that would have jeopardized what the owners expect to be a record year thanks to the World Outgames hitting town soon. Details, Page B1

## Bikini Village Targets Men

After a tumultuous year of restructuring, Groupe Bikini Village announced plans yesterday to boost swimsuit sales through advertising campaigns targeting men and full-figured women. Details, Page B1

## Sports

## Late Hits Worry Calvillo

Alouettes quarterback Anthony Calvillo is concerned by the number of late hits he has received in the first two games of the season and hopes the trend will not continue. Details, Page C1

## History at Wimbledon

Toronto's Daniel Nestor and Mark Knowles of the Bahamas made history at Wimbledon, advancing to the men's doubles semifinals after beating Simon Aspelin and Todd Perry in a six-hour, nine-minute match. Details, Page C5

## Follow-Up

Ottawa cops ID uriners: Three young men who were photographed urinating on the national war memorial have been identified but probably won't face mischief charges, Ottawa police said yesterday. Page A10

## Graphic

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Photo: (See hard copy for photo description)

**Load-Date:** July 6, 2006

## *Mirror, mirror, on the world's wall*

University Wire

July 19, 2006 Wednesday

Copyright 2006 Minnesota Daily via U-Wire

**Section:** COLUMN

**Length:** 564 words

**Byline:** By Adri Mehra, Minnesota Daily; **SOURCE:** U. Minnesota

**Dateline:** MINNEAPOLIS

### **Body**

---

I heard a phrase recently that's been bandied about the water cooler and the radio dial alike this past week.

Is it another terse Trump aping of "You're fired"? Perhaps the under-due renaissance of MTV's self-styled "wardrobe malfunction"?

I can only wish this one was generated by the usual suspect, reality television.

Nope. The folks of Lake Wobegons everywhere have been talking about "World War III," and it ain't pretty.

Of course, there are a number of reasons for intoning a set of words better reserved for a Philip K. Dick or Frank Herbert novel (hell, I'd even give Tom Clancy naming rights in exchange for peace on Earth).

For one, we see an endgame version of our beloved Bush administration clutching at whatever hawkish straws are left in the burning barn of its failed crotch-grabbing, hyper-ambitious "cowboy diplomacy" tack.

While 2,986 people died in the attacks on Sept. 11, 2001, the British Medical Journal estimates 100,000 innocent Iraqi men, women and children killed by the three-year-old American occupation of their country.

More than 2,500 Americans have lost their lives in Operation Iraqi Freedom - a number that is added to nearly every day - and between 20,000 and 50,000 soldiers have been injured, many of them permanently disfigured, to say nothing of the lifelong psychological damage of combat.

And now what? The United States is readying the rest of the Middle East for a proxy war with Israel in its place.

For all of the purported "saber-rattling" on the parts of Hezbollah and North Korea (which, according to the United States, is out to build the next nuclear bomb), this is really the sound of one hand clapping, and it's ours.

Now in its second week, Israel has pounded the Lebanese capital Beirut, with relentless shelling and airstrikes that already have killed nearly 200 people.

Israel's prolonged and merciless action, which included the bombing of a Beirut power station that left millions of families without power and access to fresh water for days, is supposedly in response to Hezbollah's capture of two Israeli soldiers earlier this month.

## Mirror, mirror, on the world's wall

But everyone knows this is just the tripwire set in place by an increasingly isolated Judeo-American dynasty in its last throes.

Flanked by rising oceans separating it from an extremely prosperous South Asia and an unsympathetic but largely unified Western Europe, the U.S. is in the home stretch of what may be its swansong power play as the world's biggest bully - with Israel as its only friend.

While our schools, libraries and young minds are disintegrating from seven years of neglect, our leaders find themselves running out of cash, oil and that most precious and nonrenewable of commodities: time.

Just like the previous two incarnations of its namesake, World War III soon could be on our doorstep - and we'll have no choice but to sacrifice our livelihoods, and eventually our lives, for the wars of our government.

So every time you hear about Hezbollah or **Hamas** or Kim Jong-il, remember this: These people have no beef with you. They're just stooges in conflicts that have been co-opted by Uncle Sam in your name.

Because when your government's bottom line is synonymous with the military-industrial complex, you need a lot of enemies to make those arms contracts pay off.

World War III. The final installment in a series that may be our last renewable resource.

(C) 2006 Minnesota Daily via U-WIRE

**Load-Date:** July 19, 2006



**Israeli PM names pro-withdrawal foreign minister: One of few women to join upper ranks**

Ottawa Citizen

May 2, 2006 Tuesday

EARLY Edition

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**Section:** NEWS; Pg. A12

**Length:** 600 words

**Byline:** Amy Teibel, The Associated Press; with files The Times, London

**Dateline:** JERUSALEM

## **Body**

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JERUSALEM - Tzipi Livni, a rising star in Israeli politics, was named foreign minister and vice-premier yesterday in the incoming Israeli government, the second-most powerful spot in the nation's male-dominated political scene.

Ms. Livni, part of the newly named cabinet, has travelled a long ideological road, from daughter of a Zionist underground fighter to champion of Israel's withdrawal from much of the West Bank.

Incoming Prime Minister Ehud Olmert's plan to draw Israel's borders in the next four years, with or without a peace accord with the Palestinians, is the political centrepiece of his new coalition.

However, in stitching together a majority team, he had to scrap his pledge to include only parties that back the plan.

The new cabinet lineup, which Mr. Olmert presented yesterday, is expected to take office Thursday, with the government starting its term with 67 seats.

Mr. Olmert is a relatively new face in the top job, replacing legendary soldier and politician Ariel Sharon, who suffered a massive stroke Jan. 4 and is still in a coma.

Labour party leader Amir Peretz takes over as defence minister, a top post in his first cabinet appointment, drawing fire because his experience is in social issues, not security. However, the Moroccan-born politician has a reputation as a take-charge manager, and his appointment could help ease Israel's rapidly deteriorating relationship with the Palestinians following the recent election of **Hamas** to the Palestinian Authority.

A second key job goes to another first-timer, Olmert ally Avraham Hirschson, who is to become finance minister.

Of all the new ministers, Ms. Livni is most in the spotlight. She is a rare **female** power figure in a nation heavy with macho military role models. Ms. Livni is the 10th **female** cabinet minister, though Israel did have a woman as prime minister early on. Golda Meir served from 1969-74.

In just seven years, Ms. Livni, now 47, a lawyer and former Mossad spy agency recruit, has risen from relative obscurity to Israel's second-most powerful politician, earning a reputation as a pragmatic straight-talker.

Israeli PM names pro-withdrawal foreign minister: One of few women to join upper ranks

Both Mr. Olmert and Ms. Livni are heirs of what Israelis like to call the Likud "royalty" -- the leading families of the hawkish Israeli party that dominated Israeli politics for the better part of three decades. And both broke with that party after concluding that the reality of living alongside and among a fast-growing Palestinian population meant giving up some of the idea of a Greater Israel that stretched across both banks of the Jordan River.

Ms. Livni, who followed Mr. Sharon into Kadima from Likud, abandoned Likud's decades-long opposition to withdrawing from territory and became a main proponent of Mr. Olmert's plan to abandon much of the West Bank.

"We will lead in the direction of two states," -- one for Israel, one for the Palestinians -- she said, as Kadima's election campaign kicked off in November.

It was a particularly long leap for the daughter of a legendary member of the sometimes violent pre-state underground Irgun, which was the forerunner of Likud.

Other members of Mr. Olmert's new government include Avi Dichter, a former head of Shin Bet, the internal security service, who is to become public security minister and Haim Ramon, who defected to Kadima from Labour, who will be justice minister.

Shaul Mofaz, the former general who served under Mr. Sharon at defence, is now tipped to be transport minister.

Shimon Peres, Israel's elder statesman, was put in charge of developing the Negev and Galilee and given the courtesy title of deputy prime minister, junior to Ms. Livni.

**Load-Date:** May 2, 2006

## *Smooth-Talking Saudi Ambassador Fields Gentle Questions*

New York Sun (Archive)

April 27, 2006 Thursday

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**Section:** FOREIGN; Pg. 6

**Length:** 582 words

**Byline:** By GARY SHAPIRO, Staff Reporter of the Sun

### **Body**

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Wearing a jacket with a white handkerchief neatly tucked into the breast pocket, Saudi Arabia's ambassador to America, Turki Al Faisal, wasted little time during a public appearance at Columbia University's School of International and Public Affairs in denouncing Osama bin Laden, saying the terrorist's was an evil vision. "Osama Bin Laden does not speak for Muslims," Mr. Al Faisal said yesterday afternoon. "His religion is extremism."

As the discussion wore on, Mr. Al Faisal addressed topics from Israel-Palestinian relations to Iran's nuclear capacity - offering Saudi views on both, as well as some opinions on his country's domestic policies.

"We have good relations with Iran," now, improved since the 1980s, the ambassador said in response to an audience question relayed by the school's dean, Lisa Anderson. Mr. Al Faisal said his country was concerned about even a nonmilitary nuclear mishap in Iran - because prevailing winds from Iran head toward Saudi Arabia. King Abdullah has urged Iran to accept a Russian proposal whereby Iran would get its enriched uranium for civilian nuclear energy from Russia, Mr. Al Faisal noted.

A lecturer of international law at Benha University in Egypt, Wael Allam, who is a visiting scholar at Columbia and attended yesterday's event, said he would have preferred to hear more specifics on the evolution of Saudi-Iranian relations in Mr. Al Faisal's speech.

When Ms. Anderson asked Mr. Al Faisal to describe the Iraq War from a Saudi perspective, he said his country was working toward building stability and security by utilizing its contacts with "all Iraqi factions," because, he said, a unified Iraq is in the best interests for all Iraqis.

"Public opinion wants to see engagement," Mr. Al Faisal said, in comments on the Israeli-Palestinian Arab situation. "I wish I could be optimistic for peace." He quoted a poll that found 60% of Israelis and more than 70% of Palestinian Arabs think Israel and **Hamas** should be communicating.

In response to a question about a visit to Saudi Arabia by President Hu, the ambassador said, "We see China as a stable and a very friendly country," adding, "They also buy a lot of our oil."

As Ms. Anderson read other questions submitted by audience members, discussion shifted to America's diversifying energy sources. Mr. Al Faisal said America could certainly increase its ethanol usage, but that if it were increased to 6% of the country's total energy consumption, America would need to plant cornfields the size of Idaho, Nebraska, and a couple of other states to keep pace. That's "okay with us," Ms. Anderson interjected, "We're in New York."

## Smooth-Talking Saudi Ambassador Fields Gentle Questions

"Our evolution and change is going to come at our own pace," Mr. Al Faisal said when talking about domestic issues. Mr. Al Faisal touched only briefly on a range of difficult internal topics, including illegal workers, offensive materials in primary school curricula, women's employment, and freedom of the press. American history, such as its Civil Rights movement and the Civil War, were helpful to Saudis, the ambassador said: "We want to learn from your experience."

A senior fellow at the National Committee on American Foreign Policy, George Gruen, who earned a doctorate at Columbia in international relations and Middle East studies, said of the ambassador: "He put the best forward" when presenting his country's views and making Saudi Arabia sound progressive. But nobody asked the ambassador whether women can drive alone in their country, Mr. Gruen added.

**Load-Date:** April 27, 2006

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End of Document

**Barrier's hardships can't compare to terrorist violence**

St. Petersburg Times (Florida)

February 18, 2006 Saturday

0 South Pinellas Edition

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**Section:** EDITORIAL; Pg. 15A

**Length:** 2649 words

## **Body**

---

I appreciate Susan Taylor Martin's Feb. 15 report, At barrier, real life is rerouted. It does present some of the hardships Palestinians are experiencing. But those hardships do not compare to the agony of learning your loved ones have just been blown to bits by a terrorist while riding a bus home from work or school or while eating lunch at a restaurant.

We all remember the day - 9/11 - when we experienced that same feeling of fear fueled by a terrorist attack. Yet in Israel, the horror of terror is experienced all too often. Would we in the United States leave our borders open if faced with that same dilemma time after time? I think - in fact, I know - not.

In retrospect, I have to wonder if the security fence would ever have been erected had the Palestinians themselves demanded a stop to terrorism by their own people. Whatever its grievance, a civilized society does not permit its own to act in an uncivilized way.

Lawrence Silver, Oldsmar

The apartheid cannot continue

Re: At barrier, real life is rerouted.

Susan Martin's article was excellent and to the point. What Israeli politicians have to realize (in addition to the tremendous suffering they inflicted on the Palestinians who own the land) is that this barrier will bring them misery as well. The only way Israelis will be both safe and prosperous is when the Palestinians get their legitimate rights in independence and freedom. This will open all Arab markets for the Israelis.

If the problem is not solved, it won't take much for mortars and rockets to fly over the barrier or attacks to get more high-tech. Israelis must understand that the policy of apartheid and racism cannot continue.

Saleh Mubarak, Seffner

Remember Palestinian responsibility

Re: At barrier, real life is rerouted.

Conspicuously absent from any of Susan Martin's reports from the Middle East is some acknowledgment by Palestinians that they have any responsibility at all for their sad plight. One looks in vain through dozens of

## Barrier's hardships can't compare to terrorist violence

interviews recounted by her in the last year for any comment like: "We made a mistake in supporting the terror attacks on the Israelis; it hurt us as much or more than it hurt them".

In fact, Yousif Khataib's gas station was successful - not just in 1956 when his grandfather opened it - but in 2000, when Palestinian commerce still thrived under the Israeli "occupation." And Qassem Sourchi was still strolling the 500 yards to his campus in 2000, without interference. But when the Palestinian leadership decided to unleash a campaign of terror and violence against Israel, Israelis suffered the attacks, and Palestinians suffered the consequences.

So what course did the Palestinians choose in their long-awaited election two weeks ago, the first in a decade? Overwhelmingly, they voted for Hamas, whose creed makes no distinctions between an Israel with a "wall" or without a "wall," an Israel within 1967 borders or 1948 borders. None of it makes a difference: They are committed to the total destruction of Israel.

So long as the Palestinian people and their leaders reject the path of negotiation, peace and reconciliation, they forfeit any legitimate claim to the world's sympathy.

Bruce Epstein and Barry Augenbraun, Jewish

Community Relations Council of the Pinellas County Jewish Federation

Wall makes matters worse

Re: At barrier, real life is rerouted.

I commend Susan Martin for stating the facts in her article. This is reality for many Palestinians, and I know this for a fact because, although I am not a Palestinian, I have been to Jerusalem recently and have seen the wall firsthand and its effect on the Palestinian people.

Many Palestinians echoed accounts very similar to those revealed in this article. What was once a 10-minute drive to work is now, at best, an hour and a half drive and what was once a short walk to visit family is now a checkpoint nightmare.

Israel is wasting American taxpayers' money on building this "antiterrorist wall," only to isolate the Palestinian people from the rest of the world when it should be spending our money wisely building peaceful bridges.

It upsets me to hear about the hardships this wall has caused. Imagine how the people this wall affects feel. This wall is not the solution of the Palestinian-Israeli conflict. If anything, it makes matters worse. This "antiterrorist wall" is a terrorist in itself because it terrorizes the lives of thousands of innocent Palestinians.

Ayesha Nasr, Tampa

Fence is well worth it

Re: At barrier, real life is rerouted.

As Susan Martin writes: "Attacks . . . have dropped as much as 90 percent" from areas where the barrier is completed. The Israeli government says that upon completion 97 percent of the barrier will be fence, 3 percent wall. Given the barrier's success at reducing the number of suicide bombings, the difficulties it causes Palestinian travel is regrettable, but well worth it.

Gilbert Kushner, Tampa

Israeli barrier crosses the line

Re: At barrier, real life is rerouted.

## Barrier's hardships can't compare to terrorist violence

I had no idea that the mentioned wall has caused so much "daily" misery and hardship to Palestinian people. I can understand building an Israeli wall on Israeli land, for reasons even less than security. What I can't understand is building it on Palestinian land. While we debate in the United States building a fence on the U.S. side of the Mexican border, no one ever considered putting it on the Mexican side.

No wonder the European Union has condemned the fence. Even the Israeli courts have deemed parts of the fence illegal in June 2004 stating that "it causes too much harm for Palestinians." The article informed me that an Israeli human rights organization confirmed the negative impact on 500,000 Palestinians. There must have been another way of making it a legal fence.

Mohamed Ghabour, Valrico

The fence should be taller

Re: At barrier, real life is rerouted.

Last week I was in Israel, including some of the same areas Susan Martin writes about, and this is what I saw: Israeli citizens (including pregnant women) undergoing security searches just to enter restaurants; Israeli children growing up behind the protection of barbed wire and armed guards; Israelis living in terror that the next stranger walking past will kill them.

Susan Martin's heart goes out to a student whose commute to college is far less than the distance from Pinellas County to USF, and to a gas station owner whose business is suffering. Give me a break. Earlier this month, a terrorist got past the fence, pulled out a knife and stabbed five people because they were Jewish. Doesn't this matter?

The people I met in the vibrant, America loving Israel are sick of the violence and want freedom from fear. They want their real lives rerouted back to safety. I looked at the security fence and thought it should be taller.

Marshall Seiden, St. Petersburg

Barrier remains necessary

Times senior correspondent Susan Taylor Martin has presented readers with a fine analysis of the "barrier" between Israel and the Palestinians. Her column does motivate a number of observations.

Israel realizes that to retain its integrity as a tiny Jewish state it must separate itself from hostile Arabs. Unlike the Palestinian Hamas, it favors a two-state solution. Hamas, of course, continues the objective of "wiping Israel off the map." It should be noted that the current Arab population of Israel is some 18 percent. Israeli Arabs have the same rights as all Israeli citizens. It should be obvious that Israelis have no obligation to provide jobs, medical care, etc. to people who wish to destroy them. Our current border problems should allow us to understand this.

The Palestinians blame everyone but themselves for their plight. They have had the corruption of Arafat. Now they have chosen the terrorists of Hamas. Israel is willing to have them live in their own state. Meanwhile a "barrier" must continue.

Norman N. Gross, president, PRIMER (Promoting

Responsibility in Middle East Reporting), Palm Harbor

A disheartening gap in understanding

I've been waiting a little over four years for Muslims worldwide to rise up in anger and indignation. The wait is over but I am thoroughly disappointed that their target is paper-and-ink cartoons and not the men of the movement that hijacked their religion as well as the planes that shattered the World Trade Center and so many lives!

## Barrier's hardships can't compare to terrorist violence

All I feel now is an emptiness and sadness that such a wide gulf in understanding and tolerance exists today and into the foreseeable future!

Andrew Madeloni, Port Richey

## Free expression shouldn't fuel hate

As an organization whose mission it is to promote dialogue and respect among cultures and religions, we deplore the offensive publication of representations of the prophet Mohammed and the violence generated in response.

Whereas freedom of expression is a pillar of democracy, the exercise of this right carries with it a responsibility of good judgment. The use of stereotypes and labeling that insults deeply rooted religious feelings does not contribute to the creation of the type of inclusive environment that is conducive to constructive and peaceful dialogue.

Over the years, our world has become more global. The diversity of our cities, our schools and our workplaces is an irreversible reality and one that we believe enriches us tremendously. However, the changing face of our communities also raises the critical question of how to uphold one's own traditions, values and beliefs, while at the same time respecting (or not offending) the traditions, values and beliefs of others who have become our neighbors. Managing the inter-group dynamics of a diverse community is a very delicate task that requires sensitivity, openness and tolerance.

Maybe when the dust settles, we will begin to realize that building harmonious relationships between the different religions and cultures is a very serious matter in which we carry both a collective and an individual responsibility.

Birgit Van Hout, executive director, Community

Tampa Bay, St. Petersburg

## The limits of a religion's power

What is missing in all the stories I read about the extreme Muslim reaction to the Danish, and other European, publications of drawings of Mohammed, is that no religion has the right to tell nonbelievers how to behave as long as that behavior is within the laws of the country in which it occurs. Hindus have no right to tell me to adhere to their practice of not eating beef. Catholics cannot tell me to avoid birth control practices. Muslims have no right to tell me not to make a drawing of Jesus or Mohammed.

In all cases the only right that any religion has is the right to require its own practitioners to behave as they wish, and, if some practitioner or believer does not properly follow those beliefs, then that religion has the right to exclude that person. No religion has the right to tell the people of Europe or the United States that they must give up one of their most basic rights - the right of free speech. Muslim prayer leaders have the right to forbid only their own believers from making or publishing those depictions of Mohammed.

That needs to be made clear to all, and our government should be doing that.

Ian MacFarlane, St. Petersburg

## Changing minds at Guantanamo

Re: In legal limbo, editorial, Feb. 13.

The sub-headline reads: "A majority of the prisoners at Guantanamo Bay have no history of aggression toward the United States, and no hope of being released any time soon."

If they had no thoughts of aggression toward the United States in the beginning, I'm sure they do now!

Donald F. Kelly, St. Petersburg



Barrier's hardships can't compare to terrorist violence

Go to the Koran directly

Re: DVDs, books to inform about Islam's holy one, Feb. 15.

In this Times item, the Council on American-Islamic Relations announced it is offering to tell the truth about their prophet Mohammed.

I wonder if it will be the whole truth.

If you want to know the truth about Mohammed why not go to the Koran directly? Especially Chapters 8 and 9.

We don't have to rely on edited materials to know about Islam. The Koran is short and readily available online and in bookstores.

M. Economidis, Tampa

Fort De Soto Park is perfect as is

Re: Serving up relaxation, by Jake Stowers,

Feb. 17.

The Fort Restaurant is long gone, so is Maas Brothers, Webb's City, and Aunt Hattie's. They're called memories, and I have fond ones of the city I grew up in.

If Stowers wants to "kick back with a grouper sandwich and a cold beer," let him stop at Billy's on Tierra Verde.

As for Fort De Soto Park, leave it alone! It's perfect just the way it is.

Frank Barry, Seminole

Leave us some unspoiled areas

Re: Fort De Soto Park.

Why not develop the camp ground and put in some condos? We can't have an unimproved parcel of waterfront property in this county now can we? While you're at it, why not start on Egmont Key, too?

I hope that the sarcasm comes through in writing the same as it does in speaking. Whoever came up with this nonsense needs to be fired or voted off the County Commission. Please leave one unspoiled area for those of us who want to enjoy a natural setting that you do not need a boat to get to.

Michael J. Henry, St. Petersburg

Go elsewhere for that beer

Re: Serving up relaxation.

Jake Stowers makes the mistake that people of his ilk in county government always seem to make. The mistake is: If some is good then more has to be better. In the last decade the coastline in Pinellas County has morphed from smaller mom-and-pop type businesses to corporate/developer interests that have obliterated the soul of that area.

My Northern friends who come here every couple of years can't believe what they see regarding the growth of what they remember from their last visit. These same people who prefer to live up there in big cities and small towns alike will eventually have enough and spend their vacations somewhere else. I'm sure that will be fine for Stowers because those medium-income folks will be replaced by the higher-income people who think asphalt and concrete instead of sand along an ocean are just swell.

## Barrier's hardships can't compare to terrorist violence

So here's the deal, Mr. Stowers: For a grouper sandwich and a beer at a beach go to St. Pete Beach or better yet Clearwater where county administrators have made sure there is an abundance of both.

Jason Jerald, Tampa

Too much has already been bulldozed

Re: Who wants all that icky nature stuff at a park?

Cannot the county keep a beach in its natural state? They killed Sand Key and now want to do so with Fort De Soto Park. I grew up in Largo and visit constantly. I've seen all the "improvements." Why is it up to the residents to save the local history? Too much beauty has already been bulldozed. It is past time to stop! Fort De Soto is a place I want to take my grandchildren to, in its current state.

Chris Smith, Hudson

A quiet tropical paradise

I was disappointed to read that the Pinellas County Commission is considering making changes to Fort De Soto Park. My husband and I are currently in an RV park in Largo and have spent several months in this area. In the city we are close to any and every thing commercially possible, including the ice cream truck!

We had the opportunity to camp at Fort De Soto for 10 days in December. It was wonderful! A quiet tropical paradise! Please don't change it. People need an opportunity to spend time in nature, enjoying the birds and sea life. There aren't many places left this way. Once it is changed, you can't go back.

Jane Williams, Woodstock, Ga.

A discouraging crossword

Re: The home of the Devil Rays.

When we built a baseball stadium and searched for a team for it, we often told ourselves that one of the benefits would be publicity for St. Petersburg and for Pinellas County. Then Vince Naimoli named the team the Tampa Bay Devil Rays and the name of the stadium was changed to Tropicana Field.

So, where does the country think the Devil Rays are located? The 32 Down clue in the Feb. 11 Daily Crossword on page 2F of the St. Petersburg Times was "Home of the Devil Rays."

The answer was Tampa.

Palmer O. Hanson Jr., Largo

## Graphic

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PHOTO, JOHN PENDYGRAFT; PHOTO, TIMES FILES

At Abu Dis, a man leaps over part of a wall that Israel has been constructing to protect its citizens from Palestinian terrorists. The 459-mile barricade of fences, trenches and huge walls makes life difficult for many Palestinians but has

sharply reduced the number of attacks on Israelis.; (2001) Kayaking is one of the popular activities at Pinellas County's Fort De Soto Park.

Barrier's hardships can't compare to terrorist violence

**Load-Date:** February 18, 2006

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End of Document

## **Top Israel court backs curb on Arab spouses; Ruling blocks reunification of families**

The International Herald Tribune

May 15, 2006 Monday

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**Section:** NEWS; Pg. 4

**Length:** 579 words

**Byline:** Greg Myre

**Dateline:** JERUSALEM

### **Body**

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Israel's high court on Sunday narrowly upheld a contentious law that can block Palestinians in the West Bank and the Gaza Strip from moving to Israel to live with a spouse who is an Arab citizen of the Jewish state.

In a 6-to-5 ruling, the court rejected claims that the law violated the civil rights of Palestinians and Arab citizens of Israel. The majority sided with the Israeli authorities, who say that allowing young Palestinians to move into Israel through marriage poses an unacceptable security risk.

"This law prevents family reunification based simply on the nationality of one spouse," said Abeer Baker, a lawyer for Adalah, a legal center representing the couples seeking to live together in Israel. Hundreds, perhaps thousands of couples may be kept apart by the law, Baker said. But precise figures are difficult to come by, she said, because many such couples do not want to be identified for fear of legal problems.

Of Israel's seven million citizens, more than one million are Arab. The vast majority of the Arab Israelis have family ties and other relations with the estimated 3.8 million Palestinians in the West Bank and Gaza.

But Israel has made it increasingly difficult for Palestinians in the West Bank and Gaza to enter Israel since the Palestinian uprising began in 2000.

The measure ruled upon by the court, which amends Israel's Citizenship Law, has been criticized by human rights groups since it was approved in 2002, at the height of the uprising.

Over the years, thousands of Palestinians have been granted residency in Israel as part of family reunification, including marriage. Of this group, about 25 have been involved in terrorism, according to the Israeli authorities.

Government lawyers argued that the law was more relevant than ever now that the Palestinian Authority is led by **Hamas**, the radical Islamic group that has carried out many of the suicide bombings against Israel.

"The Palestinian Authority is an enemy government, a government that wants to destroy the state and is not willing to recognize Israel," Justice Michel Cheshin said earlier this year during arguments in the case.

Cheshin said that if the couples wanted to be together, they could live in the West Bank rather than Israel.

## Top Israel court backs curb on Arab spouses Ruling blocks reunification of families

The chief justice, Aharon Barak, dissented, saying "this violation of rights is directed against Arab citizens of Israel."

Human rights lawyers argued that Israel already has laws that allow the government to revoke the residency of anyone suspected of involvement in terror.

The amended Citizenship Law says that Palestinian men over age 35 and women over 25 may apply to be with a spouse in Israel. However, these requests may be denied and often are. Critics of the amendment assert that it is intended not only for security, but also to limit the number of Arabs living in Israel.

In West Bank violence, meanwhile, Israeli troops killed four Palestinians in two separate shooting exchanges, according to Palestinian security officials and the Israeli military.

A Palestinian security officer, identified as Ali Jabarin, was fatally shot at a security building in the town of Jenin, while three Palestinians were killed in the nearby village of Qabatiya, the Palestinians said.

Two of those killed in Qabatiya were brothers, Thair and Mejahid Hanaisha, and at least one of them was believed to be linked to Islamic Jihad, according to Agence France-Presse. The third man was fatally shot after throwing stones at the troops, the agency said.

**Load-Date:** May 17, 2006

## INNOCENTS ABROAD

The Australian (Australia)

April 26, 2006 Wednesday

All-round Country Edition

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**Section:** FEATURES; Leader; Pg. 15

**Length:** 651 words

### **Body**

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MATP

Bombers in the Sinai aim to destabilise a US ally

IN what is emerging as a disturbing pattern, terrorists have struck once again at foreign tourists in the seaside resorts of Egypt's Sinai Peninsula. Swiss, German and Russian holidaymakers are thought to be among at least 24 victims of three blasts that ripped through restaurants and a supermarket at the popular Red Sea diving hub of Dahab yesterday. The Department of Foreign Affairs has confirmed that two Australian women were injured in the explosions, which wounded as many as 60. It is the third terror attack targeting foreign tourists enjoying Egypt's Gulf of Aqaba coastline in 18 months. Thirty-four people died in bombings at the Red Sea resorts of Taba and Ras Shitan in October 2004. Nine months later, explosions killed 88 and injured hundreds in the seaside resort of Sharm el-Sheikh.

By last night no one had claimed responsibility for the latest attack, believed to have involved three suicide bombers. A short ferry ride from Saudi Arabia, close to countries where terrorist cells operate such as Jordan and Yemen, and sharing an easily breached border with the Gaza Strip, the Sinai is becoming a favourite terror target. The fact the bombers hit the day after Osama bin Laden denounced "crusader wars on Islam", and labelled Westerners as legitimate jihadist targets strongly suggests an al-Qa'ida connection. In the past few years the global terror group has been linked to attacks on Westerners in tourist meccas including Bali's Kuta Beach in 2002 and 2005, the Kenyan city of Mombasa in 2002, and Morocco's Casablanca in 2003. At the same time there is an equally strong possibility the attack was the work of local Islamic militants aiming to destabilise the Government of Egyptian strongman and close US ally President Hosni Mubarak. Under pressure from Washington, which bankrolls his secular regime to the tune of \$US2 billion annually, Mr Mubarak last year began taking tentative steps towards democracy. These included multi-party elections which saw the Muslim Brotherhood capture a fifth of the seats and exposed the Government's vulnerability. US Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice is pushing for a faster pace of political reform in Egypt. The danger is that following this path could see the authoritarian Mubarak regime toppled by the fundamentalist Brotherhood. As with the Palestinian election that saw the terrorist organisation Hamas propelled into power earlier this year, a Muslim Brotherhood-run Egypt would mean unprecedented chaos for the Middle East.

Evidence of an organised pattern in the terror attacks, suggesting a sole group is responsible, is clear in that each of the last three have occurred near a national holiday. Egyptians are due to mark the 24th anniversary of Israel's withdrawal from the Sinai next week. The bombings in Dahab also came as Egyptians celebrated the ancient spring festival of Sham el-Nessim, crowds of tourists participated in the Coptic Christian observance of Easter and Israeli

## INNOCENTS ABROAD

vacationers lingered after the previous week's Passover holiday. The assaults are aimed at the heart of Egypt's tourism industry, which contributes more than 5 per cent to the country's economic growth. Tourists, however, are showing themselves to be remarkably resilient in the face of terror: some eight million foreigners visited Egypt last year.

Terrorists are showing their true colours in their attacks on Egypt's booming Red Sea resorts. Their thirst for blood is unquenchable and indiscriminate. Most of the victims among the roll-call of dead and injured in yesterday's attack will be ordinary Muslims. And the damage of the bombs on the coast's tourism infrastructure means innumerable locals will lose their jobs and desperately needed incomes. Egypt is at a crossroads. Its best prospect of surviving as a moderate, secular society is with the continued strong support of Western nations.

**Load-Date:** April 25, 2006

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End of Document

## *Married, but Israel forces them to live apart*

The Australian (Australia)

May 18, 2006 Thursday

All-round Country Edition

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**Section:** WORLD; Pg. 11

**Length:** 591 words

**Byline:** Stephen Farrell

### **Body**

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The Times

Ramallah

THEY have been called the Romeo and Juliet of the Middle East. But Pyramus and Thisbe are the better parallel for this divided couple.

Like the doomed Babylonian lovers of Ovid's tale, Osama Zatar and Jasmin Avissar are separated by a wall -- in this case, the vast concrete slab that Israel has erected between their home towns.

Ms Avissar, an Israeli Jew, and Mr Zatar, a Palestinian Muslim, met while working together at an animal shelter near the border between Jerusalem and Ramallah, the West Bank capital now sealed off by a 5m concrete wall, watchtowers and razor wire.

She is a ballet dancer and he a sculptor. But although they married two years ago, he cannot travel to Israel to be with his wife.

After a Supreme Court ruling upheld a ban on Palestinians remaining in the Jewish state with their Israeli spouses Ms Avissar, 25, is forbidden to bring her husband to Israel to live together as a couple.

"We pray to God that it will work out but I have given up hoping. I am leaving it to fate," Mr Zatar said.

The court's ruling, criticised as racist by human rights groups and Israeli Arab MPs, upheld an amendment to a citizenship law introduced in 2002 at the height of the intifada. Enacted in an attempt to stop Palestinian suicide bombers and gunmen entering the country, it allowed only Palestinian women over 25 and men over 35 to apply to join their spouses. Mr Zatar is 26.

Israeli Interior Ministry spokeswoman Sabin Hadad said: "In this case, Osama is under 35, so there's nothing we can do. When there's a law, we must obey it."

Although the couple's families support their rare cross-community marriage and she can travel into Ramallah on a temporary permit, their future is uncertain because her pass expires in a month.



## Married, but Israel forces them to live apart

"We're in a Kafkaesque situation. All we want is the right to live together as a married couple," said Ms Avissar, who crosses an Israeli checkpoint almost daily to work as a waitress in a Jerusalem cafe, before returning to Ramallah in the evening. "After the Supreme Court's decision, a lot of couples will have to move out of Israel altogether, or live apart. I am luckier than other couples because I have a job in Jerusalem, when many in Ramallah do not have work."

Their lawyer, Michael Sfard, has appealed to the Supreme Court seeking permission for them to be together, either in Jerusalem or Ramallah. Under the UN declaration on human rights, he argues, they "have the basic right to live a family life and free choice of spouse".

His petition even cites Shakespeare's Romeo and Juliet, saying of Mr Zatar: "Being held a foe, he may not have access to breathe such vows as lovers use to swear; And she as much in love, her means much less to meet her new-beloved anywhere."

Israeli law and the construction of its controversial 800km barrier reflect the Jewish state's concern that Palestinians will soon outnumber Jews between the Mediterranean Sea and Jordan River.

Although they had an Islamic ceremony as well as a civil wedding in Cyprus, Mr Zatar remains worried about his wife being in the West Bank, amid growing hardship and fears of civil war between Hamas and Fatah gunmen.

"We haven't received any threats from any factions but I am concerned for her safety because, in all the chaos here, you never know -- someone might do anything for \$100," he said.

Ms Avissar's father, Menachem, 63, said: "We love them both and we try to support them in all ways. I feel betrayed by my country. It is cancelling a basic right of a citizen to build a home and to create a family."

**Load-Date:** May 18, 2006

## *In Focus*

The Gazette (Montreal)

April 12, 2006 Wednesday

Final Edition

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**Section:** NEWS; Pg. A2

**Length:** 587 words

**Byline:** The Gazette

## **Body**

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at Pakistani celebration

At least 47 people were killed and more than 100 injured yesterday when a bomber blew himself up in the port city of Karachi at a huge gathering to celebrate the birthday of the Prophet Muhammad. Afterward, angry mobs lashed out at security forces, setting vehicles ablaze, including ambulances and fire trucks, and also damaging two movie theatres. Details, Page A15

Israel stands by attacks

Israel stood by its new policy yesterday of firing artillery shells at Palestinian rocket squads operating from populated areas in Gaza, even after a round killed an 8-year-old Palestinian girl. The Israeli military intensified its offensive against Palestinian rocket fire after **Hamas** took charge of the Palestinian Authority two weeks ago. Details, Page A16

Cloutier wants out of jail

Former entertainment mogul Guy Cloutier, who was sentenced to 42 months in prison in December 2004 for sexually assaulting two minors over a period of seven years, will appear before the National Parole Board today to determine whether he qualifies for both day and full parole. Details, Page A7

Key resource for **women**

One year before Kelly-Anne Drummond was murdered by her boyfriend, she went to the local police station to find out whether he had a criminal record, but got nowhere. She should have gone to the Montreal courthouse to check on her partner's past, as hundreds of **women** do every year. Details, Page A6

MNA assails SAAQ hike

Maurice Clermont, Liberal backbencher for the Laval riding of Milles-Iles, appealed to the head of Quebec's no-fault auto insurance corporation yesterday to think of "the little guy making \$35,000 a year" before sharply increasing premiums. Details, Page A10

Cancer checks save lives

## In Focus

Many more people could join the ranks of cancer survivors if screening in this country was expanded and better organized, the Canadian Cancer Society said yesterday as it released its annual calculations on the toll the disease will take in Canada. Details, Page A12

## 'Intelligent design' caveat

Only days after an academic controversy erupted in Canada over the theory of evolution, Britain's top science organization has taken the unusual step of issuing a warning about the global rise of "intelligent design" as a rival explanation for life on Earth. Details, Page A14

## Business

## Coutu's integration woes

Executives at the Jean Coutu Group drugstore chain admit the company is at least a year behind in its troubled integration of more than 1,549 Eckerd drugstores in the United States. Details, Page B1

## Telephone wars heat up

The battle for telephone customers in Quebec has escalated with Videotron's launch of a cable phone service for small businesses. Details, Page B2

## Sports

## Robitaille hangs 'em up

Luc Robitaille, the 40-year-old forward with the Los Angeles Kings, announced his retirement yesterday. Robitaille will retire as the NHL's highest-scoring left winger. Details, Page C1

## Teen skier a rising star

Marie-Michele Belanger-Timothy, 17, was competing in only her second Canadian ski championships last month when she topped two national-team stars to finish third in the super giant slalom. Details, Page C5

## Arts &amp; Life

## Raising money in fat city

There's was a whole lotta eatin' goin' on at Monday's Taste of the Nation fundraiser, where, Bill Brownstein writes, the smart guests wore sneakers. Details, Page D1

## Rookie playwright awed

David Sherman's been writing since he was about 12 years old, but he says it was a special thrill to see his first play hit the stage at Centaur Theatre. Details, Page D5

## Graphic

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Photo: (Bomber kills dozens at Pakistani celebration)

**Load-Date:** April 12, 2006

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## *Almost three months of captivity*

Christian Science Monitor

March 31, 2006, Friday

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**Section:** WORLD; Pg. 10

**Length:** 615 words

### **Body**

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Saturday, Jan. 7

- \* Jill Carroll kidnapped in Baghdad. Interpreter Allan Enwiya is killed.
- \* The Christian Science Monitor requests a media blackout while recovery gets under way.

Jan. 9

- \* Media blackout ends.

Jan. 15

- \* The Jordan Times (where Carroll worked) calls for Carroll's release in editorial, titled "Our Jill."

Jan. 17

- \* Al Jazeera airs first videotape from Carroll's captors. Al Jazeera says that the captors demand the release of all **female** prisoners in Iraq within 72 hours, and implies that Carroll will be killed if demands are not met.
- \* The Carroll family releases a statement appealing for release.

Jan. 18

- \* Prominent Muslims, including Iraq's Muslim Scholars Association, Egypt's Muslim Brotherhood, the Iraq Journalists' League, and Iraqi Accordance Front call for Carroll's release.
- \* Monitor holds press conference in Washington about Carroll.
- \* An editorial calling for release is published in Jordan's Al Ghad newspaper and widely cited.

Jan. 19

- \* Eight Egyptian human rights groups release joint statement calling for Carroll's release.
- \* The Supreme Guide of the Muslim Brotherhood releases statement calling for release.
- \* Mary Beth Carroll, Jill's mother, appeals on CNN for Jill's release.

## Almost three months of captivity

Jan. 20

- \* First deadline passes.
- \* Carroll's father appears on Al Jazeera and Al Arabiya.
- \* Reporters Without Borders rallies at Grand Mosque of Paris.
- \* Sunni political leader Adnan al-Dulaimi, whom Carroll was attempting to visit when she was kidnapped, calls for her release.

Jan. 21

- \* Delegation from Council on American-Islamic Relations, goes to Baghdad to try to spur release.

Jan. 22

- \* Carroll's father appeals on CNN.

Jan. 23

- \* Liberties Committee of the Egyptian Lawyers' Syndicate calls for Carroll's release.
- \* **Hamas** calls for Carroll's release.

Jan. 26

- \* Five Iraqi **female** detainees and over 400 male prisoners are released.
- \* 37 Arab intellectuals and politicians appeal.

Jan. 29

- \* Adnan al-Dulaimi makes second statement.

Jan. 30

- \* Al Jazeera airs second video. The voice-over says that Carroll appeals for release of all Iraqi **women** prisoners.

Feb. 1

- \* Baghdad's New Sabah newspaper calls for release and runs the first of three front-page public-service announcements.
- \* Waddah Khanfar, managing director of Al Jazeera, makes on-air appeal for Carroll's release on behalf of network's journalists.

Feb. 5

- \* Poster of Carroll is hung on Rome's city hall.

Feb. 7

- \* Reporters Without Borders (RWB) rallies. Former French hostage Florence Aubenas and Monitor 's Peter Ford attend.

Feb. 9

- \* Kuwaiti TV station Al Rai airs third video.

Almost three months of captivity

\* Jim and Mary Beth Carroll appeal on "Good Morning, America," to Sattam al-Gaood, former senior associate of Saddam Hussein.

Feb. 10

\* The owner of Al Rai says Carroll is being held in Baghdad with a group of women, according to "sources close to kidnappers."

Feb.14

\* Sattam al-Gaood, makes appeal.

\* Al Iraqiya airs public-service video.

Feb. 16

\* Students rally at University of Massachusetts, Amherst, Carroll's alma mater.

Feb. 21

\* RWB launches a week-long international support campaign.

\* Students at the University of Michigan-Ann Arbor hold a candlelight vigil.

March 6

\* Monitor publishes tribute to Allan Enwiya, Jill's Iraqi interpreter.

March 9

\* Monitor announces renewed efforts to broadcast public-service announcements.

March 20

\* RWB unveils giant portrait of Carroll in the Place de la Nation in Paris. Appears next to portraits of kidnapped Iraqi journalists Reem Zeid, Marwan Khazaal.

March 24

\* CNN reports on the more than 2,000 letters of support and prayers for Jill sent to Monitor.

March 29

\* Katie Carroll, Jill's twin sister, appeals on Al Arabiya for information.

March 30

\* Jill Carroll released in Baghdad.

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**Load-Date:** March 30, 2006

## *Passionate portrayal of an insecure idealist THEATRE*

The Daily Telegraph (LONDON)

April 4, 2006 Tuesday

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**Section:** FEATURES; The Arts; Pg. 24

**Length:** 572 words

**Byline:** Charles Spencer

### **Body**

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My Name is Rachel Corrie

PLAYHOUSE THEATRE

REVIEW

BY rights, this production shouldn't be playing in London at all, but in America. The show was set to open last month at the New York Theatre Workshop but was pulled in what its director, Alan Rickman, has called "censorship born out of fear".

First seen in May last year at the Royal Court, this monologue is undeniably a hot potato. Rachel Corrie was a middle-class American student, who in January 2003 joined the International Solidarity Movement in Gaza, where, among other things, she acted as a human shield against the Israelis. Less than two months after arriving there, she was run over and killed by an Israeli bulldozer as she attempted to stop it destroying a Palestinian home. She was 23.

The play, culled from Corrie's own journals, letters and e-mails, which have been edited by Rickman and Katharine Viner, offers a powerful portrait of youthful idealism. But no one could call it a balanced piece of reportage on the desperately vexed nature of Israeli-Palestinian relations. And those relations have become still more difficult in recent weeks, following Sharon's coma and the Palestinian election of **Hamas**.

Corrie's assertion to her mother that "the vast majority of Palestinians right now are engaging in Gandhian non-violent resistance" strikes an especially hollow note, entirely ducking the question of Palestinian suicide bombers. And, when I reviewed the play last year, I received a poignant letter from a reader, appending a list of other young **women** called Rachel, all of them innocent Israeli victims of the Palestinian bombers.

For some, Rachel Corrie has become a heroine and martyr. Others view her as a dangerously naïve young woman who took sides in a conflict she didn't fully understand. Some even assert that the house she was trying to protect in Ramah concealed a tunnel used for running weapons in from Egypt.

There is, however, no law which states that theatre must be fair and even-handed. Quarrelling with Corrie's opinions becomes part of the dramatic engagement, and you don't need to be persuaded of the rightness of her views in order to be moved by her ardour.



## Passionate portrayal of an insecure idealist THEATRE

In fact, what this play, and in particular Megan Dodds's passionately intense performance, captures most movingly is the sheer aliveness of the young woman.

Corrie appears to have been an astonishing mix: self-obsessed and insecure - "scattered and deviant and loud" in her own characteristically vivid words - but also someone who couldn't perceive a wrong without wanting to right it. At the close, we are shown a film of the golden-haired girl aged 10, outlining her dream of ending world poverty by the year 2000.

Corrie wrote with candour and precision on everything from boyfriend troubles to the suffering and endurance she witnessed in Gaza. In Dodds's performance, she can seem both a self-righteous pain in the bum, and winningly engaged, funny and vulnerable - sometimes at the very same time.

Rickman's production powerfully captures her journey from privileged student to the raw, real world of the Middle East, with the help of Hildegard Bechtler's remarkable design of blasted concrete and dust that powerfully captures the devastation of Gaza.

One leaves the theatre mourning not only Rachel Corrie's death but also the death of the idealism and ardour of one's own distant youth, those far-off days when everything seemed to matter so intensely.

Tickets: 0870 060 6631

**Load-Date:** April 4, 2006

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## *The familiar new face of British diplomacy; FOREIGN OFFICE*

The Independent (London)

May 10, 2006 Wednesday

First Edition

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**The**  **INDEPENDENT**

**Section:** NEWS; Pg. 38

**Length:** 619 words

### **Body**

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Among the many surprises sprung by the recent Cabinet reshuffle, one stands out. This time last week the notion that we would be hearing the name Margaret Beckett and the job of Foreign Secretary combined in the same sentence would have seemed the height of improbability. The Foreign Office just did not seem to be Mrs Beckett's natural habitat. For all her Cabinet seniority and political longevity, caravanning weekends in Derbyshire always looked more her scene than jet-setting to solve international crises.

Yet within days of the announcement, here was Mrs Beckett stepping on a plane to New York, chatting to the US Secretary of State, Condoleezza Rice, and successfully picking her way - with only a little diffidence - between thorny questions about the use of military force against Iran. Granted, the Foreign Office flatteringly sees itself as a Rolls Royce that purrs along regardless of who is in political charge. Granted, too, British government ministers are expected to be gen-eralists, not specialists. Even so, to go straight from dealing with air quality and agriculture to UN talks on Iran is quite a conceptual distance to cover.

We see no reason, however, why she should not make the transition convincingly. Of course, her career path falls short of classic qualifications for the Foreign Office. She made her early career in the Labour Party, when her politics was of the left. She lacks the star quality of Ms Rice. But we do not share the pessimism of some who find her hopelessly ill-equipped to take the helm of British diplomacy.

She may have no conventional diplomatic experience, but she was a successful Leader of the House' she was deputy leader, and acting leader, of the Labour Party. As Secretary of the rambling Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs, she had to juggle many competing interests. The Government's record on the environment leaves much to be desired, and the delay in farm payments - for which her successor apologised yesterday - is a serious lapse. In all, though, she coped more than competently with a very tricky department.

Mrs Beckett's chief merit, however, is her political instinct and her calmness under pressure. A highly effective media performer, she manages to speak jargon-free English and avoid political mistakes. She is strongest in the presentational department, where her predecessor, Jack Straw, was weakest.

This will be a change. After a hesitant start, Mr Straw had come to command respect abroad. He was the driving force behind the European initiative on Iran - even if his determination to stick with the diplomacy may have cost

## The familiar new face of British diplomacy FOREIGN OFFICE

him his job. But his lack of influence with 10 Downing Street as the Iraq war was in preparation and his tonguetied way with the media were real liabilities. Earning plaudits abroad is not enough' foreign policy has to be "sold" to the home constituency, too.

Britain faces a host of foreign policy dilemmas, of which Iran is currently only the most acute. There is the disaster of Iraq, the looming disaster in Afghanistan and, in the Middle East, the repercussions of the **Hamas** victory in the Palestinian Authority. There are still post-Iraq fences to be mended in Europe and the future architecture of the EU to be negotiated. The very basis of the transatlantic relationship would also be on the agenda, should the US decide to act against Iran.

This is where we hope that Mrs Beckett might come into her own: a seasoned Labour politician strong enough to say "No" to George Bush. With her clear head, firm sense of purpose and keen awareness of the national mood, there is no reason why Britain's first **female** Foreign Secretary should not be the right woman in the right place at the right time.

**Load-Date:** May 10, 2006

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## *Keeping the streets safe - from threats great and bird-sized - at home and abroad*

Sydney Morning Herald (Australia)

March 22, 2006 Wednesday

First Edition

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**Section:** NEWS AND FEATURES; Entertainment; Pg. 17

**Length:** 573 words

**Byline:** Doug Anderson

### **Body**

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#### Dateline

8.30pm, SBS: Before he took ill, Ariel Sharon floated the notion of unilateral disengagement regarding disputed borders with the Palestinians. This seems to mean rejecting the peace process and negotiated agreements by saying: we'll disengage from certain parts of the West Bank (but keep troops there) and put up a huge wall to define the borders of Israel. If this policy is enforced, as the acting Prime Minister, Ehud Olmert, proposes, Israel will control the Jordan Valley, encircle the West Bank and deprive Palestinians of a border with Jordan. UN official David Shearer tells Dateline there are already 470 roadblocks and checkpoints on the West Bank. Israeli elections are imminent and the unilateral disengagement proposal is a key plank in the Kadima Party's policy. Can a fait accompli deliver hope for peaceful coexistence or will **Hamas** resist the wall and allied proposals with the only means left at its disposal? Acceptance? Compromise? Resistance?

#### Beyond Tomorrow

7.30pm, Seven: Tool across Australia on a single tank of fuel, then join Matt Shirvington at the world's biggest gadget show. How deliciously appropriate.

#### The Biggest Loser

7pm, Ten: Immunity, in the form of cupcakes, is the temptation as contestants are lured into yet another trap by the devious bastards who make Marjorie from Fat Fighters look like Mother Teresa. Image conformity and food inform two eps of The Simpsons, which follow at 7.30pm. When Marge sees Homer responding in an unreconstructed manner to two well-endowed **women**, she decides it's time she had her own bosom renovated - with surprising results. Later Homer cultivates his inner gourmet and, in a welter of foodie pretension, becomes a lacerating restaurant reviewer.

#### NCIS

9.30pm, Ten: A marine's wife kills a home intruder who attempts to rape her. The NCIS team investigates and finds, in the woman's computer, a swag of suggestive emails dispatched to a website where sexually explicit messages are exchanged. These seem to indicate she may have lured the attacker to her home under false pretences. All

## Keeping the streets safe - from threats great and bird-sized - at home and abroad

very well but what about the marine? If the tale sounds familiar, it is. This is not what you'd call a Premiere Event or Special Presentation. It's a repeat. Nothing exceeds like excess.

### Deal or No Deal

5.30pm, Seven: Er ... no deal.

### The New Inventors

8pm, ABC: Viewers who have been inconvenienced by bird droppings after parking their cars in Plunkett Street - where birds sit in the trees and go plunkett, plunkett - will be intrigued by tonight's program, which unveils an innovative device to keep the streets safe from dung-shower ping. Also on display - a new kind of crash helmet and an ingenious gauge that should appeal to farmers during crop spraying and to firefighters - particularly in rural situations - needing to know how much water they have left when tackling a blaze.

### Living Black

6pm, SBS: Warren Mundine, national president of the ALP, had a chat with Kerry O'Brien recently and gave the impression that factional backstabbing and jobs for the blokes wasn't really an issue within the Labor Party. Plenty of calming phrases and the usual blah about pulling together as a team. They all know how t'parrrrty - as Frank Gallagher reminds us. Rima Tamou conducts a tete-a-tete with Mr Mundine tonight and might come up with something a little less like flannel. Also featured, a profile of the indigenous discus thrower Ben Harradine going for gold in Melbourne.

## Graphic

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DRAWING: By Rocco Fazzari

**Load-Date:** July 17, 2007

## Letters / Letters

The Philadelphia Inquirer  
February 15, 2006 Wednesday

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**The Philadelphia Inquirer**

Found on Philly.com

**Section:** EDITORIAL; Pg. A14

**Length:** 630 words

### **Body**

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#### **The blame game**

I loved your Tuesday Page One headline: "Cheney Shooting: Who's at Fault?"

The answer is obvious: Democrats. And the media. I think all patriotic people can agree that the most appropriate response to this unfortunate incident is a tax cut.

**Linda Holtzman**Marlton

#### **Trigger-happy**

Vice President Cheney's weekend escapade is a perfect reflection of his administration's attitude: Shoot first, look later.

In addition, he acts above the law, not even bothering to obtain the required stamp for his hunting license. Finally, he delayed release of the event and let someone else leak it to the press.

**Marlene Lieber**Medford

#### **A careless accident**

Accidents happen. This one may have been Vice President Cheney's fault, but it was a careless accident. What makes me angry are the cover-up and the fact that Cheney was hunting without the proper stamp.

This is just another demonstration of how above the law these people think they are.

**Simon Dicker**Philadelphia

#### **Inciting the masses**

I find the current intellectualizing over Muslim and Western differences to be beside the point. The ongoing difficulties arise from the fact that there always are rabble-rousers who will use their version of religion to mobilize the masses in pursuit of their own, power-seeking agenda.

This was the case with the Crusades, with the Ottoman Empire's conquest of large portions of Europe, and is the force behind the current attacks on the West - verbal as well as physical - by substantial segments of the Muslim world. The sooner we recognize this, the sooner we will be able to deal with this evil.

**Peter R. Lantos**

Erdenheim

[PeterrL@aol.com](mailto:PeterrL@aol.com)

### **Lack of tolerance**

Trudy Rubin is correct in counseling irate Muslims to avoid turning concerns over cartoons in a Danish newspaper "into a war of civilizations" ("Outrage of Muslim world is misplaced," Feb. 5). Unfortunately, she may be too late.

It is not democracy but tolerance they do not understand. That is a path those rioting over cartoons in a Danish newspaper show no interest in following. Apparently, while we have focused on the presence of terrorism, the crucial but absent "T-word" appears to be *tolerance*.

**John R. Cohn**

[Philadelphiajohncohnmd@hotmail.com](mailto:Philadelphiajohncohnmd@hotmail.com)

### **No interest in peace**

In his letter of Feb. 5, Roger Othman wrote: "The Palestinian people have made it clear that they want new leadership. They are tired of corruption, the inability to improve the standard of their daily lives, and the inability to secure a peace deal."

Really? For in voting for Hamas, what the Palestinians have made clear is that they don't want peace with Israel; they just don't want Israel.

**N. Harry Gartzman**

[PhiladelphiaNHarryG@webtv.net](mailto:PhiladelphiaNHarryG@webtv.net)

### **Wrong on Friedan**

Patricia Bradley writes a catfight attack on Betty Friedan ("Friedan lacked discipline and sacrifice," Feb. 7). Bradley and I come from different schools of thought and different schools: She from Temple's department of journalism; I from the Medill School of Journalism, Northwestern University. I believe that Friedan was recognized for pioneering the ideals of feminism and equality of women.

Out of touch with reality, Bradley labels Friedan a "commercial writer." Journalists call this freelance writing.

Back, Bradley, to Journalism 101.

**Harriette B. Rhawn**

Philadelphia

### **A powerful book**

I never heard of Patricia Bradley and don't know if she has lived a life of discipline and sacrifice. I do know that Bradley has joined the ranks of people who have condemned women like Betty Friedan for demanding media attention for their cause, for being too outspoken - and not being nice enough!

When I read *The Feminine Mystique* as a young woman, my life changed. Did it provide every answer for every woman? Of course not. But the book gave voice to the previously silent and gave us a new lens for seeing the world.

**Sharon Barr**

Philadelphia

**Load-Date:** February 15, 2006

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## *Tribals seek revenge for Bajour killings*

The Nation (AsiaNet)

January 27, 2006 Friday

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**Section:** NATIONWIDE INTERNATIONAL NEWS

**Length:** 632 words

**Dateline:** ISLAMABAD JAN 27

### **Body**

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Hundreds of protesting traders from Bajour Agency joined by parliamentarians of combined opposition here Friday asked the government to allow the tribesmen to take revenge from the US over its bombardment that killed 18 innocent people, including women and children. Traders from Anjuman-i-Tajiran Bajour Quami Ittehad, Rawalpindi, gathered here in front of Parliament House to protest the US air strikes on the innocent villagers of Bajour in violation of all norms and principles of human rights. The rally was held when both the houses of parliament were in session and the proceedings had just adjourned due to the sad demise of ANP Rehber Khan Abul Wali Khan.

They rally leaders unanimously asked Shaukat Aziz-led government to expel the US Ambassador in Pakistan by declaring him persona non grata and officially demand the US to tender apology to the affected families.

The organizers of the protest, President of the Anjuman Haji Dilawar Khan, its Secretary General Haji Fazlur Rehman and Haji Sher Zamin condemned the US attack and expressed concerns over the government's silence on the issue. Opposition leaders, including MMA's Hafiz Hussain Ahmad, Liaquat Baloch, PML-N's Khwaja Asif MNA, PPP-P's Qurban Ali Shah MNA, Maulana Sadiq MNA, Maulana Meraj-ud-Din MNA from North Waziristan and Maulana Akbar Chitrali MNA also joined the protest rally.

The protestors were carrying placards inscribed with slogans such as "killing of innocent civilians a brutal act", "shame on US-the world No.1 terrorist", "expel US ambassador", "US should tender apology", "let the tribals take direct revenge from US", etc. Addressing the rally, MMA leader Hafiz Hussain Ahmad warned the government that if these voices were not heard in the Parliament then they would come out to the streets, which would be the beginning of anti-US and anti-Musharraf movement. He said the government should seriously take up the issue with the US government to offer apology to the bereaved families of Bajour, otherwise it should prepare itself to face the music.

He was critical of the prime minister's visit to the US at a time when the US carried out unprovoked bombardment on the civilian population in Bajour tribal area."Shaukat Aziz left the dead bodies here and rushed to Washington without asking for apology," Hafiz noted. He warned the government to shun its pro-US policy otherwise the people would be left with no choice but to declare a disobedience move.

Tribal MNA Maulana Sadiq charged the government for keeping silence over the air strikes that the US forces carried out in violation of all international norms and rules."It is lamentable that the government has no courage to raise the genuine issue with the US," he added.

## Tribals seek revenge for Bajour killings

MMA leader Liaquat Baloch said that the US wanted to gain complete control over Pakistan and the attacks in the tribal areas reflected its ulterior designs. He said that the people of Pakistan would foil all such attempts or plans of any foreign intruders, including the US. "The masses will stand in their way and also force the government to quit," Baloch announced. Referring to the ***Hamas*** victory in Palestine, the MMA leader claimed that the government would also see the same results here if fair elections would be held.

MNA from North Waziristan Maulana Merajuddin pressed President General Pervez Musharraf to quit politics and resume his constitutional duty of safeguarding the borders of country.

"If the government can't protect our borders and lives from the foreign aggression it should let us (tribesmen) to fight the intruders and the aggressors," he said. The rally demanded immediate apology from the US, and withdrawal of FCR laws by the government. It also asked the government to explain its silence over the US air strikes on Damadola village of Bajour Agency.

**Load-Date:** January 29, 2006

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End of Document

**Cartoon protests hit london; Threat to Danish Embassy and demo outside  
BBC HQ**

The Evening Standard (London)

February 3, 2006 Friday

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**London  
Evening  
Standard**

**Section:** A MERGE; Pg. 4

**Length:** 627 words

**Byline:** ISABEL OAKESHOTT

**Body**

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THE outcry over cartoons mocking the Islamic faith threatened to bring protests to London today.

Outraged Muslims were organising a demonstration outside the Danish embassy in Sloane Street amid calls for a "day of anger" against the images.

Earlier, a peaceful protest was held outside BBC headquarters after the corporation broadcast the controversial pictures in news bulletins.

Around 30 people shouted and waved banners but there was none of the violence unleashed in other countries.

An extraordinary furore has erupted over the dozen cartoons which have been printed in Denmark, Germany, France and Spain as a gesture of free speech that outraged Muslims. So far, no British publication has printed the images.

The Muslim Association of Britain today said the use of the images on the BBC was an incitement to racial hatred unprecedented in the corporation's history.

Its president, Ahmed El Sheikh said: "They are offensive and we do not like to see them published here. We enjoy a homogenous society in Britain and we don't want people trying to divide us.

"We want people to debate the issue, but we don't want to see people trying to hurt us by publishing them."

The controversy comes amid mounting tensions over freedom of speech in Britain. Muslim MPs claim that watered-down laws against religious and racial hatred, introduced this week, are too weak to guarantee the Muslim community "freedom from fear".

## Cartoon protests hit london Threat to Danish Embassy and demo outside BBC HQ

The pictures, first published by a newspaper in Denmark, were also shown on ITV and Channel 4. They have also been printed in newspapers in Germany, Italy, the Netherlands and Spain.

All publications said they were expressing free speech.

A demonstration outside the Danish Embassy in London, due to take place tomorrow, is being organised by the Islamic political group Hizb ut-Tahrir.

Spokesman Dr Imran Waheed warned that the Muslim community would not remain silent over "cheap insults in the name of freedom of speech".

He said: "While some Western governments seek to silence opposition to their brutal occupation of Iraq through medieval laws and others prevent Muslim women from wearing the Islamic dress, they expect Muslims to accept their freedom to insult and disparage Muslims and Islam."

The controversial cartoons include an image of the prophet Mohammed with a turban shaped like a bomb, and another showing him saying that paradise was running out of virgins. Islamic tradition bans any depiction of the prophet or Allah.

As the international furore escalated, protesters forced their way into the Danish embassy in the Indonesian capital Jakarta and burned a Danish flag.

The Palestinian party Hamas called for mass demonstrations in Gaza while demands for a boycott of European goods spread.

One Danish food company today told how sales in the Middle East have dried up completely in the wake of the row.

Astrid Gad Nielson, from Arla Foods in Denmark, told BBC Radio 4's Today programme: "It can't get much worse.

At the moment we are selling no products at all."

Danish diplomats launched a desperate damage limitation exercise, arguing that the government was not responsible for the media in the country.

The protests in London come amid mounting anger over the acquittal of Nick Griffin and fellow BNP activist Mark Collett. The pair were cleared of race hate offences after making inflammatory speeches filmed by undercover reporters.

The jury reached its verdict the day after the Government suffered a spectacular defeat over new religious hatred laws.

The new legislation, which was designed to protect the Muslim community in Britain from incitement to hatred, was watered down after MPs agreed tougher legislation would threaten freedom of speech.

Today some politicians claimed the Government was to blame for Mr Griffin walking free.

**Load-Date:** February 6, 2006

## **THE CIVILIAN CASULTIES ARE AWFUL BUT ISRAEL IS FIGHTING FOR ITS EXISTENCE**

Daily Mail (London)

August 4, 2006 Friday

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**Section:** ED 1ST; Pg. 17

**Length:** 1341 words

**Byline:** RICHARD LITTLEJOHN

### **Body**

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THERE'S no doubt Israel is losing the propaganda war. You don't have to be a paid-up peacenik to find some of the pictures coming out of the Middle East distressing.

No one with an iota of humanity wants to see the corpses of women and children caught up in the conflict.

But you don't have to be a conspiracy theorist, either, to wonder how many of the male 'civilians' killed by the Israelis are actually Hezbollah terrorists or whether everything we're being shown from Lebanon is for real.

Islamonazis are sophisticated propagandists and they know they'll find a gullible audience in the civilised world for their carefully-strewn teddy bears, strategically-placed 'Baby Milk Factory' signs (in English) and wailing widows from central casting.

Have you ever noticed how every time a coalition air strike goes astray in Iraq, it always manages to hit a 'wedding party'?

Why is there only ever one child's shoe in the rubble, never a pair? There always seems to be a broken medicine box, too, with a handy red cross never a red crescent, mind you - on the lid, just in case we haven't got the message.

Credulous CNN correspondents and handwringing BBC reporters fall over themselves to sign up for the Hezbollah guided tour of the ruins.

I use a rough rule of thumb whenever I watch television coverage of the Middle East. Anyone who pronounces Hezbollah as 'Hiz-bull-arrrrgh' and Israeli as 'Izza-ra-ay-lee' is almost certainly telling lies.

The bien-pensant buzzword used to describe Israel's bombing is 'disproportionate'. But what's 'proportionate'? Are the thousands of rockets fired at genuine civilian targets in Israel 'proportionate'?

It is only because Israelis are hunkered down in underground shelters built out of necessity and bitter experience, or have fled out of range of Hezbollah's salvoes, that there haven't been piles of bodies on their side of the border.

What would 'world opinion' consider an acceptable death toll before acknowledging Israel's right to retaliation and self-defence - 1,000? 10,000? 100,000? 1,000,000?

## THE CIVILIAN CASUALTIES ARE AWFUL BUT ISRAEL IS FIGHTING FOR ITS EXISTENCE

Hezbollah has started a war it knows it can't win in the certain knowledge that there will be civilian casualties. Its stated aim is to kill as many Israelis as possible and if innocent Lebanese get caught in the crossfire, tough.

These fanatics have little or no regard for human life. Their tactic is to hide among civilians; to use terrified women and children as human shields; to deploy school playgrounds as rocket launch sites; hotels and apartment blocks as command centres; homes as weapons dumps; mosques as air-raid shelters.

I've heard reporters referring to Hezbollah as a 'resistance' movement.

They love it, don't they? Just as they insist on calling terrorist murderers 'radicals' or 'militants' as if there's no difference between Al Qaeda and Aslef train drivers on unofficial strike.

What they never point out is that if Hezbollah didn't exist, there would be nothing to resist. Israel is the Tony Martin of the Middle East, lashing out in fear and frustration after enduring years of provocation.

Just as Tony Martin was abandoned by the police to endure burglary after burglary at his remote farmhouse, so the 'international community' has done nothing to disarm and disband Hezbollah or prevent it and Hamas repeatedly attacking Israel.

The United Nations hasn't lifted a finger to stop Iran and Syria supporting and supplying a standing terrorist army in Lebanon.

There are no sanctions against the barking mad president of Iran when he constantly threatens to wipe Israel off the face of the earth and is hell-bent on obtaining nuclear weapons.

Iran has put Lebanese civilians in the front line of its lunatic war against Israel and the U.S. in particular and Western civilisation in general. So where's the international condemnation?

Hezbollah is the provisional wing of Iran. Would it be 'proportionate' if Israel attacked the paymasters and ringleaders of Hezbollah in Tehran?

It may yet come to that. But first Israel has to remove the immediate threat to its security.

The United Nations isn't going to do that. The UN is a busted flush, led by the laughable Kofi Annan - the Chauncey Gardiner of world diplomacy. When it left the U.S.-led coalition to go it alone in Iraq, it sent a clear message to other tyrants and rogue states that they had nothing to fear from the UN.

Listening to 'world opinion' has got Israel nowhere. It was told it should trade land for peace. So it did. It got war. Israel pulled out of southern Lebanon six years ago. Hezbollah boasts that it has spent that time preparing for this fresh assault, building tunnels and bunkers and stockpiling a deadly arsenal of 13,000

weapons, which it is now raining down on Israeli civilians.

There are hourly calls for a ceasefire, but when Tel Aviv suspended bombing for 48 hours the response was a record number of Katyusha rockets fired into Israel in return.

I saw a BBC reporter standing on a hillside trying to convince us that because missiles were still being fired from Lebanon despite three weeks of fighting, it was evidence that Israel's tactics weren't working and it couldn't win.

Hezbollah has spent six years building up its arsenal in preparation for this war. Who said an Israeli victory would only take three weeks?

If there is a ceasefire, Hezbollah will simply regroup. There's talk of a negotiated settlement, but how do you cut a deal when one side says it will not be satisfied until the other is totally eradicated?

Lasting peace has only ever

## THE CIVILIAN CASULTIES ARE AWFUL BUT ISRAEL IS FIGHTING FOR ITS EXISTENCE

followed total victory in war. Even if Israel and Hezbollah/Iran agree to walk away tomorrow, we'll be back here again in a few years.

Then there's the Palestinian question. Again, even though Israel ceded territory in pursuit of peace, terror attacks and kidnappings on Israeli soil have continued.

There's talk about dusting off the old 'road map'. Israel accepts there will have to be a two-state solution, but the only 'road map' of the Middle East its enemies will accept is one without Israel on it at all.

Meanwhile, spare a thought for the Jewish community in Britain. They're as distressed by the carnage as the rest of us and there are divisions over Israel's actions. No one wallows in the death of innocents - except, of course, Hezbollah and its Iranian puppet-masters. AT THIS time of year, there are 15,000 British Jewish teenagers in Israel on the traditional summer rite of passage. And there are 30,000 British passport holders living in Israel.

Although we had wall-to-wall coverage of grumbling British passport holders being evacuated from Beirut, there doesn't seem to have been equal concern about our fellow citizens under bombardment on the other side of the border.

What struck me about the recent pro-Israel demonstration in London was the number of Union flags in the crowd. These are our people.

I didn't notice any Union flags at the Stop The War rally, though there were plenty of 'We Are All Hezbollah Now' banners. It doesn't seem to dawn on them that if you want to stop the war you've got to stop Hezbollah.

But what drives most of these 'peace campaigners' is not so much a desire for peace as a hatred of Israel.

Every time something goes off in Iraq we're told it will radicalise young Muslims back in Britain. We hear that Tony Blair's failure to call for an immediate halt to the Israeli offensive has put us at imminent risk of another Islamist homicide attack on our streets.

Despite the Hezbollah war on Israel and the mounting casualties - and the widespread condemnation of Israel in this country - I've yet to hear anyone warn that young British Jews are queueing to blow up themselves and hundreds of others at Brent Cross shopping centre.

I repeat, this war is awful. The civilian deaths are a tragedy.

But there won't be peace in the Middle East until the likes of Iran, Hezbollah and **Hamas** recognise Israel's right to exist.

And, I'm afraid, this side of kingdom come, that just ain't gonna happen.

Israel may be losing the propaganda war, but it isn't fighting a propaganda war - it's fighting a real war for its very existence.

**Load-Date:** August 4, 2006

## **ARTICLE: Viceroy Dubya comes calling**

The Nation (AsiaNet)

March 3, 2006 Friday

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**Section:** NATIONWIDE INTERNATIONAL NEWS

**Length:** 1531 words

### **Body**

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By IMRAN HUSAIN - Virtual master of all he surveys, George W Bush, President of the USA arrived in Afghanistan the other day at the start of his much-publicised visit to South Asia. His "subjects" readied themselves to receive their honoured leader; one can hardly call him guest by the way in which the governments of the concerned countries have made preparations. While in Afghanistan he made plain his intent as to how he proposed to deal with the issues confronting success in the war against terror just as he did his attitude over the remaining issues. Hundreds of personnel have almost invaded the residential resources of Islamabad, so I can only imagine that Kabul must have been worse. Delhi of course can cater to them and more. The "officer" dogs, too, have been properly cared for, thank God for his smaller mercies.

Even before Man Mohan Singh had been body searched, at Indra Ghandi International Airport, waiting to receive him, Bush had told Afghan President Hamid Karzai that he intended to raise with Musharraf the issue of cross border terrorism. This was said almost at the very moment Musharraf had scoffed at the list of terrorists operating from Pakistan that Karzai handed over to him the week before. There is no question in anybody's mind that the body language of the Bush aides towards Pakistan's President is totally different than Bush's. The rabid neoconservatives that form the major part of the Bush administration do not take well to Musharraf's efforts to control the Taliban upsurge in this area.

Bush as Viceroy and Musharraf as his general, are both gung-ho, straight talking types with little care for finesse. They don't mince words and both have objectives, not necessarily identical, but objectives nonetheless. Bush suffers from the neocon-sponsored idealism of using American power to enforce democracy and human rights in other countries, seeking unprecedented success as his legacy. Musharraf, on the other hand, wishes to use this strategic alliance, to sustain himself in power and toys with democracy just enough to keep Bush interested. Of course, Bush sees Musharraf as a major ally in his plans and gives him outright support. The neoconservatives and American people see it differently though.

In an article written jointly, former ambassador Teresita Schaffer and former Assistant Secretary of State Karl Inderfurth have considered Bush's engagement with Pakistan as based on the single issue of fighting this war on terror, while neglecting other "important US interests in the country". They quote critics voicing the opinion that Bush's personal equation with Musharraf is too myopic and that there is a Pakistan beyond Musharraf, which if not Bush, other US administrations will have to engage. This angers the democratic forces in Pakistan who feel the lack of interest in the country's democratic institutions.

This brings us to the important fact of who is and who is not doing "enough." Well let us ask ourselves first. I believe Musharraf is, within the parameters available, doing one heck of a lot. Short of running riot and killing everything in sight the way US bombs did in Afghanistan, he is, at great personal risk, delivering the goods. Yes, the confines of



## ARTICLE: Viceroy Dubya comes calling

equipment and the sentiments of the people must be considered and that does slow one down. But allowing these recent protests to prolong and having them fanned by inflammatory speeches given by functionaries of his government has earned him negative points rather than, as believed, alerted the minds and hearts of the western world. You have to think like they do to understand how they react. Unfortunately, Musharraf's reading of the west is less than limited. A quick look at the results should put an end to whatever is going on. The big "if" is whether they now have control and how much of this is against the government rather than in protest of the publications.

Is the United States doing enough for Pakistan is my question? Very firmly, Schaffer and Inderfurth have suggested to Bush to visibly support his statement that next years Pakistan elections will be an important test of its commitment to democracy. They suggest he address the Pakistani parliament. A brilliant idea for sure, but with the situation as it is, when even the Pakistani President cannot address it, I feel he will think a hundred times before does it. But if he does do so, it will certainly serve as a formidable step towards the eventual restoration of democracy. Their other suggestions are equally positive. Bush needs to engage the Pakistani press, Pakistan's successful civil society, its talented women and its educational institutions. These are the important sectors that need to be developed and the US has the resources, not just financial, to come forward. Who better to kick start this than the US President himself?

But just as Bush wishes to discuss cross border terrorism with Pakistan, one strongly urges Musharraf to forthrightly tackle Bush on the issue of the terrorism that is being perpetrated against Pakistan from the Afghan side of the border. India has installed more than seven consulates in various parts of Afghanistan, even a few miles from the Chaman border, from where sophisticated arms are being supplied to the tribals leading the insurgency in Balochistan. These arms are being used to create a major upheaval in our country. The bomb that went off in Karachi on Thursday is ample proof of the fact that large sums of money are being spent to undermine Pakistan's security. And Afghanistan needs to urgently contain anti-Pakistan activities being conducted from its territories rather than simply dump the dirt in our laps.

Considering that both America and India have come out in the open and sealed the controversial civilian nuclear technology transfer agreement, regardless of how much of a staunch "good steward of nuclear materials" Bush must realise this will create a strong negative perception in Pakistan. After all we are on the frontline for the US, not the Indians. Undoubtedly this is an historic decision and India will make great strides in development with cheaper energy to fuel it. And yes, one must take note of the proliferation factor. But we too need the best possible energy resources and we too are a country with massive poverty conditions. It is imperative that the Bush administration engages vigorously by Pakistan on this issue. India has expressed setting up a separate civil power institution but signing of the NPT has still not taken place. If facts can be condoned to engage India as a "bulwark" against China, perhaps the US should consider giving Pakistan's its just due. Kashmir must be resolved too. In today's violent world amicable interaction may be the best bet.

America's attempts to use its power to exert "benevolent hegemony" from a high moral ground, to fix rogue states and correct human rights abuses while democratising the "other world" have failed miserably. The Iraq fiasco, a product of disastrous intelligence collapse has led them into an abyss and into a situation where a pull out at this stage could seriously damage its prestige. Its credibility is already under question. But the interesting part is that this attitude has created a massive democratic resurgence of the forces pitted against the United States. The strong showing of the Islamic Brotherhood in Egyptian elections, Iraq's election ascendancy of the Shias close to Iran, Ahmedinejad's victory in Iran and now the huge Hamas election victory in Palestine will certainly force America to put its faith in its pseudo-democratic strongmen. But the age for US friendly dicto-democrats suppressing benign populations and providing indefinite stability has long gone.

If the US government is serious about good governance, then it should focus on the reform and financing of those of its institutions that will actually promote development and rule of law all over the world in order to win over its foes. These two factors provide the foundation for poverty alleviation and good governance requires this as much as it does democracy to quell violent conflicts. The fact that the original neocon agenda is being distanced should now change the projection of democracy phenomenon in US foreign policy. The obtaining situation in the Muslim world certainly will drive more democracy towards more radicalisation and therefore more terrorism sadly. Critics

## ARTICLE: Viceroy Dubya comes calling

expect that **Hamas** running Palestine may finally produce, in time, peace because the realities of governing will compel them to rationalise.

The Washington Post has been highly critical of Pakistan's President and talked of his "aides" and "surrogates" but it must realise, while it advocates a coercive regime change at this point, the famous intelligence failure which has led to the major fiascos in Bush's expansionist policy may well lead to a victory by fundamentalists in 2007. Who should the US administration deal with in that case? The Viceroy must pull out the plugs in all his benevolence and give Pakistan what it needs most development, poverty alleviation and high-class education. We are a country with high ideals and huge resources all we need is a break.

**Load-Date:** March 5, 2006

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## *Hezbollah stages a massive 'victory' celebration*

The International Herald Tribune

September 23, 2006 Saturday

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**Section:** NEWS; Pg. 1

**Length:** 683 words

**Byline:** Michael Slackman and John O'Neil

**Dateline:** BEIRUT

### **Body**

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Defying Israel and the United States, Hezbollah's leader, Hassan Nasrallah, appeared at a giant "victory" rally Friday and declared that the militant group still possessed 20,000 rockets and would never disarm.

"No army in the world is strong enough to disarm us," he told a cheering crowd that appeared to number in the hundreds of thousands.

Nasrallah's presence was meant to underscore the idea that Hezbollah had triumphed over Israel, which has vowed to kill him. It was the first time he had been seen in public since July 12, when he announced the capture of two Israeli soldiers in a cross-border raid, the event that precipitated Israel's 34-day invasion of southern Lebanon.

His speech was both a fiery tirade addressed to Israel and the United States and a giddy celebration of Hezbollah's strengthened position within Lebanon since the end of the war.

"During the war, I said we had 11,000 rockets, but it was really more," he told the crowd. "Is it 12,000?" some members of the audience called out.

"Keep counting!" he replied.

"Is it 13?"

"Forget counting!" he said, to hearty laughter. "We haven't even begun rearming, and we have more than 20,000!"

Israeli officials have estimated that Hezbollah has about 10,000 rockets, mostly short-range Katyusha missiles that could not reach Israeli territory if the group is prevented from operating south of the Litani River, the area where a UN-supported peacekeeping force is being deployed under the cease-fire agreement.

At one point in Nasrallah's speech, which was part olive branch, part power-play, he called on the pro-Western governing coalition in Lebanon to step down in favor of a government of national unity one in which Hezbollah would probably hold more than the two cabinet seats it won in elections last spring. He also warned UN peacekeepers not to spy on "the resistance."

Nasrallah congratulated the crowd for what he called a "divine, historic and strategic victory" over the United States as well as Israel, and said the conflict was "an American war" because Washington provided the weapons, planning and diplomatic support that made possible the Israeli assault on Lebanon's infrastructure.

## Hezbollah stages a massive 'victory' celebration

When the fighting ended, he said, it was not because of the suffering of the Lebanese or any weakness on the part of Hezbollah, but because "the Zionists realized that if it continued, it would be a catastrophe."

"The Americans agreed to stop the war, not for the women, not for the children of the Lebanese they stopped the war for Israel," he said.

He said the Bush administration had allowed the war to go forward as part of the plan to create "a new Middle East."

"This Middle East was illegitimate," he said, and its defeat has become an inspiration "for people who fight for their freedom and dignity" around the world.

The rally Friday once again demonstrated Hezbollah's organizational abilities, which have allowed it to take the lead in the reconstruction of southern Lebanon, reinforcing the sense that it, rather than the central government, is the dominant force in the country.

Many people at the rally said they had walked to Beirut from southern Lebanon, setting out early in the week.

The vast area in the Beirut suburbs where the event was held was filled with one-piece white plastic chairs that had been set up the day before, with a hat of red, green or white Lebanon's national colors on each chair. Thousands of yellow Hamas flags were waved steadily during the speeches and the martial choral music that preceded Nasrallah's surprise appearance.

Some Lebanese have criticized Hezbollah for its role in the start of the war. Shortly after the cease-fire, Nasrallah said in a televised address that the cross-border raid and capture of the two Israeli soldiers was a miscalculation and that he would not have ordered the raid if he had known how fierce the response from Israel would be.

But on Friday he said that part of the Israeli and U.S. plan had been to set the rest of Lebanon against Hezbollah by inflicting widespread punishment. "They thought that we would be divided," he said.

**Load-Date:** September 27, 2006

## *The failure of Israeli unilateralism; Middle East II*

The International Herald Tribune

July 22, 2006 Saturday

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**Section:** OPINION; Pg. 4

**Length:** 728 words

**Byline:** Manuel Hassassian

**Dateline:** LONDON

### **Body**

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In less than four weeks, the civil infrastructure of two emerging Middle Eastern democracies has been laid to waste, and over 400 Palestinians and Lebanese, mostly civilians, have been killed by Israeli forces.

The urgency of finding a just solution to the Israeli-Palestinian dispute has never been more compelling. But if calm is to be restored, the international community must convince Israel that security comes not through warfare but through peace.

While Israel enjoys the security rewards of peace agreements with Egypt and Jordan, it has been strangely reluctant to pursue the same with Lebanon or the PLO.

Instead, at the heart of Israeli policymaking today lies a deluded faith in the benefits of unilateral action over diplomatic engagement; in tactical military redeployments over comprehensive military withdrawal, and in conflict "management" over conflict resolution.

Nowhere has the faulty logic of Israel's approach been more transparent than in its purported disengagement from occupied Gaza. When Israel pulled its soldiers and settlers out of Gaza last year, the move was marketed internationally as a brave step that would bring the Middle East closer to peace.

Yet Israel itself sabotaged that opportunity. Israel could have responded to President Mahmoud Abbas's invitation to use the impetus of the Gaza withdrawal to repair the diplomatic process and create a political horizon. It could have ended the occupation of the Gaza Strip instead of retaining effective control over Gaza's borders, sea- and airspace.

Instead, Israel chose a strategy of collective punishment by prohibiting goods and people from moving between Gaza and the West Bank, blockading Gaza from international markets and denying its residents such basics as flour, milk and sugar.

The U.S.-led boycott of the Palestinian Authority that followed our democratic parliamentary elections in January only exacerbated the economic and humanitarian crisis.

Meanwhile, Israel's bombardment of civilian population centers aggravated tensions. In the month leading up to the capture of the Israeli soldier now held by Palestinian militants, Israel assassinated eight Palestinian leaders and killed 28 civilians, including nine children and a pregnant woman.

## The failure of Israeli unilateralism Middle East II

Despite the dismal failure of the disengagement policy, Israeli Prime Minister Ehud Olmert appears determined to repeat its mistakes. Israel is entrenching its control over those areas of the West Bank that are essential to the viability of a future Palestinian state through accelerated construction of the wall and settlements.

The resulting political geography would concretize the imprisonment of over two million Palestinians in a fractured West Bank, just as 1.4 million Palestinians are currently caged up in Gaza. Needless to say, there is no possibility of establishing a Palestinian state under such conditions.

In order to continue its occupation and colonization of Palestinian lands, Israel perpetuates the myth that it lacks a Palestinian interlocutor with whom to negotiate. When Fatah and Hamas unveiled the National Conciliation Document, offering united support for a two-state solution, Israel drowned out the good news by pummeling Gaza's civil infrastructure and terrorizing its residents.

There is a way out of this spiraling crisis. Israel originally committed itself to releasing hundreds of Palestinian prisoners during the Sharm el-Sheikh summit in February 2005.

Palestinians have proposed that the Israeli corporal be returned safely to Israel in exchange for a fraction of the more than 9,000 Palestinians Israel has imprisoned or detained, including 120 women and nearly 400 children.

But Israel is refusing to negotiate a prisoner exchange. Instead, it abducted 33 Palestinian ministers and parliamentarians and intensified its bombardment of Gaza.

Israeli unilateralism is founded on the false premise that Israelis can attain peace and security without affording Palestinians their liberty and independence.

Ten months after Israel's redeployment from Gaza, the escalating crisis throughout the Middle East demonstrates the resounding failure of this policy.

It is a failure that must be rectified immediately, and one that none of us can afford to see repeated.

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Manuel Hassassian is the Palestine Liberation Organization representative to Britain.

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**Load-Date:** July 28, 2006

## **Escalation feared as 10 reservists killed; SINGLE STRIKE MIDDLE EAST CRISIS**

Sydney Morning Herald (Australia)

August 7, 2006 Monday

Fourth Edition

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**Section:** NEWS AND FEATURES; International News; Pg. 6

**Length:** 646 words

**Byline:** Jonathan Pearlman in Jerusalem and Ed O'Loughlin in Beirut and agencies

### **Body**

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TEN Israeli soldiers were killed in a village near the Lebanese border yesterday in the single deadliest strike by Hezbollah since the conflict began.

During a 15-minute barrage around midday, a Katyusha rocket struck a group of reserve soldiers preparing to cross into Lebanon at the northern village of Kfar Giladi. Israel's Channel Two said at least 10 people were killed and four seriously injured.

The attack could lead to a serious escalation in hostilities. An army spokesman said troops were gathering at the northern border.

After the attack, the Israeli Defence Minister, Amir Peretz, cancelled a meeting to discuss a ceasefire with a visiting US delegation led by an assistant secretary of state, David Welch.

At least 100 rockets landed across northern Israel yesterday morning, including 35 around Kfar Giladi and the nearby town of Kiryat Shmona.

Israeli authorities warned residents in the north to stay in secure rooms or bomb shelters after a barrage of missiles hit Haifa, Safed, Acre and Kiryat Shmona.

Also yesterday, Israel said it had captured a member of the Hezbollah cell that killed eight Israeli soldiers and kidnapped two four weeks ago, prompting Israel's attacks all over Lebanon.

The head of Israeli army intelligence told a cabinet meeting the prisoner was being interrogated.

In Lebanon yesterday, an Israeli aircraft attacked a van travelling just ahead of a United Nations convoy carrying food and other aid to the southern port city of Tyre, killing two civilians, a Lebanese security source said.

Aid workers complain that Israeli air strikes prevent them reaching the estimated 800,000 to 1 million people displaced by the nearly month-old conflict.

## Escalation feared as 10 reservists killed SINGLE STRIKE MIDDLE EAST CRISIS

Others among the Lebanese dead at the weekend were at least five civilians killed in an air strike on a family home near the southern town of Nabatiyeh and six people - the Lebanese authorities say civilians; the Israelis, Hezbollah militants - who died in an inconclusive Israeli commando raid on Tyre.

The bodies of five more Syrian labourers were found in the ruins of a food depot on the Syrian-Lebanese border that the Israelis bombed on Friday, bringing the death toll from the incident to 28. The Israelis say they thought the depot was being used to transport weapons.

The Israelis lost at least two more troops in fighting along the border, and three Israeli-Arab women were killed when a Hezbollah rocket hit their village.

The latest violence brings the Lebanese death toll in the 25-day war to at least 577, although the Lebanese Government says that the real toll, including bodies hidden in rubble in inaccessible border areas, may be more than 900.

Most of the dead are civilians hit by Israeli air strikes in the far south and Shiite districts of Beirut.

Hezbollah admits it has lost about 50 of its fighters, though Israel claims more than 400, including 50 this weekend. In contrast, 56 of Israel's 89 casualties are combatants, while the remaining 33 are civilians killed by Hezbollah long-range bombardment of northern Israeli towns and cities.

In addition to the human toll the war has caused tremendous dislocation and economic disruption on both sides. In Lebanon, Israeli precision bomb attacks have struck airports, harbours, oil plants, power stations, bridges and highways. Over the weekend fighter-bombers destroyed parts of the coast road linking Beirut to northern Syria, cutting Lebanon's last main link to the outside world and a vital aid route.

There seemed little prospect of an end to the violence in the near future, with the Israeli Justice Minister, Haim Ramon, saying Israel will continue to "hit Hezbollah" until a new multinational force is deployed in south Lebanon - a process that could take weeks if it happens at all.

\* Israeli security forces arrested the Palestinian parliamentary Speaker, Aziz Dweik, a Hamas leader, in the West Bank city of Ramallah yesterday.

## Graphic

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TWO PHOTOS: Devastation ... the bodies of a group of reserve soldiers in Kfar Giladi who had been due to cross into Lebanon. Photos: AFP/Hrvoje; Polan In shock ... an Israeli soldier surveys the damage after the strike.

**Load-Date:** July 17, 2007



**NAVY GO IN; CARRIER TO EVACUATE BRITS FROM ISRAELI BLITZ 15  
CHILDREN DIE AS JETS POUND VILLAGERS HEZBOLLAH MUST BE  
REINED IN, SAYS BUSH**

Sunday Mirror

July 16, 2006 Sunday

0 Star Edition

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**Section:** NEWS; Pg. 11

**Length:** 639 words

**Byline:** BY STEPHEN HAYWARD

## **Body**

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TWO Royal Navy warships were put on standby last night to help with the evacuation of thousands of British nationals trapped in war-torn Lebanon.

The aircraft carrier HMS Illustrious and HMS Bulwark - the Navy's newest assault ship - could be on their way as early as today, according to reports. There are 15,000 Brits trapped in Beirut.

As Israeli jets pounded Lebanese border villages yesterday, more than 20 people - including 15 children - were killed when their van was ripped apart as they tried to escape the deadliest attack yet in the escalating conflict.

Twelve more were killed in Beirut as Israeli air strikes against Lebanon-based Hezbollah guerrillas continued for a fourth day.

And in other key developments:

President Bush, speaking at the G8 meeting in St Petersburg, called on Syria to rein in the Iran-backed Hezbollah. Russia warned other nations could be drawn into the crisis and urged Israel to show restraint.

Israel claimed Hezbollah had missiles that could reach as far as 125 miles into the country, putting Jerusalem and Tel Aviv at risk.

Lebanon's PM Fouad Siniora demanded an immediate ceasefire backed by the UN and declared Lebanon was a "disaster zone".

The van carrying two Lebanese families was hit as they tried to escape from the border village of Marwaheen, near the southern port of Tyre, just hours after Israeli forces warned them by loudspeakers to leave.

## NAVY GO IN CARRIER TO EVACUATE BRITS FROM ISRAELI BLITZ 15 CHILDREN DIE AS JETS POUND VILLAGERS HEZBOLLAH MUST BE REINED IN, SAYS BUSH

Dramatic photos showed a young child - perhaps six years old - lying dead near the wreckage of a blown-up vehicle after the midday attack.

One resident told al-Jazeera TV the victims had been hit after being refused shelter by UN forces. "Their bodies litter the road," said Akram Ghannam. Another said: "Where is the international justice when children, women, and the elderly are killed?"

In separate strikes, Israeli war-planes blasted the southern suburbs of Beirut, a Hezbollah stronghold, killing at least 12 and wounding 32.

Israel launched US-made Patriot missiles over the northern Israeli city of Haifa - just 25 miles from the border - to intercept rockets fired from Lebanon.

Israeli jets targeted petrol stations and fuel tanks on the coastal road linking Beirut to the south, along with ports in the capital and Lebanon's northern-most city of Tripoli. They also destroyed the Beirut office of a senior Hamas official, who escaped unhurt.

Hezbollah guerrillas fired dozens of rockets at northern Israel towns, including the resort of Tiberias, 25 miles from the border and their deepest strike so far into Israel, wounding several civilians.

In London, the Ministry of Defence and Foreign Office were working on plans for a possible evacuation of the Lebanese capital.

"We are advising British nationals to get ready to depart at short notice, if the situation changes," said a Foreign Office spokesman.

But the MoD refused to officially comment on the reports of Navy warships being drafted in. HMS Bulwark, with 500 Marines on board, will take two days to get to Lebanon from Spain, while HMS Illustrious is moored at Gibraltar.

The Israeli raids began on Wednesday after Hezbollah militants seized two Israeli soldiers. More than 70 Lebanese and four Israelis have been killed.

TONY Blair warned last night that "urgent action" was needed in the Middle East as he also arrived for the G8 summit in St Petersburg. "The implications are very serious," he said.

Street children in the city have been banished to remote camps while the summit takes place.

The authorities have clamped down on the city's "rogue elements" in an attempt to improve the country's image on the world stage.

### OUR SHIPS

HMS Illustrious

Launched: 1981

Length: 194 metres

Speed: 28 knots (52 km/h)

Range: 5,000 nautical miles

Complement: 685 crew

HMS Bulwark

Launched: 2001

## NAVY GO IN CARRIER TO EVACUATE BRITS FROM ISRAELI BLITZ 15 CHILDREN DIE AS JETS POUND VILLAGERS HEZBOLLAH MUST BE REINED IN, SAYS BUSH

Length: 176 metres

Speed: 18 knots (33km/h)

Range: 7,000 nautical miles

Complement: 325 crew

COMMENT: Page 14

### Graphic

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The body of a young - Lebanese child lies near the wreckage of the van close to the border village of Marwaheen yesterday

**Load-Date:** July 16, 2006

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End of Document

## *Israeli phone calls mean attack is on the way*

The Philadelphia Inquirer

August 3, 2006 Thursday

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**The Philadelphia Inquirer**

Found on Philly.com

**Section:** NATIONAL; Pg. A02

**Length:** 633 words

**Byline:** Ashraf Khalil, Los Angeles Times

### **Body**

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A man with an Israeli accent called Omar Mamluke on his cell phone just before midnight and asked for him by name.

"You have just a few minutes to get out of the house," the man said. An Israeli missile was about to hit.

"I asked if he was joking, and he told me: 'The Israeli Defense Forces don't joke,' " Mamluke recalled.

Mamluke, a police officer, wasted no time; he had heard what happened to others in Gaza who had received such calls. He gathered up his two wives and 15 children, and they ran out of the house in their nightclothes, yelling for their neighbors to do the same.

The missile struck within half an hour, lifting Mamluke's house in the air, sending the foundation columns across the street. But no one was hurt, which the Israeli army says is the point of the phone calls.

The Israeli military, which launched campaigns in the Gaza Strip and Lebanon after soldiers were captured last month in border incursions, says it does its best to warn civilians of impending military action.

Its warnings to civilians to leave southern Lebanon are at the center of controversy over the air strike early Sunday in the village of Qana that killed almost 60 people, many of them women and children.

Although many have fled the region, some say they are afraid to travel roads that have been bombed by Israeli planes. The sick or injured, the very young and the elderly sometimes cannot travel, Lebanese say.

Israeli officials have suggested that, after several warnings, those who remain behind are responsible for their own fate.

"Those who stay have apparently decided to take the risk, or are being held by Hezbollah, which has accepted the risk on their behalf," Brig. Gen. Alon Friedman, deputy head of the army's northern command headquarters, said last week. "We have no intention of hitting innocent civilians and will do all possible to avoid harming them, but the fighting has a price."

## Israeli phone calls mean attack is on the way

In Gaza, where the military began issuing specific warnings in recent weeks, the practice has not won many over. Few Palestinians accept the idea that Israel really is trying to limit civilian deaths.

At best, the warnings are decried as cynical attempts to portray the military campaigns in a better light. Palestinian Authority Prime Minister Ismail Haniyeh calls it psychological warfare.

"They just want to sow fear and confusion among the people," Haniyeh said.

Although Palestinians report that dozens of warnings have been received in the last two weeks, only a handful of buildings have been hit.

Israeli army officials are tight-lipped about the practice, but the official daily updates of army attacks on suspected Gaza weapons factories and warehouses invariably mention steps taken to warn residents and limit civilian casualties.

"It is a method that's being used to prevent the harming of innocent civilians," said one army spokeswoman, who spoke on condition of anonymity.

Calls have also targeted official buildings such as the main Gaza City courthouse and the ambulance dispatch center at Khan Younis Hospital, said Iyad Nasr, spokesman for the International Committee of the Red Cross. Neither has been hit.

"It's still collective punishment," he said. "Dozens of families have been informed and have evacuated their homes."

The first known case of a pre-strike warning call came July 23, targeting the Gaza City home of Mohammed al-Sheik Dib. In that case, neighbors generally acknowledged that Sheik Dib was a ranking member of Islamic Jihad and that rockets probably were being stored in the house.

Other, less personal forms of warnings have also been used. Leaflets have been dropped onto Gaza towns. Last week, Khan Younis residents answered the phone and heard a recorded warning message. The Israeli army also has broken in on the frequency of the **Hamas** radio station to broadcast warnings.

**Load-Date:** August 3, 2006

## **CHILDREN KILLED IN AIRSTRIKE MASSACRE; MIDDLE EAST 'JUST DAYS FROM OPEN WAR'**

Sunday Mercury  
July 16, 2006, Sunday  
First Edition

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**Section:** NEWS; Pg. 2

**Length:** 694 words

**Byline:** ROY BAYLISS

### **Body**

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A SCHOOLBOY lies dead in the wreckage of a burned-out car - the latest innocent victim of the descent into hell in the Middle East.

The youngster was one of 12 Lebanese villagers, including women and children, who were killed in an Israeli airstrike on a convoy of vehicles.

The massacre happened on the main road in the southern Lebanese community of Ter Harfa, near the Israel border. All the dead were civilians.

Last night, the latest spark to the powder-keg in the troubled region threatened to escalate into all-out war as both sides fired missiles at cities.

There were fears that the conflict could spiral out of control with talk of 'open war' being only days away.

The crisis began when Israeli soldier Corporal Gilad Shalit was seized by Palestinian militants in the Gaza Strip last month. In retaliation, Israeli tanks drove into Gaza and air strikes were launched against Hamas targets.

Meanwhile, to the north of Israel, more than 70 Lebanese people died in a bid to put pressure on Hezbollah guerillas.

The tit-for-tat campaign escalated when two Israeli soldiers were captured by Hezbollah and four Israeli sailors were missing after an explosion on a naval vessel off the coast.

It is believed that the blast was caused by a radar-guided missile fired from 60 miles away..

Yesterday, Israeli warplanes repeatedly blasted Beirut's southern suburbs for the second day running.

Hezbollah launched retaliatory cross-border rocket attacks on Israel, killing a grandmother and a child in a house, and last night hitting the city of Tiberias.

## CHILDREN KILLED IN AIRSTRIKE MASSACRE MIDDLE EAST 'JUST DAYS FROM OPEN WAR'

Intelligence reports say the militants have missiles with the range to reach major cities, including Tel Aviv, and families in the north of Israel have taken to bomb shelters or have fled. Hezbollah leader Hassan Nasrallah has vowed to wage open war on Israel after his offices in Beirut, the Lebanese capital, were bombed on Friday.

There is major concern in the international community that the whole of the Middle East could implode, dragging in other countries including Syria and Iran. Meanwhile, foreigners in Lebanon are trapped because Israel has bombed the runway at Beirut International Airport.

Yesterday, 15 Irish citizens managed to travel out of the country in an Italian convoy, en route to Cyprus. But many others remained stranded in what was increasingly becoming a war zone.

Former Tory defence minister Nicholas Soames has accused Israel of 'disproportionate, dangerous and destructive' behaviour and called on the British Government to make a statement on the crisis.

He said that Israel was acting 'like a rogue state'.

Prime Minister Tony Blair arrived in St Petersburg yesterday for a G8 Summit being held in the shadow of the Middle East crisis.

The gathering of world leaders will seek to focus on an official agenda of global energy, security, education and the fight against infectious diseases including AIDS.

But the escalating Israel-Lebanon conflict will inevitably dominate discussions as Russia hosts its first G8 since joining the club of the world's leading industrialised democracies.

Mr Blair's official spokesman said there was now a 'very serious situation' in the Middle East adding: "The implications are very serious and we need to address it with urgency."

[SundayMercury@mrn.co.uk](mailto:SundayMercury@mrn.co.uk)

### ...NOW BRITAIN GETS INVOLVED

BRITISH aircraft carrier HMS Illustrious was last night being readied to sail for the Middle East as the conflict sucked more nations into the turmoil.

The ship is likely to be used as part of any multi-national security force drafted in to calm the situation, and could also help evacuate stranded Britons.

The move came as the Arab League said the Middle East peace process had failed - and called on the UN Security Council to intervene to stop

escalating violence in the region.

Earlier, it had emerged that a Hezbollah missile had accidentally sunk an Egyptian merchant ship, and 12 crewmen were missing, feared drowned after the incident.

The tragedy came during a guided-missile attack on an Israeli warship off the coast of Beirut -boasted about by Hezbollah leader Sayyed Hassan Nasrallah during a television interview.

"The surprises that I had promised you start now," he said.

## Graphic

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## CHILDREN KILLED IN AIRSTRIKE MASSACRE MIDDLE EAST 'JUST DAYS FROM OPEN WAR'

HORROR: death and destruction near the Lebanese town of Ter Harfa

**Load-Date:** July 16, 2006

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End of Document



## *How Canadian labour can truly help Palestinians*

The Toronto Star  
July 17, 2006 Monday

Copyright 2006 Toronto Star Newspapers, Ltd.

**Section:** OPINION; Pg. A15

**Length:** 751 words

### **Body**

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CUPE Ontario says that it wants to help the Palestinians and to promote Middle East peace. Indeed, there is a great deal that labour unions in Canada can do in this regard, and here are some practical suggestions:

Canadian labour can help address the challenge of creating in Palestinian society an authentic economy and the dignity of work, as Canadians have done through their interventions in post-conflict and developing societies in Latin America, Africa, and Asia.

Canadian labour can share with Palestinian workers its experience in establishing credit unions, whereby workers' savings are invested back into local industry and educational and employment opportunities for new generations of workers.

The Canadian experience can be instrumental in exploring the creation of a Palestinian equivalent to the credit union movement (Caisses populaires) or the Quebec Federation of Labour's Fonds de solidarite.

Canadian labour can consistently demand that Palestinian government officials accord Palestinian workers the fundamental rights and freedoms granted to working people in all democratic societies. These include freedom of association, freedom of expression, and the right to strike for fairer wages and better working conditions.

Canadian labour can assist Palestinian workers in asserting their independence and status - essential preconditions for a sustainable Palestinian democratic civil society and statehood.

Canadian labour can help develop the Palestinian General Federation of Trade Unions, and also assist in rehabilitating the professional associations in the West Bank and Gaza, which have become so permeated with anti-Israel animus as to make meaningless their original labour mandates.

Unfortunately, there is considerable work to be done to secure the place (let alone the rights) of women in the Palestinian workplace - an effort made significantly more complex by the retrogressive policies and practices of the current Hamas-led government.

In Israel today, Jewish and Arab workers sit as equals in the country's powerful general labour federation (the Histadrut), which I head.

With support and encouragement from Canada's trade unionists, a "brotherhood and sisterhood of workers" involving Israeli and Palestinian workers can help establish the people-to-people contacts which are the necessary foundation to stabilizing the current situation.

## How Canadian labour can truly help Palestinians

When Canadian common sense and goodwill are applied to helping Palestinians find concrete solutions to the genuine problems that confront their society, recourse to cynical comparisons to apartheid will be correctly understood as a thinly veiled attempt to demonize and delegitimize Israel.

No friend of the Palestinians or supporter of true Palestinian-Israeli peace can afford to ignore the harsh realities of recent months and years.

Unfortunately, Palestinians have not capitalized upon Israel's withdrawal from Gaza and its announced withdrawal from significant portions of the West Bank - moves so long demanded by many voices in the international community - for positive momentum toward the establishment of a peaceful Palestinian state.

Instead, the Palestinians have elected a radical Islamic government whose raison d'etre is the destruction of Israel, which has continued to promote terrorism against Israel, and which has mired Palestinians in internal chaos.

They also continue to waste the billions of dollars invested in their economy by the international community on a wildly bloated public sector and on massive corruption, substituting aid for the development of an authentic domestic economy.

This is not to diminish current Palestinian suffering. But to become a strong and independent force for positive change in civil society, those who support the Palestinian cause must place Palestinian suffering in its proper perspective.

Specifically, they must acknowledge that many social injustices experienced by Palestinians cannot be blamed on external factors such as Israeli occupation. This is especially true when Israel is withdrawing from the disputed territories.

Israelis, and the Israeli labour movement, stand in support of those in Canada who are prepared to act in a positive and constructive manner to help create the conditions that will allow Palestinians to live in prosperity, dignity and freedom side by side with Israel.

Let's see CUPE Ontario act concretely and responsibly in this regard.

Ofer Eini is chairman of Israel's Histadrut General Federation of Labour Unions, which represents 700,000 workers.

**Load-Date:** July 17, 2006

## *Fire rains down in endless war*

The Toronto Star  
July 23, 2006 Sunday

Copyright 2006 Toronto Star Newspapers, Ltd.

**Section:** OPINION; Pg. A17

**Length:** 647 words

### **Body**

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There is one thing everyone in northern Israel knows at this time: how to get to a bomb shelter within one minute once the warning siren sounds. That's the amount of time to spare before a Hezbollah rocket lands, somewhere. And there is one thing no one knows: when and how it will all end.

Israel's military chiefs have set the limits of their military campaign to "as long as necessary." Some days that means weeks. Some days they speak of months. But two other clocks are also ticking. When does international pressure, the rising crescendo of alarm and anger over Lebanon being "torn to shreds," become impossible to resist as Israel pursues its "very clear goals" to stop Hezbollah rockets and mortars from raining on Israel and to eliminate this very threat? And then there's what Israel calls the Home Front - the Israeli public, including residents in the north who have been in and out of bomb shelters, or "safe rooms" of reinforced concrete in their homes, for nearly two weeks?

Aside from rare voices of dissent, opinion polls show a solid majority of Israelis backs their leaders' military drive to end this once and for all. But what does "the end" mean in a conflict where, as Prime Minister Ehud Olmert sees it, Hezbollah and the Palestinian militant group Hamas are simply subcontractors for Syria and Iran? What constitutes "victory?" Israeli leaders no longer speak of crushing Hezbollah, which they know has real grassroots support in Lebanon's Shiite community, seats in Parliament and ministries in government. What will Hezbollah be, "the day after," whenever that is?

There is unusual confidence in Israel that, now, they have more time because they have set this battle at the front line of other battles being waged from Washington and other Western and indeed some Arab capitals. This is the Middle East post 9/11, in the full flow of George Bush's "war on terror." Mr. Olmert gave his own axis of evil speech when he spoke of Tehran-Damascus-Beirut-Gaza. But, in some eyes, this is another of the asymmetrical battles Israel has often fought with its Arab neighbours, which end up creating more problems in their wake, not to mention another armed conflagration somewhere down the line.

Every Israeli government minister I interviewed during this crisis insisted they know this won't be solved by force alone. Israel is judging how much it can achieve militarily before it turns, or is made to turn, to the international community, and what is left of the Lebanese government, to achieve the rest. Does there have to be a ground offensive to root out Hezbollah's well-entrenched network of tunnels and towers? For now, Israel's generals say no, while they mass their formidable firepower along the border and conduct limited forays inside. Israel's first invasion of Lebanon in 1978, which led to a costly occupation that only ended in 2000, is still etched in Israel's national conscience, and is a painful chapter in Lebanon's own tortured history.

## Fire rains down in endless war

As Condoleezza Rice heads to the region talking of the "birth pangs of a new Middle East," some of it feels very much like the region of old. The towns on Israel's border, a land of breathtaking beauty in clear sight of Lebanon, are virtually deserted. Lebanese towns straddling the rolling hills on the other side are under constant fire but that still hasn't stopped mortars and katyushas from flying across. Some Israelis rarely leave their bomb shelters. But a bit further south, some now rarely go in, emboldened by almost two weeks of survival.

"Where is the bomb shelter when the siren sounds?" we asked two elderly women sitting quietly on their balcony in Haifa, knitting calmly, at a centre for holocaust survivors. "My dear, we just put our fingers in our ears." Such is the home front.

Canadian journalist Lyse Doucet is a world news presenter and foreign correspondent for BBC Television in Haifa.

**Load-Date:** July 23, 2006

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End of Document

## ADVANTAGE HIZBULLAH

The Nation (AsiaNet)

August 1, 2006 Tuesday

Copyright 2006 The Nation  
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**Length:** 710 words

**Byline:** S.M. HALI

### **Body**

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The relentless pounding of Lebanon by Israeli Defence Forces has gone on for nearly three weeks, killing innocent civilians and children by the hundreds, yet Hizbullah or the Lebanese have shown no signs of battle fatigue nor have they been hounded by the Lebanese nation to return the abducted Israeli soldiers and thus end their misery.

Messer's Bush and Tony Blair, who could have played their part in urging Israel to cease its hostilities, desisted from doing so perhaps in providing time to Israel to exterminate Hizbullah through "clean surgical strikes, sparing innocent women and children". Mr Bush's administration went to the extent of expediting the delivery of satellite and laser-guided precision bombs to Israel to perhaps help the Lebanese civilians escape from the wrath of "Goliath" Israel, which has picked on "David" Lebanon. The simile is painful since for far too long Israel has pretended to be "David" taking on the mighty Arab "Goliath."

It is ironical that even as Israel and its Western allies were condemning Hamas and Hizbullah "terrorists," in Jerusalem a right-wing group of influential Israelis, including the former Prime Minister, Binyamin Netanyahu, was celebrating one of the worst acts of terrorism against Britain in a foreign land: the 60th anniversary of the bombing, on July 22, 1946, of the King David Hotel, the headquarters of the British Government's representatives in the region.

The UN Security Council too has been lethargic. The only demur from it came when four UN peacekeepers became targets of Israeli air attacks and when angry Lebanese attacked the UN mission at Beirut to protest the atrocious and merciless bombings by Israel. It finally took the massacre of more than 65 civilians, at least 34 of them children, in another ruthless Israeli air raid on a building in the Lebanese village of Qana, for the world leaders to take notice.

If Israel and its mentors USA and Britain thought Hizbullah would be a turkey shoot, and the citizens of Lebanon would turn against them for bringing misery through their firebrand tactics (the way they did against the Syrians in February-March 2005), they could not be more wrong.

American and Israeli frustration arises from the fact that neither the ceaseless pounding of Gaza nor Lebanon has caused the capitulation of its people. To their consternation, they are witnessing the metamorphosis of a new breed of fighters, who have shed aside their sectarian and religious differences and in unison they are rising like a Phoenix from the ashes of fires set by Israel.

Robert Fisk in his article 'Is Israel losing the war?' answers the question himself by referring to the bloody mauling it received in the Lebanese town of Bint Jbeil, which it claimed to have captured, only to walk into a "devastating ambush" by Hizbullah guerrillas. With 13 Israeli soldiers dead and numerous injured, it managed a hasty retreat.

## ADVANTAGE HIZBULLAH

The Asianage in its Op-ed of 26/7 titled 'A crusade gone haywire' does not need to elaborate. The title is self-explanatory; yet it reveals: "America's ruling establishment comprising the government, academics and particularly legislators are terrified of saying anything remotely against Israel, with Senator Hillary Clinton, among others, being in the lead in support of Israel's war aims in Lebanon. Indeed, it took courage for the former US secretary of state, Zbigniew Brzezinski, to criticise Israel by declaring, "You are killing hostages (in Lebanon) in the hope of intimidating the people you want to intimidate."

The rise in the stature of Hizbullah can be gauged from Pepe Escobar's article: 'The spirit of resistance' where he reveals, "According to Jane's Weekly...Hezbollah's moral and political cache could not but rise among peoples and movements worldwide who keep being bombed to oblivion but never had a chance to bomb back."

It is high time that the civilised world took cognisance of the barbaric Israeli aggression, based on the arrogance of power, which has violated all principles of inter-state relations and conduct. The use of brute force as an instrument of policy and international acquiescence in this policy create enormous risks to its small and defenceless neighbours and amounts to state terrorism in its worst manifestation

**Load-Date:** December 6, 2006

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## **13 killed as fighting intensifies in Gaza**

The International Herald Tribune

July 7, 2006 Friday

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**Section:** NEWS; Pg. 5

**Length:** 713 words

**Byline:** Steven Erlanger and Greg Myre

**Dateline:** BEIT LAHIYA, Gaza Strip

### **Body**

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In sometimes fierce fighting involving everything from rifles to missiles, Israeli troops and Palestinian militants on Thursday waged their most intense battles since Israel re-entered the Gaza Strip last week to secure the release of a captured soldier and stop rocket fire into Israel.

At least 12 Palestinians and one Israeli soldier were killed amid shootouts, artillery fire and airstrikes. Most of the deaths were in northern Gaza, but two Palestinian militants were killed in southern Gaza.

After days of sporadic clashes, Israeli forces pushed farther into northern Gaza, moving south from the destroyed former Israeli settlements to the outskirts of Beit Lahiya, in the northwestern corner of Gaza, where Palestinian fighters had been preparing earth barricades, explosive charges and shooting positions.

The Israeli defense minister, Amir Peretz, said that although Israel pulled out of Gaza last year, "no one should see that as a guarantee that we cannot reach territory in which we feel we have no choice but to operate."

Heavy fighting soon erupted in and around Beit Lahiya, especially in the western Atatrah and Sultadin neighborhoods, closer to the sea. Palestinian militants were armed with light weapons like Kalashnikovs, M16s and anti-tank grenades, and fought running battles with Israeli troops who were in armored personnel carriers, modern tanks and armored D9 bulldozers.

Palestinians were seen planting explosives underneath manholes in streets, hoping to blow up a vehicle as it drove by. A masked fighter rode a bicycle away after laying one such charge, a spool of electrical wire unrolling from the back of his bike.

Israeli tanks fired shells at houses where Palestinian fighters sheltered, and soldiers fired at groups of armed Palestinians who fought in the streets, sometimes surrounded by curious and excited children. At times, Israeli soldiers fired toward groups of children in what appeared to be an effort to get them to run away.

Three Israeli airstrikes near the town killed six Palestinian militants, according to the Israeli military. Palestinians asserted that some of the dead were civilians. An Israeli tank shell killed two militants and one civilian, Palestinians told Reuters.

About 30 Palestinians were wounded in the area, according to Palestinian medics. An Israeli soldier was killed by a sniper, the Israeli Army said after claims made by the Popular Resistance Committees, a faction made up of

## 13 killed as fighting intensifies in Gaza

militants from various groups, that it had shot and killed an Israeli soldier in Beit Lahiya. The military said a second soldier was wounded.

In southern Gaza, an Israeli airstrike killed two Islamic Jihad militants in Abassan, near the southern town of Khan Yunis, according to Palestinian witnesses and security officials. The men were firing an anti-tank rocket at Israeli tanks and troops positioned there.

Before daybreak, two Palestinians were killed in airstrikes, according to Palestinian security officials. Israel's military has re-entered both the north and the south of Gaza for what it says is a two-pronged mission.

In the south, the troops were sent in shortly after Corporal Gilad Shalit, a tank gunner, was captured by militants and taken to Gaza on June 25.

Ghazi Hamad, a spokesman for the **Hamas**-led government, said the sides should seek a diplomatic solution that would lead to Shalit's release.

"We don't want Gaza destroyed, nor do we want attacks," Hamad told Israel radio. "And you want him to return to his family."

Israel says it will not negotiate for the release of the soldier, and has rejected Palestinian demands that large numbers of Palestinian prisoners be freed.

The Arabic-language newspaper Al Hayat, which is based in London, reported Thursday that militants had revised their demands, saying that Shalit could be freed if all Palestinian **women** were released from Israeli jails along with 30 men who are serving long sentences.

The Israeli military said that Palestinians fired eight rockets from Gaza at Israel on Thursday but that they did not cause any injuries.

Only four of the rockets made it into Israeli territory, the military said. Three apparently landed inside Gaza, and one fell in the ocean, the military added.

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Steven Erlanger reported from Beit Lahiya and Greg Myre from Jerusalem.

**Load-Date:** July 7, 2006



## *Another lady who is not for turning; CRISIS IN LEBANON*

Sydney Morning Herald (Australia)

July 29, 2006 Saturday

First Edition

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**Section:** NEWS AND FEATURES; News Review; Pg. 28

**Length:** 2218 words

**Byline:** Michael Gawenda

### **Body**

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Condoleezza Rice is toughing it out amid international criticism over the US stance on Lebanon, writes Michael Gawenda.

PHOTOGRAPHS can lie but the one of Condoleezza Rice at a press conference in Rome as she stood listening to Lebanon's Prime Minister, Fouad Siniora, say his country was being torn apart by war was stark and dramatic.

Published on the front page of many American newspapers, it shows Rice not looking at Siniora - in fact, not looking at anyone. She has her left hand covering her forehead and her eyes are closed, her mouth set in a grimace.

Photographs can lie, but this one captures what confronts this most powerful of women representing the most powerful of nations: the most difficult - and defining - moment in her glittering career.

The wars between Israel and Hezbollah and Israel and the militants in Gaza, the hopes of a settlement between Israel and the Palestinians, the survival of the democratically elected government of Lebanon, indeed the whole of the Bush Administration's democracy project, including the outcome in Iraq, are on the line.

And Rice knows her career is on the line; that history will judge her a success or a failure on what happens in the Middle East. For in this second Bush term, she has, with George Bush's blessing, determined the Administration's Middle East policies.

From the time she became Secretary of State in January 2005, Rice made it clear one of her goals was to repair the ruptured relationships with US allies in Europe, to practise what she labelled "transformational diplomacy", to move away from the unilateralism of Bush's first term.

While Bush's approval ratings fell relentlessly, month after month, as Americans came to believe that the President, after Hurricane Katrina and the mess in Iraq, was incompetent, Rice's approval ratings soared.

While the approval rating of the Vice-President, Dick Cheney, dropped to about 17 per cent and there have been increasingly insistent calls, even from Republicans, for Bush to sack the Defence Secretary, Donald Rumsfeld, Rice was in the ascendant. She even sidelined Cheney, the architect of the Administration's foreign policy in Bush's first term.

## Another lady who is not for turning CRISIS IN LEBANON

Rice persuaded Bush to take the diplomacy route with Iran on its nuclear program, backing the European Union negotiations that Cheney had described as useless, even persuading Bush that the US should join the EU talks with Iran and offer a package of inducements if Tehran suspended its uranium enrichment activities.

Despite that as national security adviser in Bush's first term Rice had been involved in the decision to go to war in Iraq, she has managed to distance herself from the Iraq fiasco.

Rice, the celebrity Secretary of State, was nowhere to be seen in Rome this week, nor in Lebanon and Israel and Gaza before that. There were no children to greet Rice when she arrived in Rome for a day-long conference with European allies, Russian officials and Siniora on the crisis in the Middle East.

Rice knew that she would stand alone at the conference, isolated, with only lukewarm support from Britain for her position that there could be no ceasefire between Israel and Hezbollah that, in her words, "did not deal with the fundamental issues".

Any agreement would have to involve Hezbollah returning two kidnapped Israeli soldiers, stop the rocket attacks on Israel, the creation of an international UN-sanctioned force to help the Lebanese army take control of south Lebanon from Hezbollah and Hezbollah's disarming.

In a sense, the outcome of the Rome conference - that there would be no call for a ceasefire - was predetermined, for Rice had made it clear during her lightning visit to Lebanon just days before that the US remained adamant Israel would be given time to seriously weaken - if not destroy - Hezbollah.

"There was disagreement going into Rome and there was disagreement coming out," says Robert Malley, a National Security Council official during the Clinton administration. "I'm not sure it was worth having."

The US position - Rice's position - has been clear from the time Hezbollah crossed the northern border with Israel more than two weeks ago, killed eight Israeli soldiers and kidnapped two others.

Some Hezbollah officials have said they were surprised by Israel's overwhelming response to this provocation and it is not clear whether Israel informed the US of its plans before it began the bombing campaign in Lebanon, but from the time the first bombs landed, Bush and Rice made it clear that the US would not seek to restrain Israel's assault on Hezbollah.

As the crisis has worn on, Rice's language has become blunter, angrier, less diplomatic. Before she left for Rome, she was asked whether the Bush Administration's democracy project in the Middle East - especially, but not only in Iraq - had failed and had benefited only terrorist organisations such as Hezbollah and Hamas.

"The suggestion that somehow Hezbollah and Hamas are recent creations and threats is pathetic," she said. When asked why she was not prepared to engage in the sort of shuttle diplomacy undertaken by previous secretaries of state in the Middle East, she replied: "I am prepared to do what I can but to shuttle for shuttle's sake, for no purpose, makes no sense."

IN THE Administration's view, what's at stake in the fighting between Israel and Hezbollah - and in Gaza - is not just Israel's security, but a threat of victory for Islamist totalitarianism and for Iran, one of its sponsors. As Martin Peretz, the editor-in-chief of the liberal The New Republic and no friend of Bush, put it: "Israel is fighting for themselves but the Israelis are also fighting for us."

"The Administration has evinced stunning moral and military clarity in the face of international pressure to rush towards a premature resolution ... Condoleezza Rice has been a compelling voice in the public argument and in the argument among allies as well."

But Anthony Cordesman, a Middle East specialist at the Centre for Strategic and International Studies, says even if the Administration is right about what's at stake, its diplomacy is wrong-headed.

## Another lady who is not for turning CRISIS IN LEBANON

"The Administration's posture of standing aside and bipartisan pandering in Congress have left the US without any effort to create a meaningful buffer between Israel and Hezbollah or help the Lebanese Government disarm it," he says. Passively waiting for Israel to make things worse for itself does not help.

"Failing to be seen to take visible action to resolve the crisis ... makes the US seem to be a partner to Israel with little regard for the Arab world. This is not a posture that helps Iraq, that helps regimes in Egypt and Jordan or helps build up support for dealing with Iran and Iraq. It is not a strategy that helps win the war on terrorism."

Among foreign policy analysts and even Administration supporters, there is a consensus emerging that the US has been too passive, too disengaged in the Middle East and that this has to change.

Edward Luttwak, a senior fellow at the centre, believes that despite the apparent support for an international UN-sanctioned force which would be stationed in southern Lebanon after a ceasefire, such a force, given the history of UN-sanctioned peace keeping operations, would be useless.

If that's the case, Luttwak says, then there is only the "horrible to contemplate" but irresistible diplomatic option and that is to get the Syrians involved to disarm Hezbollah and get Hezbollah more politically involved in Lebanon's Government, eschewing violence.

While that would mean recognition that Syria has some influence over Lebanon, despite last year's withdrawal of its forces, this is a price worth paying if it results in the Syrian President, Bashar Assad, abandoning his alliance with Iran.

"But unlike the military option, which is simply impossible, the diplomatic option is merely humiliating," Luttwak wrote this week in The Wall Street Journal.

But there is little evidence Rice will engage any time soon in the shuttle diplomacy she has just so recently fiercely rejected. Bush has more or less left it to Rice to explain and "own" the Administration's position on the war between Israel and Hezbollah and Israel's action against Hamas militants in Gaza, which is probably a wise decision given his two horror days this week in Washington during the visit of the Iraqi Prime Minister, Nouri al-Maliki.

What was meant to be a visit to shore up support for Maliki's embattled Government and to allow him to use an address to Congress to show that the democratically elected Prime Minister of Iraq was on board in the war on terrorism, became a fiasco when Maliki, on the eve of his visit to Washington, condemned Israel for its "criminal actions" in Lebanon and refused to condemn Hezbollah.

Bush had to stand in silence at a joint press conference as Maliki again refused to condemn Hezbollah even as some members of Congress announced that they would boycott Maliki's address to protest against what the Democratic National Committee chairman, Howard Dean, described as Maliki's "anti-semitism".

The Democrats who criticised Maliki were undoubtedly playing politics but they were making a point that is resonating with many Americans: that, in their view, the Iraq project, far from establishing a democratic system in Iraq friendly to the US - and Israel - has brought Iraq to the brink of civil war.

It has emboldened terrorists everywhere in the Middle East, increased Iran's influence in Iraq - and the region - and left the US disengaged and helpless to influence events in Gaza and Lebanon that could well lead to a region-wide conflict.

It is not only Democrats who hold this view. A former senior Administration official told the Herald that he had supported the war in Iraq, but that he was now convinced it will be seen by history as America's greatest foreign policy blunder.

"It has distracted us from other major foreign policy challenges in the region, including the Israel-Palestinian conflict. It has dramatically increased Iran's reach and influence in the region and, meanwhile, in other parts of the world, China is eating our lunch."

## Another lady who is not for turning CRISIS IN LEBANON

Rice would accept none of this. People who know her say she is incredibly self-confident, that she loves challenges, that far from being disheartened by criticism, she is energised by it. As far as her position on Israel and Lebanon - and Gaza - is concerned, she has a couple of things going for her. For a start, unlike her predecessor, Colin Powell, she is close to Bush and has his complete support. Unlike Powell, she has not had to worry about being undermined by Cheney and Rumsfeld.

And, critically, there is virtually total support across the US political spectrum - if not among the foreign policy establishment - for Israel's actions in Lebanon and Gaza.

Polls consistently show a clear majority of Americans view Israel as a democratic ally of the US and the latest CBS poll, taken this week, shows 61 per cent are favourably disposed to Israel compared with 13 per cent for the Palestinians.

IN PRIVATE conversations, strictly off the record, there are some Republicans and Democrats who will tell you that what they describe as the lack of debate in America about the US-Israel relationship is unhealthy - the "elephant in the room" one described it - that can't be discussed.

Then they will tell you that three months before mid-term congressional elections is a bad time to raise the issue and, anyway, they basically support Israel in the war against Hezbollah, an organisation, they invariably point out, that killed 241 US marines and peacekeepers in a suicide bomb attack in Beirut in 1983.

As Israeli military commanders were saying that the bombing campaign in Lebanon and the fighting just across the Israeli border could continue for weeks, Rice was telling reporters in Malaysia where she was attending the ASEAN security conference that she was planning to return to the Middle East this weekend.

And Bush was telling reporters in Washington that he was not prepared to accept what he called a "fake" ceasefire and, after pointing the finger at Iran as Hezbollah's sponsor, said "now is the time to address the root causes of the problem and the root cause of the problem is terrorist groups trying to stop the advance of democracy".

"I view this as a clash of forms of government," he said.

Rice will go back to the Middle East reluctantly for she knows she has nothing new to offer except words of sympathy for the Lebanese people and the people of Israel and Gaza who are living with the consequences of this war. It is not even clear where she will go, though it is clear she won't head for Damascus, let alone Tehran.

In Malaysia, Rice apparently declined to take part in what has become a custom at the gala dinner of the annual Association of South-East Asian Nations meeting: a comedy skit by each delegation. Last year, for instance, the then deputy secretary of state, Robert Zoellick, sang My Darling Clementine and the Russian Foreign Minister, Sergey Lavrov, came dressed as Darth Vader.

Rice said she would not be doing a skit because the fighting in the Middle East was not a time for jokes. "I will play the piano," she is reported to have said. "A reflective piece. Brahms is always good for that."

As that photograph from Rome so dramatically illustrated, she has a lot to reflect about.

## Graphic

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TWO PHOTOS: A look that speaks volumes ... Condoleezza Rice reacts at the Rome press conference as Fouad Siniora gives details of how Lebanon is being torn apart. Photo: AFP Bad hit ... soldiers carry the body of a UN observer killed by an Israeli strike. Photo: Reuters

Another lady who is not for turning CRISIS IN LEBANON

**Load-Date:** July 17, 2007

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**Arab world's reaction to alleged killing is muted; American troops often commit such acts, many believe. Two U.S. probes are under way.**

The Philadelphia Inquirer

May 31, 2006 Wednesday

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**The Philadelphia Inquirer**

Found on Philly.com

**Section:** NATIONAL; Pg. A02

**Length:** 648 words

**Byline:** Hamza Hendawi, Associated Press

## **Body**

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Allegations that U.S. Marines killed 24 civilians in Haditha, a volatile town in western Iraq, have caused barely a stir in Iraq and much of the Arab world - where American troops are reviled as brutal invaders who regularly commit such acts.

Arab media have largely ignored the allegations, though a few publications have made highly critical comments and said events in the small Euphrates River town northwest of Baghdad were neither the biggest alleged atrocity by American forces nor would they be the last.

The pan-Arab daily Asharq al-Awsat focused on the role of the Western media in exposing the allegations.

"As soon as I read the news, the immediate question that came to mind was: 'Why wasn't the tape broadcast by an Arab channel or published in an Arab newspaper?'" asked Diana Mukkaled in the newspaper's Sunday edition.

Mukkaled referred to a videotape shot by an Iraqi journalism student and later obtained by Time magazine that showed the bodies of women and children, some in their nightclothes.

Reports of what happened in Haditha did not surface until March, when the incident began to be seriously investigated. An Associated Press report in March included accounts from people in the town who said they had witnessed killings.

But for now, renewed U.S. interest in the allegations has drawn only a muted response from the media in Iraq. That also appeared to be largely the case elsewhere in the Arab world.

Dawood al-Shirian, a Saudi commentator and TV talk-show host, said other regional issues, like the Fatah-Hamas rivalry in the Palestinian territories, could have overshadowed the Haditha killings.

"But this issue cannot be hidden for long," al-Shirian said. "Sooner or later, it will come to the surface."

Arab world's reaction to alleged killing is muted American troops often commit such acts, many believe. Two U.S. probes are under way.

"This crime shows that the American administration did not only fail politically, militarily and financially [in Iraq], but has specifically failed morally," said Lebanese rights activist Maan Bashour.

The killings have prompted two U.S. investigations, one into the deadly encounter and a second into whether it was covered up. The Marine Corps had initially attributed 15 civilian deaths to a car bombing and a subsequent firefight that left eight insurgents dead.

What happened in Haditha remains unclear. Rep. John Murtha, a Pennsylvania Democrat and decorated war veteran, said a Marine was killed when a bomb hit a military convoy. Angered by the loss of a comrade, the Marines shot and killed unarmed civilians in a taxi, then went into two homes and shot the occupants, including women and children.

### **The Prime Minister's Response**

**Iraqi Prime Minister** Nouri al-Maliki broke his public silence yesterday on the alleged killing of about 24 civilians by U.S. Marines, saying that such deaths were never justified, even in the fight against terrorists.

**Al-Maliki, speaking** in a television interview with the British Broadcasting Corp., expressed remorse over the reported killings last November in the western Iraqi city of Haditha.

"**We emphasize** that our forces, that multinational forces will respect human rights, the rights of the Iraqi citizen," al-Maliki said. "It is not justifiable that a family is killed because someone is fighting terrorists; we have to be more specific and more careful."

**Pentagon investigations** into the shootings are focused on about a dozen enlisted Marines and do not target their commanding officers, the lawyer for one of the officers said yesterday.

**The highest-ranking** Marine targeted by the investigations is a staff sergeant who led the convoy, said attorney Paul Hackett, a Marine reservist and Iraqi war veteran who last year narrowly lost a special election for a U.S. House seat in Ohio.

**Hackett represents** Capt. James Kimber, one of three battalion officers relieved of command last month.

"**My purpose** is to separate his name from the alleged war crimes that took place," Hackett told The Associated Press in a telephone interview.

**Load-Date:** May 31, 2006

**World briefing: Egypt finds democracy can wait**

The Guardian - Final Edition

May 16, 2006 Tuesday

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**Section:** GUARDIAN INTERNATIONAL PAGES; Pg. 18

**Length:** 664 words

**Byline:** Simon Tisdall

## **Body**

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President Hosni Mubarak's enforcers have a particular way of dealing with **female** demonstrators: they sexually humiliate them. The case of journalist Abir al-Askari is but one example. When she arrived at Cairo's high court last week for a disciplinary hearing against two pro-democracy judges, she was grabbed by several men.

"They drove me to Sayyida Zeinab police station. I screamed and resisted and they beat me and pulled my hair and my veil," Ms Askari said. "Right in front of the police station they kicked me. When people gathered and told them to stop they replied: 'She's been committing adultery.'"

Ms Askari told Human Rights Watch investigators that she was taken to a room where three **female** activists from the Kifaya reform group had previously been abused. "Nobody will know where you are," the officer said. "You are lost." They tore at my clothes, my shirt buttons. They continued to slap and punch me . . . I was lying on the floor. He placed his shoe on my face." She was later released.

Ms Askari's ordeal recalled a similar outrage in May last year when **women** protesters were assaulted and groped by plainclothes security men as police looked on. That incident was especially embarrassing for Mr Mubarak. Under US pressure, he had just promised a new era of democratic reform and announced Egypt's first contested presidential election (which he later won by a landslide). He ordered an investigation. But no charges have been brought.

So far last week's sexual assaults, which were less widely reported, have not been deemed worthy of an official inquiry. Nor have the beatings, arrests, and continuing detention without trial of hundreds of mostly male pro-democracy activists from the banned Muslim Brotherhood and other groups in Cairo and elsewhere. Officials at the Egyptian embassy in London were not available for comment yesterday.

The two judges at the centre of the protests and ensuing repression, Mahmud Mekki and Hisham Bastawisi, alleged vote-rigging in last year's parliamentary polls and were accused of bringing the judiciary into disrepute. This strikes government critics, including other members of the pro-reform Judges' Club, as ironic. They claim Egypt's judiciary is mostly controlled by the ministry of justice and the two were performing a public service.

"The political and economic reforms needed to achieve democracy and restore public faith in government can be achieved only under an independent judiciary," Mr Mekki and Mr Bastawisi wrote in the Guardian last week.

But Egyptians and outside commentators accuse Mr Mubarak, spooked by rising Islamism, sectarian tensions and renewed terrorism, of ditching the reform agenda as US pressure has relaxed. Hated emergency laws were recently



## World briefing: Egypt finds democracy can wait

renewed. "The government is apparently determined to stamp out peaceful dissent. Mr Mubarak sees growing popular support for the reformist judges as a real challenge to his authoritarian ways," said Joe Stork of Human Rights Watch.

"There is no prospect of significant political reform in Egypt in the foreseeable future. It's dead in the water," said Hugh Roberts, a Cairo-based analyst. "Western efforts to shape reform in Egypt have been a fiasco."

The state department said it was "deeply concerned" by last week's violence and politely reminded Egypt that it receives \$1.9bn annually in US aid. But Bush officials recently told congressional budget watchdogs that Egypt was a key Arab ally, providing support on Iran, Sudan, and Afghanistan and allowing Suez Canal transit shipments and overflights to US forces in Iraq.

Washington fears the rise of the Muslim Brothers as much as it deplores the success of **Hamas** in Palestine. The implication was that democracy could wait.

That is not a conclusion shared by Egypt's opposition. The hearing of the judges' case has been rescheduled for Thursday. That is also the day set for an appeal by Mr Mubarak's jailed presidential opponent, Ayman Nour. More protests and more brutal abuse may be on the way.

**Load-Date:** May 16, 2006

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## *The world is not black and white even for one-eyed ignorants*

Canberra Times (Australia)

April 21, 2006 Friday

Final Edition

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**Section:** A; Pg. 14

**Length:** 629 words

**Byline:** The Canberra Times

### **Body**

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So The Canberra Times that gave us the ignorant, one-eyed, rambling, whining Angela Shanahan now gives us the ignorant, one-eyed, rambling, ranting David Barnett (Opinion, April 20), who complains that the poor, set-upon Americans are too fair for their own good in the face of all those terrorists on the other side.

The world is not so black-and-white.

For all the good things that come out of the United States, it still sponsored terrorists in Central America, it still sponsors them via Turkey, and it sponsors or tolerates plenty of tyrants that it hasn't taken the trouble to invade and overthrow, notably in Pakistan.

If Hamas should swear off terrorism then so should Israel which, many people conveniently forget, was founded on terrorism.

Then there are the democracies the US has conspired to overthrow, including Iran, Congo and Chile.

And no, David, I am neither socialist nor anti-American (I'm married to one). What I am against is the harm inflicted on the world by ignorant, one-eyed people of any persuasion.

Geoff Davies, Hawker No flaw in Legacy Ian Warden (Dawn Service is poignant and almost perfect .., Opinion, April 18) refers to part of the recitation of Joel McCrae's poem In Flanders' Fields as a flaw, because of the words, "Take up our quarrel with the foe: To you from failing hands we throw The Torch:" This is no flaw: This is not a call for "maintenance of a rage against the foe". This is a call to comrades to take up The Torch.

Legacy took up The Torch in 1923 after Australia suffered horrendous casualties in World War I, leaving thousands of widows and children without support. The Torch became the symbol of Legacy.

Legacy still cares for the dependants of veterans of World War I, World War II and subsequent wars, including our most recent losses in the helicopter crash in Nias.

Legacy now cares for 132,000 women and children throughout Australia who are the dependants of servicemen and women who made the supreme sacrifice or who have since died.

Legacy has adopted "The Answer" from a poem by an American R.W.

The world is not black and white even for one-eyed ignorants

Lilliard.

"Fear not that you have died for naught; The torch you threw to us we caught! And now our hands will hold it high, Its glorious light shall never die.

We'll not break with you who lie On many a field."

When you make a donation to Legacy you buy a badge with the Legacy symbol of The Torch.

Ray Sunderland, Canberra Legacy Cycling still a danger Cycling in Canberra is a popular recreational and commuting activity.

Those who ride to work enjoy many benefits including: better health and fitness, petrol savings, and just the sheer pleasure of getting to work while enjoying Canberra's natural beauty; but Canberra also benefits through reduced traffic, parking and pollution problems.

Cycling infrastructure is required for all major destinations to maximise these benefits.

Unfortunately, the fast-expanding Brindabella Business Park at Canberra Airport remains an unsafe destination for cyclists. In the case of Brindabella Business Park, the last section of road leading to Canberra Airport is unsuitable for cyclists.

This problem has been recognised for some time and a cycle path was to be included as part of the capital works project "Pialligo Ave Stage One Upgrade". Due to cost blow-outs for the GDE, the Pialligo upgrade is unlikely to be built in the near future.

Ironically, 8 Brindabella Park has received a five-star environmental rating, partly because of its provision of amenities for cyclists.

The problem is that this rating does not take into account actually getting to the buildings - merely building facilities is sufficient to be a good corporate citizen!

No business should consider moving to Brindabella Business Park until suitable cycling infrastructure has been constructed.

Warwick Bradly, Duffy

**Load-Date:** October 11, 2011

## *At Home With the Olmerts in Israel's Corridors of Power*

The New York Times

March 28, 2006 Tuesday

Late Edition - Final

Copyright 2006 The New York Times Company

**Section:** Section E; Column 3; The Arts/Cultural Desk; Pg. 7; TELEVISION REVIEW

**Length:** 645 words

**Byline:** By NED MARTEL

### **Body**

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In a new installment of "Frontline/World," Israel's acting prime minister, Ehud Olmert, and his wife recall the January night that their home became a kind of fortress, guarded by government agents and gawked at by reporters and onlookers. Prime Minister Ariel Sharon had suffered a stroke from which he has yet to recover, and succession plans went into effect. Today's election could formalize for Mr. Olmert a boost in power and, for his wife, Aliza, a loss of freedom.

This is Mrs. Olmert's primary lament in the 30-minute segment, produced by her close friend Ofra Bikel. As a trusted confidante entering the fortress, Ms. Bikel rewards her hosts with a kindly portrait. But as a deft documentarian who recently found fresh things to say on "Frontline" about the stale-for-a-decade O. J. Simpson verdict, she also successfully balances the interests of the viewer and the viewed, and both sides should feel grateful for her measured reading of delicate matters.

Mrs. Olmert, who speaks in English, is clearly fixated on fragility. A playwright and visual artist, she is shown piecing together a new work with a preferred medium: eggshells. But she is hardly a mute helpmeet. In fact, when asked about what might be seen as her husband's great political fortune, she explains that it's actually an imposition, and, by the way, no fun at all.

Now more of a moderate, her husband has also played the political provocateur, and Mrs. Olmert freely admits she has found his nationalism hard to abide. He grew up in what is often referred to in the program as a nationalist settlement and enjoyed imagining broader borders for the Jewish state. Mrs. Olmert and her husband have had, she says, "a different basic understanding about this place," adding, "I couldn't cope with this rhetoric at all."

Ms. Bikel is most adept at showing how the family balances emotional support and political opposition. The couple have long disagreed, and the arguments have spread to their children. Several Olmert offspring are active in groups that have opposed their father on one issue or another. The patriarch keeps his political enemies from using his own children as weapons against him, albeit in a crafty way. "What's the big deal?" he says, the magnanimous papa. "They're entitled to have their own opinions." Then he follows with, "I never questioned their right to be wrong."

Then comes the mom. "Ehud is a very tolerant man," she confides. You're going along with her here, and then she demonstrates the occasional need to sound a "Father Knows Best" note: "Otherwise, he couldn't have lived with me." Mr. Olmert acknowledges the favor, offering that they all are in fact tolerant of him.

## At Home With the Olmerts in Israel 's Corridors of Power

Now that **Hamas** will rule the Palestinians, Mr. Olmert's patterns of aggression and concession might again come into play. He insists that his flexibility is a virtue. "I have changed my opinions about some fundamental issues, and I'm proud of it," he says.

As Ms. Bikel pans for an overhead shot in the Olmert dining room, there's a reassuring sense that the candidate knows how to keep opponents at the table. There's a baby gate guarding the staircase, his daughter has brought her **female** partner to the gathering, and the onetime hard-liner is feeding a toddler, sipping wine, demonstrating a mutual respect that has led, we are meant to believe, to a workable, if hard-won domestic peace. If he can manage that, this cozy scene suggests, there's hope for a few nonviolent years under an Olmert-led Israel.

Frontline/World

Israel: The Unexpected Candidate

PBS, tonight at 9; check local listings.

Reported, produced and directed by Ofra Bikel; Stephen Talbot, "Frontline/World" series editor; Ken Dornstein, "Frontline" series editor; Sharon Tiller, "Frontline/World" series executive director; David Fanning, executive producer. Produced by WGBH Boston.

<http://www.nytimes.com>

## Graphic

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Photo: Ehud Olmert at a rally, shadowed by a picture of Ariel Sharon. (Photo by Muhammed Muheisen/Associated Press)

**Load-Date:** March 28, 2006

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End of Document

## WORLD IN BRIEF

The Evening Standard (London)

March 10, 2006 Friday

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# London Evening Standard

**Section:** A MERGE; Pg. 10

**Length:** 649 words

## **Body**

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Falconio appeal delays Pounds 100,000 reward for naming of murderer SEVERAL claims have been made for the Pounds 100,000 reward offered to find the killer of British backpacker Peter Falconio but a decision on who gets the bounty has been delayed. Australian police said today they would have to wait for the outcome of an appeal by the man convicted of the crime. Bradley John Murdoch, 47, was found guilty in December of Mr Falconio's murder and of attacking and kidnapping the backpacker's girlfriend, Joanne Lees, at gunpoint 200 miles north of Alice Springs in 2001. The body of Mr Falconio, 28, has never been found.

Jackson's staff are barred from Neverland as insurance runs out MICHAEL JACKSON has been fined Pounds 40,000 and staff have been barred from Neverland because the the estate's workers insurance policy has lapsed.

California officials issued a "stop order" after finding that cover for 69 employees at the ranch had run out on 10 January. "In effect, it shuts them down," said a state spokesman. Jackson, 47 - who has lived in Bahrain since being acquitted of child molestation charges last year - can appeal, or hire an outside company to run the 2,600-acre estate if its own staff have the appropriate insurance.

Child walks after surgery in womb SURGEONS have hailed revolutionary surgery on a foetus as a success after the child, now 14 months, took her first steps. A team from the Monash Medical Centre in Melbourne operated on Ella Turner after only 28 weeks in the womb.

Part of the uterus of Ella's mother Joanna Dalton, from Tasmania, had wrapped around her foot, cutting off the blood supply. To stop her losing the foot, doctors used tiny telescopes and lasers to remove the tissue. Surgeon Andrew Edwards said: "It's terrific. We're very excited."

Tests confirm 21st bird flu death INDONESIA'S bird flu death toll hit 21 today after test results confirmed that a three-year-old who died last month was infected with the virus. The boy died in a hospital in Semarang, central Java, apparently after coming into contact with sick chickens, an official said. It is rare for humans to catch the deadly H5N1 strain of the virus but scientists fear it could mutate into a form easily transmitted among people and trigger a pandemic.

## WORLD IN BRIEF

Israel plans West Bank pullout ISRAEL will determine its border with the West Bank by 2010 if there are no negotiations with the Palestinians, then build a wall and move all settlers to the Israeli side, acting prime minister Ehud Olmert said today ahead of elections on 28 March. The plan would mean pulling out from most of the West Bank, but permanently annexing some land.

With a new Hamas government about to take power, a resumption of peace talks appears unlikely.

Tourists' bodies in Bolivian grave THE bodies of two Austrian backpackers missing in Bolivia since January have been found in a shallow grave in an Andean village. Police said Peter Kirsten Rabitsch, 28, and his girlfriend, Katharina Koller, 25, had been strangled and buried near the village of Calamarca on the highway linking La Paz to the city of Oruro. Their bank accounts had been emptied since they were last seen alive.

Nine die in Japan suicide pacts JAPANESE police found the bodies of five men and one woman today in a parked car north-west of Tokyo in an apparent group suicide arranged over the internet. Three charcoal stoves were still smoking in the car and the windows were taped up. Kyodo News also reported a group suicide of three people in northern Japan.

Sex dolls fight harassment Mexico is deploying inflatable sex dolls dressed as office executives in a campaign against workplace harassment of women. The TV advertisements show the dolls with staring eyes and red mouths dressed in suits and sitting at computers. "No woman should be treated like an object," says a voiceover as a man walks past one of the dolls and casually strokes her shoulder.

**Load-Date:** March 10, 2006

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End of Document

**Carroll: Statements on video made under captors' threats; Former hostage arrives in Germany on a U.S. military transport plane**

Telegraph Herald (Dubuque, IA)

April 2, 2006 Sunday

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**Section:** WISCONSIN; Pg. a8

**Length:** 625 words

**Byline:** ASSOCIATED PRESS

**Dateline:** RAMSTEIN AIR BASE, Germany

## **Body**

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Protected by the U.S. military and far from the country where she had been held hostage, Jill Carroll strongly disavowed statements she had made during captivity in Iraq and shortly after her release, saying Saturday she had been repeatedly threatened.

In a video, recorded before she was freed and posted by her captors on an Islamist Web site, Carroll spoke out against the U.S. military presence. But in a statement Saturday, she said the recording was made under threat. Her editor has said three men were pointing guns at her at the time.

"During my last night in captivity, my captors forced me to participate in a propaganda video. They told me I would be released if I cooperated. I was living in a threatening environment, under their control, and wanted to go home alive. So I agreed," she said in a statement read by her editor in Boston.

"Things that I was forced to say while captive are now being taken by some as an accurate reflection of my personal views. They are not."

Carroll arrived in Germany on Saturday on a U.S. military transport plane on her way back to the United States and was expected in Boston today. The Islamic headscarf she wore as a hostage was gone, and she instead wore jeans and a gray sweater.

The 28-year-old journalist - a freelancer for the Boston-based Christian Science Monitor - was seized Jan. 7 in western Baghdad by gunmen who killed her Iraqi translator. She was dropped off Thursday - 82 days later - at an office of the Iraqi Islamic Party, a Sunni Arab organization, and later escorted by the U.S. military to the Green Zone, the fortified compound in Baghdad protecting the U.S. embassy and other facilities.

In the statement, Carroll also disavowed an interview she gave to the party shortly after her release. She said the party had promised her the interview would not be aired "and broke their word."

"At any rate, fearing retribution from my captors, I did not speak freely. Out of fear, I said I wasn't threatened. In fact, I was threatened many times," she said. "Also, at least two false statements about me have been widely aired: One, that I refused to travel and cooperate with the U.S. military, and two, that I refused to discuss my captivity with U.S. officials. Again, neither statement is true."



Carroll: Statements on video made under captors' threats Former hostage arrives in Germany on a U.S. military transport plane

Carroll has said her kidnappers confined her to a small, soundproof room with frosted, opaque windows.

After a day in seclusion, she left Balad Air Base near Baghdad on Saturday on a plane also carrying several wounded soldiers. Carroll smiled and peered with bemusement through the cockpit window at the dozens of television cameras on the tarmac at Ramstein Air Force Base.

"I'm happy to be here," she said to Col. Kurt Lohide, the U.S. officer who greeted her.

Carroll, who had studied Arabic and was widely respected for her balance and fairness as a reporter, attracted a huge amount of sympathy during her ordeal, and a wide variety of groups in the Middle East, including the Islamic militant group **Hamas**, appealed for her release.

Aside from the short interview aired on Iraqi television upon her release, Carroll had otherwise not shown herself in public prior to her brief appearance Saturday.

The kidnappers, calling themselves the Revenge Brigades, had demanded the release of all **female** detainees in Iraq by Feb. 26 or Carroll would be killed. U.S. officials did release some **female** detainees at the time, but said it had nothing to do with the kidnappers' demands.

In the video posted Friday, her abductors said they freed Carroll because "the American government met some of our demands by releasing some of our **women** from prison."

According to Richard Walsh, a spokesman for the Massachusetts Port Authority, Carroll was to land at Logan International Airport in Boston late this morning.

## Graphic

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AP Photo

**Load-Date:** April 2, 2006

***Letter - Evil men are using religion to pursue their own global agenda;***

Irish News  
March 20, 2006

Copyright 2006 The Irish News Limited

**Section:** Pg. 22

**Length:** 667 words

## **Body**

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I was shocked at the outrageous way many decent, law-abiding and otherwise peace-loving Muslims reacted to 12 satirical cartoons in a Danish newspaper.

These caricatures merely depicted what many peoples and nations are experiencing - fanatical 'Muslim martyrs' carrying explosives annihilating innocent men, women and children including themselves and fellow Muslims.

But where are the angry Muslim protests after these atrocities?

How many Hamas, Hezbollah and Al-Qaida flags have been burned?

If ordinary decent Muslims and their Imams are afraid to oppose these extremists what hope is there for the rest of us mere infidels?

How many Syrian and Iranian embassies have been torched in protest by decent Muslims in response to state sponsored terrorism?

What about the many anti-Semitic (satirical?) cartoons in numerous Arab/Muslim media outlets?

Of course the Israelis have a lot to answer for in the treatment of Palestinians but who protects the Dome of Rock from Jewish extremists and Christian fundamentalists?

The Jews do and get no thanks for protecting Islam's second holiest of places.

Imams, where are you?

Oh yes ... that statement about 'wiping the Jewish State off the map'?

The same president of Iran, who remains unapologetic for his racist remark, wants to have button access to a nuclear bomb!

Foolish, irreverent satirical cartoons in newspapers are unlikely to kill people - Inflammatory words do.

We in Ireland have bitter experience of such like - our 30 years of terror followed someone's stupid political and religious rhetoric.

Destruction, death and misery for Protestants, Catholics and dissenters alike.

Letter - Evil men are using religion to pursue their own global agenda;

Peaceful protests and the burning of a few flags is one thing.

But, tolerant imams, don't you think that worldwide Islamic boycotts of Danish exports, torching embassies and threatening the Danish, Norwegian and others with Jihad is a little extreme?

Those involved in the torching of the British embassy in Dublin in 1972 were condemned as terrorists but their action 'logically' followed the murders (by British state terrorism) of 14 innocent Catholic men during a peaceful Civil Rights march in Derry.

I served with United Nations forces in Cyprus and the Lebanon. I met Norwegians, Danish and Swedish personnel.

Never once did I hear from them a derogatory word against Muslims or the Islamic faith.

They are among the most tolerant and fair-minded people in the world and have proved it in respect to the Israeli/Palestinian conflict.

I believe this violent backlash has been orchestrated by fanatics, terrorists and foreign government interests and the Danes provided a 'soft' target.

I am reminded of Nazi Germany and Communist eastern Europe. These extremely dangerous people are trying to establish Taliban-type Islamic states throughout the world - by force if necessary!

During my life I have mingled with many people of different nationalities, politics and faiths including Muslims and Jews, Turkish and Greek Cypriots, Iraqis, Protestants, Catholics, Christians and Dissenters.

I also served with the UN in Iraq and was there in 1989 to assist with the body exchange of Iraqi/Iranian war dead.

I saw both sides haggling over the decomposing remains of their fallen soldiers lying patiently to attention in lines of open coffins.

Most of the people I met wanted only peace and prosperity for themselves and their children.

We need to encourage each other to work for 'the common good'.

We all have a short life time in an ever shrinking, ecologically threatened world.

And - oil or no oil - if we don't live together in peace we will perish together.

If God, Allah, Yahweh, Buddha and the Holy Prophets have been offended, then let him/her or them deal with the 'evildoers' in the next life.

I grew up in Belfast in the sixties and seventies and plucked the lesson of peaceful coexistence from a society where religious bigotry was in abundance, civil rights denied to one third of the citizens and tolerance was in short supply.

JOE O'NEILL - Taghmon, Co Wexford.

**Load-Date:** March 20, 2006

## *Cherie's sister: How I was strip searched by Israeli police; ... and given just a piece of loo paper to cover up my modesty*

Mail on Sunday (London)

January 29, 2006 Sunday

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**Section:** FB 04; Pg. 55

**Length:** 597 words

**Byline:** EWAN FLETCHER

### **Body**

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LAUREN BOOTH, the Prime Minister's sister-in-law, reveals today how she was detained for more than two hours and stripsearched by Israeli security forces while reporting on the Palestinian elections.

Ms Booth, a columnist with The Mail on Sunday, was escorted from a passenger queue at Tel Aviv's Ben Gurion Airport and placed in the custody of 15 guards, many armed, before being subjected to a body search.

She was taken to a cubicle by two **female** officers where she was ordered to strip naked so that a handheld metal detector could be used to scan her for concealed weapons. Meanwhile, her luggage was also thoroughly searched and the linings of her bags ripped open.

Writing in today's Live magazine about her humiliating experience, Ms Booth, 38, said: 'The interrogation wouldn't have been so bad if I'd had any underwear on. The **women** in the cubicle told me to drop my trousers. I'd already removed my bra. I refused unless they brought me a towel. The best they could do was loo paper.' Ms Booth, who is Cherie Blair's halfsister, was then questioned for an hour and a half before being allowed on to her return flight to Heathrow.

Speaking from her home in the Dordogne, France, last night, she said: 'It must have been a punishment. They know who I am. I had accreditation from their government, from Ariel Sharon's office. I posed no threat nor harm to Israeli security but I was being persecuted for doing my job as a member of the Press.

'They had a problem because I'd spent two days visiting Interpal centres.

It's a Palestinian charity which is deemed illegal by Israel and the US even though they are perfectly legitimate and work for the poor.

'Israel wants to harass those of us who are going to bear witness to the intimidation in Palestine. I refused to be intimidated so I was actually quite amused as I stood there naked with toilet paper wrapped around my groin.

'But If I hadn't already been expecting that appalling treatment, I would have been in tears. They went as far as they could go without me demanding a call to the British consulate.

'There were 15 people looking at me and my baggage, a quarter of whom were armed. I felt I was being treated like a terrorist. Every bit of makeup, a cake I'd bought for my daughter, absolutely everything was examined.

Cherie's sister: How I was strip searched by Israeli police ... and given just a piece of loo paper to cover up my modesty

It was just pure persecution.

'The man who interrogated me, who I believe was a government agent, seemed cross that I wasn't more intimidated. He said, "My problem with you is that you're not acting like a normal tourist." He meant I wasn't quivering and crying.

'When I was eventually frogmarched on to the plane I wasn't allowed to see my luggage. It was only when I got home that I realised that they'd taken a razor blade to my case. They'd torn all the linings and broken bits of it. I don't think there is any point in making a complaint. They'd simply laugh at me.' A photographer who travelled out to work with Ms Booth on the project was subjected to a similar ten-hour interrogation on arrival in Israel. He was forced to return to London immediately.

During her stay, Ms Booth also received a call from Israeli security services on her borrowed mobile phone in which she was subjected to a stream of 'thinly-veiled threats'.

Speaking about last week's shock election success for Hamas, Ms Booth said: 'I feel very positive about it.

'Having met so many erudite and well-spoken members of that organisation I feel confident that if they feel this represents a chance for peace they will be happy to renounce violence.' No one from the airport or the Israeli Embassy was available for comment last night.

**Load-Date:** January 30, 2006

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## 'Radical Islam Week' sparks campus furor: University of Toronto

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

February 6, 2006 Monday

All but Toronto Edition

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**Section:** CANADA; Pg. A6

**Length:** 644 words

**Byline:** Peter Kuitenbrouwer, National Post

### **Body**

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Campus police at the University of Toronto will be on alert today as a Jewish student group kicks off Know Radical Islam Week, a series of lectures aimed at exposing everything from the alleged enslavement of camel jockeys in the United Arab Emirates to genital mutilation of women in Egypt.

"Radical Islam is a geo-political ideology of oppression affecting the entire world," says the program for the lectures, "an abuse of the religion of Islam in order to harness the power of religious devotion to oppress human and civil rights."

Radical Islam is the faith of Hamas, al-Qaeda, Islamic Jihad and the President of Iran, the program adds.

Jonathan Jaffit, 21, a U of T student with a double major in human biology and Jewish studies, is among organizers of the week. He is director of campus affairs for Betar-Tagar, a worldwide group which aims to "present the public with accurate facts about Israel and the Middle East."

"Radical Islam is a distortion of the Koran," Mr. Jaffit said. "We want people to understand that it exists. People don't know that 70% of women in Egypt undergo female genital mutilation."

The 2,000-member Muslim Student Association at the U of T, which calls itself the school's largest club, is urging members to boycott the event.

"We should be working to de-escalate tension on campus," said Safiyyah Ally, 23, a PhD student in political science and spokeswoman for the Muslim group. "I'm concerned that Islam might be demonized and vilified unfairly."

David Farrar, U of T's vice-provost of students, sent out a memo to clubs last week urging them to respect one another's freedom of speech.

"The ability to question, examine and comment on issues of the day, even when such commentary may be repugnant to some, is central to the mission of the university," Mr. Farrar wrote. He added, "without being illegal or otherwise prohibited, some speech may be perceived as hurtful because of the pain that it surfaces."

## 'Radical Islam Week' sparks campus furor: University of Toronto

"Know Radical Islam Week" appears to be Jewish students' response to "Israeli Apartheid Week," organized by the U of T Arab Students Collective. That week had its debut at U of T last year and is coming back to the campus next week. Among events, organizers last year set up a mock refugee camp.

Mr. Jaffit attacked the Arab event, saying, "They'll be discussing how to destroy the Jewish state. Last year they put up maps of Israel and said it should be wiped off the map."

But Ms. Ally said both groups should look to ease tensions, not raise them.

"I don't see the two groups promoting peace on campus and promoting dialogue on campus," she said.

Simon Deng, whom the program defines as a "former Sudanese slave," will give the first lecture of Know Radical Islam Week at noon today in the school's Sidney Smith Hall, in the heart of the downtown campus.

Among other guests are Khalet Abu Toameh, Palestinian affairs columnist for the Jerusalem Post and a "former PLO journalist," who speaks on Wednesday. On Thursday David B. Harris, former chief of strategic planning for the Canadian Security Intelligence Service, is set to speak on "Terrorism at Our Doorstep."

Among other speakers is Barbara Cook, a founder of a group called Palestinian Media Watch, which analyzes Palestinian Authority culture and society by looking at its summer camps, poetry, schoolbooks and crossword puzzles.

Jeremy Dias will speak on "Being Gay in the Middle East."

Co-sponsors of the event are Betar-Tagar and the Los Angeles-based Simon Wiesenthal Center for Holocaust Studies.

Mr. Jaffit said his group has held discussions with campus police and has assurances that the school's security service will protect the speakers from any potential protests.

"I'm sure it will stir up controversy," he said. "The university is not a place where we could shy away from controversy."

The Arab Student Collective and Canadian Islamic Congress did not return calls.

**Load-Date:** February 6, 2006

***A candidate called Hitler: Jamal Abu Roub, running in the West Bank, doesn't mind his controversial nickname***

The Gazette (Montreal)

January 22, 2006 Sunday

Final Edition

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**Section:** NEWS; Pg. A8

**Length:** 629 words

**Byline:** GREG MYRE, New York Times

**Dateline:** JENIN, West Bank

## **Body**

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The candidate's name is Jamal Abu Roub, but everyone here calls him Hitler because, well, that is the name he has answered to quite comfortably since he was a teenager.

Roub, 40, is a leader of the militant Al Aqsa Martyrs Brigades in this turbulent corner of the West Bank, and has spent the past five years leading his ragtag band of gunmen in frequent clashes with the Israeli military. Roub's deeds include hauling a Palestinian suspected of molesting his daughters and collaborating with Israel into a town square, where the man was shot to death.

Now, Roub is Fatah's No. 12 candidate for the Palestinian parliament and is virtually assured of winning a seat in Wednesday's election. He is wanted by Israel and, therefore, does not appear at rallies, yet this seems only to have bolstered his reputation.

In an interview here, Roub said with a crooked smile that it was his first campaign appearance, and probably his last.

"I leave the campaigning to my brother and my supporters, but this is not a problem because people here know me and trust me," Roub said. His eyes are bloodshot and his hair is tousled, giving him the look of a man pursued. He chain-smokes Marlboros and gulps his coffee. His face features several days worth of stubble, and he does not look like someone who has slept in his own bed recently.

He is the rare fugitive who likes to see posters of himself. Roub and other candidates for the Fatah movement appear in campaign advertisements that vie for space among the thousands of posters plastered on every flat surface in town.

The Palestinian leader, Mahmoud Abbas, is seeking to co-opt the militants who have been fighting Israel, and the election is sure to bring at least a few of them into parliament. It is not clear how they will participate, though, since Israel has said it will not grant them immunity if they are elected.

The Al Aqsa Martyrs Brigades, made up of members of Abbas's Fatah party, emerged soon after the latest Palestinian uprising began in 2000.



A candidate called Hitler: Jamal Abu Roub, running in the West Bank, doesn't mind his controversial nickname

Al Aqsa factions largely have ignored Abbas's calls to lay down their weapons. At Abbas's urging, a large number of militants have been incorporated into the Palestinian security forces in the past year, and the Islamic faction Hamas is taking part in national elections for the first time.

But Israelis often argue that Abbas, who came to power after the death of Yasser Arafat in 2004, is rewarding men he should be jailing.

While Palestinians generally support Abbas's effort, many describe the results as mixed.

"We are in the post-Arafat era, and we can no longer be governed by the same old, impotent cardinals of Fatah," said Mahdi Abdul Hadi, a moderate who heads Passia, a Palestinian research centre in Jerusalem. "Fatah is very much divided and fragmented, and Abbas is trying to bring it together."

Roub contends the election offers him a better way to continue his struggle with Israel, which has consumed his life.

Roub said he has always been adamant about his beliefs, so much so that when he was 16 a high school friend began calling him Hitler, and it stuck. Roub said Hitler's slaughter of the Jews was wrong, yet he seems quite willing to keep the nickname.

When Roub was leaving after an interview, a group of Palestinian women spotted him. "It's Hitler; it's Hitler," they said. Roub could not resist speaking to them.

"Some groups have misused their weapons," he said. "If it's necessary to keep them, with the agreement of the political leadership, then we will. But if it's not necessary, then we can hand them in."

"What are you doing now?" the questioner then asked.

"I'm carrying my gun, but just for protection," Roub said.

"I'd love to live a normal life," he said. "It's not my hobby to live like this. But we will not have a normal life until we have a state."

**Load-Date:** January 22, 2006

## *Washington State U. group brings Jewish students together*

University Wire

February 7, 2006 Tuesday

Copyright 2006 Daily Evergreen via U-Wire

**Length:** 649 words

**Byline:** By Ingrid Rachinski, Daily Evergreen; SOURCE: Washington State U.

**Dateline:** PULLMAN, Wash.

### **Body**

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The Jewish community in Pullman, Wash., isn't a very prominent one. It's not very visible on the Washington State University campus or in the surrounding area. However, for those who practice Judaism the culture and community has been maintained on a smaller scale.

"I think it's really hard for Jews here because there are so few -- it's hard to build a Jewish community," said Laura Geller, a Rabbi who visited WSU Jan. 27.

Some Jewish students have been able to build strong relationships with each other.

"We have so much in common for how different we all are," said Rebeka Lambert, a sophomore genetics major.

The Hillel Jewish Student Organization has worked to bring a few of these students together, meeting weekly for food, company and commonality.

"I was pretty nervous about coming here because there weren't as many Jews," said Danielle Soffer, a freshmen human development major. "But I was able to connect with [those involved in Hillel] just as easily as I did with people at home."

Soffer comes from California, where there was a larger Jewish community than there is here.

Others in the group have experienced the same sort of transition.

When Jessica Hyde, a junior communication major, first came to Pullman she immediately encountered a problem with the low number of Jewish students at WSU. To begin with, she was a little shocked to find out that her new roommate would be a starkly conservative Christian, she said.

Her family, too, was concerned about the lack of Jewish community.

"When my grandmother found out that I was going to WSU, she literally pulled out the phone book and began looking for Jewish last names," Hyde said. After finding none, her grandmother told her she would never be able to get married because she would never find a good Jewish boy in Pullman.

The problem is not only with finding a Jewish community, but also with perceptions they felt were cast upon them.

"I'm still the first Jewish person that people are meeting," Lambert said.

## Washington State U. group brings Jewish students together

For many people, Judaism can be summed up in a Hanukkah song by Adam Sandler and what little they know about other Jewish holidays and the politics of the Middle East. But for those in Hillel, it is much different.

"Judaism is a lot more important to me than a song in pop culture," Soffer said. "It can kind of be paralleled to Christmas and all the presents."

The group's definition of Judaism was different than how it's reflected in the media.

"You have the culture, the state and the religion," Hyde said. "It's very difficult to sum up."

In many ways, the students found their religion was intertwined with numerous other aspects of being Jewish.

"The uniqueness of Judaism is the culture," said Joshua Goldstein, a senior women's studies major.

Israel's politics are also one of the unique aspects of what it means to be Jewish.

"All the politics are really involved with Judaism, it's not always necessary to separate it," Goldstein said. "In a lot of ways they are inseparable."

With respect to recent events in Israel and the Hamas election, politics becomes a frequent topic of discussion.

"Israel is a central part of my identity. It's as central to my identity as the United States," Geller said. "I think it's pretty common for American Jews."

Israel's situation and the heated conversations it causes is not new to any American Jew, and has existed at least as long as Israel has been a nation.

"There's always [political] debate in Jewish circles. If you look at the way the Jewish state was created after World War II ... the creation of the country wasn't organic, and so it has a lot of problems," Goldstein said.

However, the definition of Judaism does not hinge entirely on the state and politics.

"For me, the politics are a part of [Judaism], it is an integral part of our faith and our culture," Hyde said. "But Israel is just a part of Judaism, it's the food and the language."

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**Load-Date:** February 7, 2006

**Frankly, my dear, I do give a damn**

The West Australian (Perth)  
February 1, 2006 Wednesday  
METRO

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**Section:** FEATURES; Pg. 18

**Length:** 617 words

**Byline:** MICHELE PHILLIPS

## **Body**

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It's a bit of an epidemic in Hollywood at the moment.

Gwyneth Paltrow, Brooke Shields, Katie Holmes, Mira Sorvino - all up the duff and no doubt knitting booties and hanging stimulating baby mobiles as we speak.

Plus, there's Meg Ryan, just back from China with a newly adopted baby girl but keeping mum, so to speak, about the details.

Thank God then for Russell Crowe and Danielle Spencer, who were kind enough to let us know where the two of them actually did the deed. ("She's due in July," Russ said, "so it's a French conception.")

You could ask at this point, "Who gives a damn?"

And I did, many times - in fact, whenever a celebrity pregnancy hit the headlines.

But that was BBA: Before Brad and Angelina. These days, I care.

It started when I was driving back from the shops and heard the news about baby Brangelina on the radio.

Before you could say "bun in oven", the words "Poor Jen" were out of my mouth and I knew at that moment I'd reached the point of no return.

It probably didn't help that my daughter was staying with us, convalescing in front of pay-TV after a nasty illness.

Feed anyone a steady diet of E! News and E! Entertainment Specials for a couple of weeks and you either end up brain dead or convinced that the state of Jennifer Aniston's emotional life really matters. (OK, up until then I'd thought brain death and worrying about Jen were the same thing but I'm not ashamed to admit I was wrong.)

The funny thing is, it used to be quite straightforward. The whole Angelina bizzo could be summed up very easily.

Angelina Jolie: husband stealer.

Nobody: surprised.

Frankly, my dear, I do give a damn

Small wonder, we all thought, she's got the nickname Groom Raider. But - whatever - good luck to her. But then she went and stole the husband who's lusted after by every **female** under the age of 99; stolen from the girl who - I have no doubt after watching several thousand episodes of E! News - has to be the sweetest and most badly treated on the planet.

And that was when it really hit the fan.

The Hilton sisters came out of the closet on the subject, emerging from LA designer store Kitson with the latest show-your-allegiance T-shirts.

Paris was wearing one emblazoned with the words Team Jolie; Nicky sported Team Aniston.

We all knew from that point it was OK to be proud and loud and that Paris Hilton, if ever we were in any doubt, was indeed not a nice girl. It's now got to the point where discussion forums and chat rooms on the internet are ablaze with arguments on the subject.

Forget the **Hamas** party victory and the state of Iraq. The state of Jen's psyche is the news everyone's typing about.

Everything from "How could Brad want Freaklina to be the mother of his child?" to "I think she got pregnant just to irritate Jen."

To which Angelina loyalists reply with witty ripostes like: "Please do society a favour and pull your head out your ass before you have to become a full functioning adult."

My own feelings on the matter are summed up by a chat-room poster whose heart, if not her spelling, is in the right place.

She wrote: "you know i personally would have felt happy if brad and angelinas thing started correctly. it started with them saying they were co-stars and that nothing is going on with them - then step by step he died his hair, learned to drive a plane, adopted angelinas kids etc. like whatever! just say your togather and stop lying! where they ashamed of what they are doin?! what dose angelina consider herself?! like seriously whatever!!!! no one is jelous! it was just wrong to start with!!! i honestly feel sorry with jennifer!! sheeesh!!!"

I just hope Jen is aware of how much people care about her. I mean, like, seriously, who needs Brad and baby mobiles when you've got support like this?

## Graphic

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Photo montage of Jennifer Aniston., Gwyneth Paltrow, Brooke Shields and Angelina Jolie.

**Load-Date:** January 31, 2006

**Radical Islam seminar puts U of T on alert: Muslims urge boycott on grounds lectures will 'demonize and vilify'**

Ottawa Citizen

February 6, 2006 Monday

Final Edition

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**Section:** NEWS; Pg. A3

**Length:** 630 words

**Byline:** Peter Kuitenbrouwer, National Post

**Dateline:** TORONTO

## **Body**

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TORONTO - Campus police at the University of Toronto will be watching closely today as a Jewish student group kicks off Know Radical Islam Week, a series of lectures aimed at exposing everything from the alleged enslavement of camel jockeys in the United Arab Emirates to genital mutilation of women in Egypt.

"Radical Islam is a geo-political ideology of oppression affecting the entire world," says the program for the lectures, "an abuse of the religion of Islam in order to harness the power of religious devotion to oppress human and civil rights."

Radical Islam is the faith of Hamas, al-Qaeda, Islamic Jihad and the president of Iran, the program adds.

Jonathan Jaffit, 21, a student with a double major in human biology and Jewish studies, is among the organizers of the week. He is director of campus affairs for Betar-Tagar, a worldwide group that aims to "present the public with accurate facts about Israel and the Middle East."

"Radical Islam is a distortion of the Koran," Mr. Jaffit said.

"We want people to understand that it exists. People don't know that 70 per cent of women in Egypt undergo female genital mutilation."

The 2,000-member Muslim Student Association at the University of Toronto, which calls itself the school's largest club, is urging members to boycott the event.

"We should be working to de-escalate tension on campus," said Safiyyah Ally, 23, a PhD student in political science and spokeswoman for the Muslim group. "I'm concerned that Islam might be demonized and vilified unfairly."

David Farrar, the university's vice-provost of students, sent out a memo to clubs last week urging them to respect one another's freedom of speech.

"The ability to question, examine and comment on issues of the day, even when such commentary may be repugnant to some, is central to the mission of the university," Mr. Farrar wrote. He added, "Without being illegal or otherwise prohibited, some speech may be perceived as hurtful because of the pain that it surfaces."

Radical Islam seminar puts U of T on alert: Muslims urge boycott on grounds lectures will 'demonize and vilify'

Know Radical Islam Week appears to be Jewish students' response to "Israeli Apartheid Week," organized by the university's Arab Students Collective. That week had its debut at the university last year and is coming back to the campus next week. Among events, organizers last year set up a mock refugee camp.

Mr. Jaffit attacked the Arab event, saying, "They'll be discussing how to destroy the Jewish state. Last year, they put up maps of Israel and said it should be wiped off the map."

But Ms. Ally said both groups should look to ease tensions, not raise them.

"I don't see the two groups promoting peace on campus and promoting dialogue on campus," she said.

Simon Deng, defined by the program as a "former Sudanese slave," will give the first lecture of Know Radical Islam Week at noon today in the heart of the downtown campus.

Among other guests are Khalet Abu Toameh, Palestinian affairs columnist for the Jerusalem Post and a "former PLO journalist," who speaks Wednesday.

On Thursday, David B. Harris, former chief of strategic planning for the Canadian Security Intelligence Service, is set to speak on "Terrorism at our doorstep."

Among other speakers is Barbara Cook, a founder of a group called Palestinian Media Watch, which analyses Palestinian Authority culture and society by looking at its summer camps, poetry, schoolbooks and crossword puzzles.

Jeremy Dias will speak on being gay in the Middle East.

Mr. Jaffit said his group has held discussions with campus police and has assurances that the school's security service will protect the speakers from any potential protests.

"I'm sure it will stir up controversy," he said. "The university is not a place where we could shy away from controversy."

The Arab Student Collective and Canadian Islamic Congress did not return calls for comment.

**Load-Date:** February 6, 2006

## *Harper unlikely to ever be called 'Stevemeister'*

The Star Phoenix (Saskatoon, Saskatchewan)

January 28, 2006 Saturday

Final Edition

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**Section:** THIRD PAGE; Pg. A3; Les MacPherson

**Length:** 593 words

**Byline:** Les MacPherson, The StarPhoenix

### **Body**

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When a cleaning staffer went to empty my wastebasket the other afternoon, it was empty. "You don't make any garbage," observed the cleaner. "Oh yes, I do make garbage," I replied. "Only mine goes into the newspaper." Here, then, are two dozen, random observations that anyone else might have consigned to the trash.

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1. When you hear someone declare that it's time to "move forward," this means he doesn't want to hear any more about a recent embarrassment.
2. Some things just don't make sense. For example, we fear global warming but we can't wait for spring.
3. The automobile remains the last enduring stronghold of male dominance. So much so that, if you see a car with the wife driving and the husband in the passenger seat, you can't help but wonder if he's lost his licence on an impaired charge.
4. If you don't learn to skate backward by age 10, you probably never will.
5. Any company with "enviro" as part of its name is probably dealing with something toxic.
6. If you reply too quickly to e-mails, people will think you're not busy. If you reply too slowly, people will think you're discourteous.
7. The age of your vehicle, plus its size, times the number of dents, equals the amount of room other drivers will give you when you change lanes.
8. Toast is the leading cause of crumbs.
9. If for some reason you have to get your children to say, "Not mine," just ask whose turn it is to clean up the kitchen.
10. Disproportionate numbers of football referees are nicknamed "Bud."
11. Most women will never know what it feels like to stick an arm out the car window and feel the breeze tickle her armpit hair.



Harper unlikely to ever be called 'Stevemeister'

12. On any home maintenance project, you can expect to spend at least a third of your time looking for a screwdriver you just put down.
13. The one on sale is rarely the one you want. 14. Instead of making passengers feel more secure, airport security only makes them feel more nervous. Isn't this the opposite of security?
15. Prime Minister-elect Stephen Harper does not seem like the kind of guy you'd ever call "Steve" or "Stevie," or, least of all, "The Stevemeister."
16. Here's a word I'd like to never hear again during any future election campaign: "Values."
17. Any plant or tree with "Siberian" in its name will do well in Saskatchewan.
18. Except during the Winter Olympics, no one pays much attention to the luge. Incidentally, a person who rides a luge is properly called a luger (pronounced LOOJ-er). You won't hear this on TV, however, because luger sounds too much like the past participle of loogie. That's why Olympic broadcasters invariably refer to lugers as "luge athletes."
19. People who have worked in a food processing plant often refuse to eat, ever again, the product made in that plant.
20. Among those not entirely displeased by Monday's election result will be the 262 Paul Martins listed in Canadian telephone directories. Among those less than entirely thrilled will be the 12 Stephen Harpers.
21. Here's something that not too many women will be hearing this weekend from their husbands or boyfriends: "Hey, let's go see Brokeback Mountain."
22. Is it possible there are too many handicapped parking spots?
23. When you try to plug in an electrical cord, the plug's wider blade is always on the wrong side. Especially so if the receptacle is behind a bookcase and you have to guide in the plug by fee . . . Bzzzaaaap!
24. The late Israeli foreign minister Abba Eban once said of the Palestinians, "They never miss a chance to miss a chance." By electing Hamas this week, they continued their streak.

[Imacpherson@sp.canwest.com](mailto:Imacpherson@sp.canwest.com)

**Load-Date:** January 28, 2006

## 'Radical Islam week' sparks U of T furor

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

February 6, 2006 Monday

Toronto Edition

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**Section:** TORONTO; Pg. A7

**Length:** 619 words

**Byline:** Peter Kuitenbrouwer, National Post

### **Body**

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Campus police at the University of Toronto will be on alert today as a Jewish student group kicks off Know Radical Islam Week, a series of lectures aimed at exposing everything from the alleged enslavement of camel jockeys in the United Arab Emirates to genital mutilation of women in Egypt.

"Radical Islam is a geo-political ideology of oppression affecting the entire world," says the program for the lectures, "an abuse of the religion of Islam in order to harness the power of religious devotion to oppress human and civil rights."

Radical Islam is the faith of Hamas, al-Qaeda, Islamic Jihad and the President of Iran, the program adds.

Jonathan Jaffit, 21, a U of T student with a double major in human biology and Jewish studies, is among organizers of the week. He is director of campus affairs for Betar-Tagar, a worldwide group which aims to "present the public with accurate facts about Israel and the Middle East."

"Radical Islam is a distortion of the Koran," Mr. Jaffit said. "We want people to understand that it exists. People don't know that 70% of women in Egypt undergo female genital mutilation."

The 2,000-member Muslim Student Association at the U of T, which calls itself the school's largest club, is urging members to boycott the event.

"We should be working to de-escalate tension on campus," said Safiyyah Ally, 23, a PhD student in political science and spokeswoman for the Muslim group. "I'm concerned that Islam might be demonized and vilified unfairly."

David Farrar, U of T's vice-provost of students, sent out a memo to clubs last week urging them to respect one another's freedom of speech.

"The ability to question, examine and comment on issues of the day, even when such commentary may be repugnant to some, is central to the mission of the university," Mr. Farrar wrote. He added, "without being illegal or otherwise prohibited, some speech may be perceived as hurtful because of the pain that it surfaces."

"Know Radical Islam Week" appears to be Jewish students' response to "Israeli Apartheid Week," organized by the U of T Arab Students Collective.

## 'Radical Islam week' sparks U of T furor

Mr. Jaffit attacked the Arab event, saying, "They'll be discussing how to destroy the Jewish state. Last year they put up maps of Israel and said it should be wiped off the map."

But Ms. Ally said both groups should look to ease tensions, not raise them. "I don't see the two groups promoting peace on campus and promoting dialogue on campus," she said.

Simon Deng, whom the program defines as a "former Sudanese slave," will give the first lecture of Know Radical Islam Week at noon today in the school's Sidney Smith Hall, in the heart of the downtown campus.

Among other guests are Khalet Abu Toameh, Palestinian affairs columnist for the Jerusalem Post and a "former PLO journalist," who speaks on Wednesday. On Thursday David B. Harris, former chief of strategic planning for the Canadian Security Intelligence Service, is set to speak on "Terrorism at Our Doorstep."

Among other speakers is Barbara Cook, a founder of a group called Palestinian Media Watch, which analyzes Palestinian Authority culture and society by looking at its summer camps, poetry, schoolbooks and crossword puzzles.

Jeremy Dias will speak on "Being Gay in the Middle East."

Co-sponsors of the event are Betar-Tagar and the Los Angeles-based Simon Wiesenthal Center for Holocaust Studies.

Mr. Jaffit said his group has held discussions with campus police and has assurances that the school's security service will protect the speakers from any potential protests.

"I'm sure it will stir up controversy," he said. "The university is not a place where we could shy away from controversy."

The Arab Student Collective and Canadian Islamic Congress did not return calls.

**Load-Date:** February 6, 2006

**Danish leader draws battle lines; Outrage is mixed with faith in allies and confidence in path**

The International Herald Tribune

February 11, 2006 Saturday

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**Section:** NEWS; Pg. 3

**Length:** 686 words

**Byline:** John Vinocur and Dan Bilefsky

**Dateline:** COPENHAGEN

## **Body**

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Attempts by European companies in the Middle East to disassociate themselves from Denmark or Danish products are "disgraceful," according to Prime Minister Anders Fogh Rasmussen.

In an interview Thursday, Rasmussen tried at the same time to shield the Bush administration and some of Denmark's partners in NATO from accusations that they had been tardy and overcautious in coming to Denmark's defense in the crisis, which he attributed more to attempts by Iran and Syria to cause diversions in the Middle East than to a few satirical cartoons depicting the Prophet Muhammad in a Danish newspaper last fall.

Looking tired after what he acknowledged had been a difficult week, Rasmussen said that attempts to gain commercial advantage at Denmark's expense had struck at the hearts of all Danes.

Rasmussen did not refer to a particular business organization or country. But his response came in reply to a question referring to attempts in the Arab world by companies associated with Nestle, the Swiss food giant, and Carrefour, the French retailer, to distance themselves from Denmark.

But the prime minister declined to criticize the Bush administration for its cautious defense of an ally. Bush referred to his solidarity with Denmark for the first time on Wednesday, after five days of rioting in the Middle East against Danish interests.

"I have never doubted that Bush would stand up for Denmark," Rasmussen said. "He values faithfulness and loyalty. I was not surprised he decided to call me and express support."

Rasmussen reiterated that there would be no Danish apology for the cartoons. He brushed aside any suggestion that Denmark's policies requiring immigrants to accommodate themselves to Danish tradition were at fault, and he asserted, "We are on the right track." More broadly, he said, "I see a very clear tendency that other European countries will go in our direction."

In light of statements in Denmark that the country had been abandoned in the early phase of the crisis, Rasmussen was asked if Parliament would maintain troops in Iraq and Afghanistan if it were asked to vote on the issue now. "The situation would be the same; we haven't changed," he said.

Danish leader draws battle lines Outrage is mixed with faith in allies and confidence in path

Rasmussen argued that the cartoon crisis had been hijacked by Middle East interests using the caricatures for domestic ends.

He said Iran, isolated over its nuclear program, was using the cartoons to generate support in the Muslim world, while Syria, under investigation for the assassination of former Lebanese Prime Minister Rafik Hariri, was trying to cause a distraction. He said the Palestinian Authority, divided over the recent election victory by Hamas, was exploiting the cartoon crisis to unite its disparate elements.

"We have religious extremists who exploit the situation and fuel the flames to pursue their own agenda," he said. "Religious extremists aim at destabilizing the situation in the whole region."

Rasmussen said he believed Islam was compatible with democracy but argued that it was incumbent on Muslim immigrants in Denmark and Europe in general to embrace the liberal values of their adopted countries.

"Denmark is a liberal country," he said. "We do believe in individual liberty and freedom. People can live according to their own customs. However, I think we have to insist on respecting our core values, including freedom of expression, gender equality for women and men, and a clear distinction between politics and religion."

Rasmussen said the perception of Denmark in the Muslim world had been distorted by falsehoods spread across the Middle East.

In particular, he said the government was re-evaluating relations with local Muslim leaders who traveled to the Middle East in December, stoking tensions by showing the cartoons to religious leaders (including a depiction of Muhammad as a pig that never appeared in the Danish press).

Asked if he would have done anything differently in retrospect, Rasmussen said he had no regrets.

"I don't think we could have done something in another way," he said. "We are witnessing events with deep sadness and disbelief. We are not used to it in Denmark."

**Load-Date:** February 12, 2006

***Revealed: civilian toll of a deadly assault that has ravaged Gaza;***  
**PALESTINIAN CRISIS**

The Independent (London)

September 19, 2006 Tuesday

Fourth Edition

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**The**  **INDEPENDENT**

**Section:** NEWS; Pg. 2

**Length:** 1538 words

**Byline:** Donald Macintyre In Rafah

## **Body**

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Nayef Abu Snaima says his 14-year-old cousin Jihad had been sitting on the edge of an olive grove talking animatedly to him about what he would do when he grew up when he was killed instantly by an Israeli shell.

He says he clearly saw a bright flash next to the control tower of the disused Gaza international airport, occupied by Israeli forces after Cpl Gilad Shalit was seized by militants on 25 June. "I went two or three steps and the missile landed," said Nayef, 24. "I thought I was dying. I shouted 'La Ilaha Illa Allah' [There is no God but Allah]."

When Jihad's older brother Kassem, 20, arrived at the scene: "My brother was already dead. There was shrapnel in his head. Nayef was shouting 'Allah, Allah'. The missile landed about four metres from where Jihad had been standing. There was shrapnel in his body as well, his legs, everything. He had been bleeding a lot everywhere."

Jihad Abu Snaima was just the most recent of more than 37 children and teenagers under 18 killed [out of a total death toll, including militants, of 228] in the operations mounted by the Israeli military in Gaza since 25 June, according to figures from the Palestinian Centre of Human Rights (PCHR).

Of these, the PCHR classifies 151 as "civilian", although beside non-combatants and bystanders, that total also includes militants or faction members not involved in operations against Israel at the time - for example those deliberately targeted in Israeli air strikes because of their involvement in previous attacks. The Israel Defence Forces have always maintained that being under 18 does not automatically exclude a person from taking part in action against them.

The conflict in Gaza has attracted relatively little international attention, not least because for five weeks it was overshadowed by that in Lebanon. But the death toll has continued to rise.

Nayef, who was speaking from his hospital bed, has multiple shrapnel-inflicted cuts on his plaster-covered arms and legs. But he was lucky compared with Jihad. A school caretaker with a five-year-old daughter, Nayef insists the evening of Jihad's death was just a family get-together. It is normal, he said, in this Bedouin community in the Al

## Revealed: civilian toll of a deadly assault that has ravaged Gaza PALESTINIAN CRISIS

Shouka hamlet outside the southernmost Gaza town of Rafah to socialise at each other's homes on a summer evening, and that he and Jihad were especially close.

"I was always with him. He was an innocent person, kind. He was talking to me about how he was going to inherit part of his father's land and farm it and how he was going to get married and stay here." Nayef added tearfully: "He was a boy who had hopes. He wanted to live his life." He added: "What is my daughter going to think? She is going to grow up hating the Israelis."

The family say there was no shelling in the area at the time either before or after the incident; and that they therefore presume Jihad and Nayef were targeted by a tank crew. They insist there was no activity by militants against Israeli positions on the day of the attack. "This is an open area," said Nayef. "The resistance would not go there because they would be seen."

By contrast, the Israel Defence Forces said, without specifying Al Shouka, that on 10 September it had identified and hit "two men" moving near its forces in southern Gaza crouching on the ground, and "apparently planting explosives". Nayef is adamant that on the night in question he and Jihad were merely pausing on an evening stroll to his own house. The PCHR, which seeks to monitor every violent Palestinian death, does not only focus on the Israel-Palestinian conflict. It has, for example, repeatedly condemned the killing and injuring of growing numbers of civilians, also including children, during mounting inter-Palestinian disputes in Gaza; shootings by Palestinian security forces themselves; attacks on Christian churches by Muslims protesting against the Pope; the injury of civilians, including children, by Palestinian-fired Qassam rockets which fall short of targets in Israel; and the kidnapping last month of two Fox TV employees which has deterred journalists from visiting Gaza.

But Hamdi Shaqqura of PCHR's Gaza office - which accuses Israel of using repeated closures and destruction of the power supply to operate a policy of "collective punishment" in breach of international law in Gaza, argues that the excuse of "collateral damage" cannot justify the "very high" death toll in the operations since 15 June. He adds: "Israel's forces have been acting excessively and disproportionately, and this explains the high figures for the number of innocent civilians killed by them."

At the other, northern end of Gaza, close to the al-Nada apartment blocks between Beit Ha-noun and Beit Lahiya, Aref Abu Qaida, 16, was killed by an artillery shell on 1 August. Sharif Harafin, 15, said: "We had been playing football and we had just finished. I was carrying the ball. I was going to my home, and [Aref] was going to his home. I heard a loud boom and then I saw him cut to pieces."

As his family displayed Aref 's shredded red baseball cap, Sharif said he saw his friend's severed head on the ground, adding: "His chest was torn out by the rocket. People were collecting parts of his body. I was crying a lot."

The IDF says that on 1 August it had fired and hit "a number of Palestinians" in "the area of Beit Lahiya" who had "approached a number of rocket launchers placed in the area". Both PCHR and local residents, including Mohammed Abu Qaida, 39, the dead boy's uncle, say that, while three other civilians were wounded, the only other death in this incident was that of Mer-vat Sharekh, 24, a woman who was visiting relatives from Rafah and who died in hospital an hour later.

Although the area had been shelled before, and some residents had fled in response to Israeli warnings the previous week, Mr Abu Qaida said the area had been quiet on the day - except that Qassam rockets had been fired about four hours earlier from northern settlements more than a kilometre away from the flats.

The IDF said last night that, of those killed in Gaza, it had the "positive identities of over 220 gunmen killed in fighting, and can confirm their affiliation with terror organisations". The 220 figure - said to be "unbelievable" by Mr Shaqqura - coupled with another 20 dead which the military acknowledges as genuine civilians, is all the more strikingly at variance with PCHR figures since it produces a total exceeding the centre's own records. Mr Shaqqura said that, at the absolute minimum, the IDF figures do not take into account the casualties under 18 - which PCHR estimates at 44 and from which he said every effort is made to exclude the "rare" teenagers with militant connections - or eight women killed since 25 June. "We do not believe their figures. We do not believe their investigations." The IDF said: "Since the abduction of Cpl Gilad Shalit by the Hamas and PRC terror organisations,

## Revealed: civilian toll of a deadly assault that has ravaged Gaza PALESTINIAN CRISIS

the IDF has been operating in the Gaza Strip against terrorist infrastructure and in order to secure the release of Cpl Shalit. In the course of the operations, the IDF engaged in intense fighting with Palestinian gunmen, who chose heavily populated areas as their battlegrounds. The IDF takes every measure to prevent harm to civilians, often at a risk to its soldiers."

**The forgotten war in the Middle East**

25 June Palestinian gunmen from the Hamas-linked Izzedine al-Qassam brigades cross from Gaza into Israel and launch a raid on an Israeli military patrol. Two Israeli soldiers are killed, four wounded and one, Cpl Gilad Shalit, is captured and taken back into Gaza.

28 June Israel masses troops before launching a reoccupation of the Gaza Strip under the code-name Operation Summer Rains. Civilian casualties mount as Israeli forces search the Khan Younis refugee camp for Cpl Shalit.

12 July Mimicking the tactics of Palestinian militants, Hizbollah launches mortars and rockets into northern Israel from southern Lebanon to divert attention from a cross-border raid that ambushes an Israeli military patrol, killing three soldiers and capturing two others. The raid threatens to draw the whole Middle East into conflict.

13 July International attention is diverted from Gaza as Israel launches a full military invasion of southern Lebanon in response to Hizbollah's attack. The mounting civilian death toll across Gaza pales in comparison to Lebanon as Israeli jets pummel infrastructure.

24 July As world powers frantically search for a UN-backed ceasefire in Lebanon, Israel increases its bombardment of the Gaza Strip in an attempt to force Palestinian militants to release Cpl Shalit. Under the codename Operation Samson's Pillars, Israeli jets pound Gaza's roads and buildings, including the power station.

14 August UN approves a ceasefire for Lebanon after four weeks of fighting which has left approximately 1,500 Lebanese and 150 Israelis dead. International community continues to ignore the conflict in Gaza over fears that Lebanon could slip back into warfare unless a UN peacekeeping force arrives in the region.

Mid-August-present Israel continues to carry out air strikes and raids in Gaza. At least 33 civilians have been killed since the beginning of August, 10 of whom were under the age of 18.

**Load-Date:** September 27, 2006



## *Hopes grow for Kember's freedom*

The Observer (London)

January 29, 2006

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# TheObserver

**Section:** OBSERVER HOME PAGES; Pg. 1

**Length:** 646 words

**Byline:** Jamie Doward, Home Affairs Editor

## Body

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THE IMMINENT release of hundreds of prisoners by the Iraqi authorities has raised hopes for the safe release of British hostage Norman Kember.

A video of the 74-year-old peace campaigner and three other hostages was shown on Arabic TV channel al-Jazeera yesterday with final demands from his kidnappers. The footage, dated 21 January, showed the men, seized in Baghdad last year, looking dishevelled and grim.

An al-Jazeera newsreader said the kidnappers, the little known Swords of the Righteous Brigade, had issued a statement with the tape saying it was the 'last chance' for the American and Iraqi authorities to 'release all Iraqi prisoners in return for freeing the hostages, otherwise their fate will be death'.

Anas Altikriti, the envoy dispatched by the Muslim Association of Britain to Iraq last year to co-ordinate appeals for Kember's release, said the fact the men were still alive was a 'huge relief'.

'I understand from my contacts in Iraq that between 200 and 300 detainees are going to be released in a week or so,' Altikriti said.

'We hope the group will see this as some sort of response to their initial demands. We will appeal to them to reciprocate. We're going to utilise the release of detainees to push for the release of the hostages.'

Altikriti said some 500 detainees had been released, following recent elections. Last week the US military said it had released half the Iraqi women in its prisons, but denied the move was a response to demands from any group of kidnappers, including those holding the American journalist Jill Carroll.

Altikriti said the new footage would give fresh impetus to moves to free the men. Unprecedented condemnation of their detention from all quarters of the Muslim world, including fundamentalist organisations such as Hamas and the Muslim Brotherhood, raised hopes that the hostages would be spared the fate of Ken Bigley, the British contractor who was beheaded in October 2004.

## Hopes grow for Kember's freedom

Last year the kidnappers dropped the deadline for executing the men, whom they accuse of being spies, following an appeal by Altikriti in the Iraqi media. There had been concerns the kidnappers had sold the hostages to other groups who were planning to ransom them.

Al-Jazeera's editor, Saad al-Dosari, declined to say how the station obtained the 55-second tape. Along with Kember, it shows Canadian hostages James Loney, 41, and Harmeet Singh Sooden, 32, and 54-year-old American Tom Fox. All four are members of Christian Peacemaker teams, which have been working in Iraq since October 2002, investigating claims of abuse by American and Iraqi forces against Iraqi detainees.

Kember's wife, Pat, made a televised plea to her husband's captors broadcast on al-Jazeera on 6 January. She said her husband had travelled to Iraq to promote peace. 'He is a very good man, always helping others,' she said. 'He has been a pacifist all his adult life. You will know that he and his three friends are against the war. They went to Iraq to listen to, and if possible help, the Iraqi people.'

A friend of the Kembers, Sue Claydon, said it was 'wonderful' to see evidence the captured Briton was still alive. 'When the abduction took place, a number of people asked how we thought Norman would cope. I said he was a rational, sensible man, and also a man of great faith, as is true of the other three men, and I think that is what is seeing them through this.'

A vigil for the four captives was held in Lodon's Trafalgar Square last Thursday evening to mark two months since they were taken hostage. Claydon said Mrs Kember was 'holding up very well' and was well supported by friends, family and members of her Baptist church.

More than 250 foreigners have been taken hostage in Iraq since the 2003 US-led invasion that toppled Saddam; at least 39 have been killed.

Norman Kember was shown, dishevelled but alive, with his co-captives on al-Jazeera yesterday.

**Load-Date:** January 31, 2006

## *And Now, Islamism Trumps Arabism*

The New York Times

August 20, 2006 Sunday

Late Edition - Final

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**Section:** Section 4; Column 5; Week in Review Desk; Pg. 1; THE WORLD: SHIFTING SANDS

**Length:** 1456 words

**Byline:** By MICHAEL SLACKMAN; Mona el-Naggat contributed reporting from Egypt for this article, and Souad Mekhennet from Amman, Jordan.

**Dateline:** CAIRO

### **Body**

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SHE grew up in Cairo with the privileges that go to the daughter of a military officer, attended a university and landed a job in marketing. He grew up in a poor village of dusty unpaved roads, where young men work long hours in a brick factory while dreaming of getting a government job that would pay \$90 a month.

But Jihan Mahmoud, 24, from the middle-class neighborhood of Heliopolis, and Madah Ali Muhammad, 23, from a village in the Nile Delta, have come to the exact same conclusion about what they and their country need: a strong Islamic political movement.

"I have more faith in Islam than in my state; I have more faith in Allah than in Hosni Mubarak," Ms. Mahmoud said, referring to the president of Egypt. "That is why I am proud to be a Muslim."

The war in Lebanon, and the widespread conviction among Arabs that Hezbollah won that war by bloodying Israel, has fostered and validated those kinds of feelings across Egypt and the region. In interviews on streets and in newspaper commentaries circulated around the Middle East, the prevailing view is that where Arab nations failed to stand up to Israel and the United States, an Islamic movement succeeded.

"The victory that Hezbollah achieved in Lebanon will have earthshaking regional consequences that will have an impact much beyond the borders of Lebanon itself," Yasser Abuhilalah of Al Ghad, a Jordanian daily, wrote in Tuesday's issue.

"The resistance celebrates the victory," read the front-page headline in Al Wafd, an opposition daily in Egypt.

Hezbollah's perceived triumph has propelled, and been propelled by, a wave already washing over the region. Political Islam was widely seen as the antidote to the failures of Arab nationalism, Communism, socialism and, most recently, what is seen as the false promise of American-style democracy. It was that wave that helped the banned but tolerated Muslim Brotherhood win 88 seats in Egypt's Parliament last December despite the government's violent efforts to stop voters from getting to the polls. It was that wave that swept **Hamas** into power in the Palestinian government in January, shocking **Hamas** itself.

## And Now, Islamism Trumps Arabism

"We need an umbrella," said Mona Mahmoud, 40, Jihan's older sister. "In the 60's, Arabism was the umbrella. We had a cause. Now we lack an umbrella. We feel lost in space. We need to be affiliated to something. Usually in our part of the world, because of what religion means to us, we immediately resort to it."

The lesson learned by many Arabs from the war in Lebanon is that an Islamic movement, in this case Hezbollah, restored dignity and honor to a bruised and battered identity. People in Egypt still talk painfully about the loss to Israel in 1967, a loss that was the beginning of the end of pan-Arabism as an ideology to unite the region and define its people.

Hezbollah's perceived victory has highlighted, and to many people here validated, the rise of another unifying ideology, a kind of Arab-Islamic nationalism. On the street it has even seemed to erase divisions between Islamic sects, like Sunni and Shiite. At the moment, the Hezbollah leader, Sheik Hassan Nasrallah, is widely viewed as a pan-Arab Islamic hero.

"The losers are going to be the Arab regimes, U.S.A. and Israel," said Dr. Fares Braizat of the Center for Strategic Studies at the University of Jordan. "The secular resistance movements are gone. Now there are the Islamists coming in. So the new nationalism is going to be religious nationalism, and one of the main reasons is dignity. People want their dignity back."

The terms Islamic nationalism and pan-Islamism have a negative connotation in the West, where they are associated with fundamentalism and terrorism. But that is increasingly not the case in Egypt. Under the dual pressures of foreign military attacks in the region and a government widely viewed as corrupt and illegitimate, Islamic groups are seen by many people as incorruptible, disciplined, efficient and caring. A victory for Hezbollah in Lebanon is by extension a victory for the Muslim Brotherhood in Egypt.

"People will say Hezbollah achieved a very good thing, so why should we mistrust the Muslim Brotherhood," said Hassan Naffa, a professor of political science at Cairo University.

There is a wide diversity of views and agendas under the pan-Islamic-Arab umbrella. But as is often the case in politically aligned movements, those differences are easily papered over when that movement is in the opposition.

"Hezbollah is a resistance movement that has given us a solution," said Yomana Samaha, a radio talk-show host in Cairo who identified herself as secular and a supporter of separating religion and government. But when asked if she would vote for a Muslim Brotherhood candidate in Egypt, she said "Yeah, why not?"

It was an answer she seemed reluctant -- but relieved -- to state.

"If they have a solution," she repeated, "why not?"

A solution to what?

"Loss of dignity," said Mona Mahmoud, who is her friend.

Concepts of individual and collective identity are fluid here. During the British occupation of Egypt, a rise in Egyptian nationalism helped lead to independence in the early 1900's. After the revolution of 1952, Gamal Abdel Nasser led the country and the region to seek unity under the banner of Arabism. That was a theme trumpeted by leaders from Col. Muammar el-Qaddafi in Libya to Hafez al-Assad in Syria to Saddam Hussein in Iraq.

But according to many political scientists and intellectuals, the glue of pan-Arabism began to weaken in Egypt after defeat in the Arab-Israel War of 1967, a decline that quickened through the 1970's and into the 1980's.

"People think that this defeat was a punishment from God because we drifted far from the teachings of Islam," said Gamal Badawi, an Egyptian historian.

Since then there has been a steady and visible change in many Egyptians' relationship to political Islam. It is not that Egyptians are suddenly more religious, political analysts said. This has always been a religious country. It is

## And Now, Islamism Trumps Arabism

that they are more apt to define themselves by their faith. On the streets, that is most evident in the number of women -- an overwhelming majority -- who cover their heads with Islamic headscarves, a sign not just of individual conviction but also of peer pressure.

"The failure of pan-Arabism, the lack of democracy, and corruption -- this drives people to an extent of despair where they start to find the solution in religion," said Gamal el-Ghitany, editor of Akhbar al-Adab, a literary magazine distributed in Egypt.

Echoing that view, Diah Rashwan, an expert in Islamic movements and analyst with the government-financed Center for Political and Strategic Studies in Cairo, said, "People have come to identify themselves more as Muslims during the last five years in response to the U.S.-led 'war on terrorism' which Egyptians frequently feel is a discriminatory campaign targeting Muslims and Islam worldwide."

But it is not just outside pressures that have pressed so many people of this nation, and this region, toward that view. The events that helped shape Mr. Muhammad's world view from his Delta village illustrate the way the government of Egypt also plays a role.

Last December Mr. Muhammad's uncle, Mustafa Abdel Salam, 61, was shot in the head and killed by the Egyptian police as he was going to pray at a mosque, according to witnesses, including Mr. Muhammad and other villagers. The killing occurred on the last day of voting in Egypt's parliamentary elections, a months-long process that was marred by police officers who were ordered to block voters from getting to the polls in many districts. The government grew concerned after candidates affiliated with the Muslim Brotherhood began winning in record numbers. While the brotherhood is banned, candidates affiliated with the organization ran as independents.

The government says that the police did not fire live ammunition at citizens, but many people were killed and doctors and witnesses -- including Western diplomats -- said that the police did fire live rounds into people trying to vote. After the election was over and Mr. Abdel Salam was buried, the brotherhood-affiliated candidate visited the family to offer his condolences and help. The winning candidate, from the governing National Democratic Party, did not visit.

Mr. Muhammad said that the whole experience strengthened his conviction that "Islam is the solution" -- a phrase that is the slogan of the Muslim Brotherhood. "Our voice is not heard," said Mr. Muhammad. "It is only the authorities who have a say. The smallest thing, like we go to vote, and we get beaten. So I will hold on to my religion, and that's it."

<http://www.nytimes.com>

## Graphic

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Photos: The New Faithful -- In Lebanon, above, Egypt and across the Arab world, support for the Hezbollah leader Sheik Hassan Nasrallah is growing more fervent. (Photo by Wael Hamzeh/European Pressphoto Agency)(pg. 1)

Emboldened -- Demonstrators chant anti-Israel slogans in Cairo and vowed support for Hezbollah. (Photo by Shawn Baldwin for The New York Times)(pg. 3)

**Load-Date:** August 20, 2006

## And Now, Islamism Trumps Arabism

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## *Immigration Tiff in Israel Splits Justices; DATELINE JERUSALEM*

The Forward

May 19, 2006

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**Section:** News; Pg. 1

**Length:** 1678 words

**Byline:** Gershom Gorenberg

### **Body**

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Israeli law contains no provision "by which constitutional human rights give way in a time of war," even in a time of fighting terror, Israeli Chief Justice Aharon Barak wrote this week - taking his stand on one of the critical legal issues in Israel today. Barak's statement was part of a Supreme Court decision on a law barring the naturalization of Palestinians who marry Israelis.

Forthright as Barak's declaration might seem, however, the court's overall ruling was far murkier. Six out of 11 justices agreed that the law was too sweeping, violating Israeli Arabs' rights to marry and to equality. And yet, because a swing justice carefully straddled the issues, the court also voted, 6 to 5, to leave the law in force for now.

What's more, by concentrating on the security question, the court arguably evaded dealing with an even more difficult problem raised by the law: whether protecting Israel's Jewish majority justifies infringing on the Arab minority's civil rights. In other words, what comes first, being a Jewish state or being a democratic one?

The Citizenship and Entry Into Israel Law was first passed by the Knesset as a one-year emergency measure in 2003, and has since been extended several times. The law applies only to West Bank and Gaza Palestinians, blocking the usual process by which a noncitizen who marries an Israeli becomes a temporary resident and, after five years, a citizen. The law's official explanation stated that after the second intifada broke out in 2000, terror groups recruited Palestinians who had gained Israeli identification cards to help carry out terror attacks.

With rare exceptions, the Israelis who wed Palestinians are Arab. Such marriages are natural: During the long years when official policy was to make the line between Israel and the territories invisible, to integrate the two economies and to let Palestinians work inside Israel, social ties between Israeli and Palestinian Arabs expanded. Mixed couples took up residence on both sides of the line. More recently, with the economy in the territories deteriorating and travel to Israel sharply restricted, such couples are much more likely to live on the Israeli side. Palestinian spouses who can't gain residency face the constant risk of expulsion.

Challenging the law, civil rights organizations argue that it violates the Israeli spouse's right to create a family and that it discriminates against Israeli Arabs as a group. Attorney Orna Kohn of Adalah, an Israeli Arab rights center that filed a suit, estimates that "several thousand" families have been put in limbo by the law, with some husbands and wives forced to live apart from their spouses and children. In response to the legal challenge, the law was softened last summer when it was renewed. It now gives the interior minister discretion to naturalize men over 35 and women over 25 - considered much lower terror risks.

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The Supreme Court's long-delayed decision, rendered May 14, pitted two legal titans against each other. Chief Justice Barak, due to retire later this year, is a controversial judicial activist who has sought to extend the court's reach - especially by giving wide meaning to the Basic Law: Human Dignity and Freedom, a Knesset-passed bill of rights that has constitutional status. In his lengthy opinion, Barak argued that "the additional security produced by the sweeping ban" on Palestinians "is not proportionate to the added damage to the family life and equality of the Israeli spouses." To balance security and rights, he said, the state needed to screen applicants for naturalization individually. The law, he said, should be overturned.

Against Barak stood Mishael Cheshin, deputy chief justice, rendering his final judgment before mandatory retirement. Cheshin rejected Barak's view that a citizen has the constitutional right to bring a noncitizen spouse into the country, stressing that a nation can bar immigration of enemy aliens. And, he stressed, "The state of Israel, as we all know, is at war - or at the least, near war - with the Palestinian Authority and the terror organizations operating from it." He wrote that since Hamas's electoral victory in January, "Hamas and the Palestinian Authority... have become one and the same." The law, therefore, could stand.

Since four justices agreed with Barak and four with Cheshin, the crucial vote was cast by Edmond Levy, an Orthodox justice known for his frequent dissents. Levy asserted that the law harms "not only couples wishing to marry, but also the democratic character of the State of Israel and the delicate fabric of relations with a not insignificant community living within it." The state, he wrote, must institute individual screening instead.

But Levy, preferring judicial restraint, gave the state nine months to change procedures. He let the law stand in the meantime.

In practical terms, that meant defeat for the rights groups and families that they represented, while tossing the issue back into the lap of the Knesset and the Cabinet.

Reactions were swift. "This is really a racist decision. They've shown us we are second-class citizens, or third class," said Ranit Tabilah of the Galilee Arab town of Shfaram. Her husband, Hatem, is from Nablus in the West Bank. Hatem, an electrician, was legally working for an Israeli firm when he met Ranit in 1999. They married the following year and now have two daughters, ages 5 and 3. Hatem received temporary residency before the citizenship law was enacted, but his status expires in November and he will only turn 35. He won't be eligible to reapply until mid 2007. "He's not interested in politics," said Ranit, a vocational college teacher. "If they thought he was a security threat, they wouldn't have given him a [work] permit before we were married."

"This is one of the most disappointing decisions ever handed down by the court," said Dan Yakir, chief legal counsel for the Association for Civil Rights in Israel. ACRI also challenged the law. "It's clear," Yakir added, "that the security issue was only a thin veil over the demographic issue": the desire to maintain a Jewish majority by preventing more Arabs from becoming citizens.

In contrast, prominent legal scholar Amnon Rubinstein - a former Knesset member for the left-wing Meretz party - publicly defended the court's ruling. Rubinstein, now president of the Interdisciplinary Center in Herzliyah and chair of a government-appointed panel on immigration policy, said that a country has the right to prevent immigration from a hostile entity. The law, he said, should be amended to refer to a state of war rather than singling out residents of a particular territory. Indeed, in the wake of the ruling, Justice Minister Haim Ramon said he would submit a comprehensive immigration bill in the form of a Basic Law, giving it constitutional status and putting it outside of the court's reach.

The common denominator of those responses is that Israel faces an immigration issue, not just one of security. The last major Knesset debate on immigration was in 1970, when parliament defined the word "Jew" in the Law of Return and extended immigration rights to non-Jewish children and to grandchildren of Jews. Israel was a poor country then; the thought that it would one day draw economic migrants was unimaginable. Moreover, the problem of maintaining a Jewish majority was raised back then only by the most dovish opponents of keeping the occupied territories.



## Immigration Tiff in Israel Splits Justices DATELINE JERUSALEM

Since the 1990s, though, emigration from the former Soviet Union has brought hundreds of thousands of non-Jews who are eligible for citizenship, by marriage or by Jewish ancestry, under the Law of Return. Israel's leap to a European-level economy also has attracted foreign workers - perhaps better termed "undocumented immigrants" - and some have been here for years and have raised children who know no other country but lack citizenship.

But while those groups are likely to speak Hebrew and to seek integration into Israel's Jewish majority, Palestinian immigrants nearly always join the Arab minority. Ironically, the same sudden concern with demography that has pushed many rightists to accept the idea of ceding territory has translated into desire to keep Palestinians from gaining citizenship.

In the Supreme Court ruling, only one justice, Ayala Procaccia, called attention to that obvious political reality. In the Knesset debate on the Citizenship Law, Procaccia wrote, "the demographic issue hovered over the entire legislative process." She noted that during the debate, two leading Likud figures, Reuven Rivlin, then Knesset speaker, and Gideon Ezra, now Kadima's minister of the environment, warned that Palestinians were using family unification as a means to implement a "right of return" to pre-1967 Israel. Other Knesset members said that the law would stop the "demographic danger."

While acknowledging genuine security concerns, Procaccia suggested that their force was lessened by the other issue looming in the background, namely demography. And demography, she implied, could not justify impinging on Arab citizens' rights.

Procaccia sided with Barak. Yet the chief justice himself accepted the state's argument that the law was designed solely for security reasons and not demographic ones. Barak thereby sidestepped the demographic question.

Judges "are afraid of questions like that," leading legal commentator Moshe Negbi said. "It's a frightening business, because all of us, as people who live here and believe in this country, want to hope that it's possible to sustain a Jewish democratic state. And these questions arouse the fear that maybe that's not true. People prefer to repress them. It's psychological."

Yet the court's own decision makes those questions impossible to push aside. Now the politicians must change the law or abandon it. Despite Ramon's declaration, a bill with constitutional status stands little chance. Regular legislation easily could spark new requests for the court to intervene. Barak and Cheshin will be gone, and other justices will have their turn to try to be forthright.

**Load-Date:** June 14, 2006

## **Bravo to pro-war monks**

Ottawa Citizen

August 20, 2006 Sunday

Final Edition

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**Section:** NEWS; Pg. A10; David Warren

**Length:** 724 words

**Byline:** David Warren, The Ottawa Citizen

### **Body**

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My spirits were lifted this week, when a bunch of "pro-war Buddhist monks" (so described by the news agency) in Colombo, Sri Lanka, attacked a rostrum full of Hindu, Muslim, Christian and Buddhist clerical peaceniks.

The peaceniks were promoting various acts of appeasement toward the psychopaths in Sri Lanka's northern jungles who are called the Tamil Tigers.

But mostly, they were like peaceniks anywhere -- on the lookout for a photo opportunity.

I must admit, there is a certain thrill in sanctimony, even when, as in the West, it involves taking no risks -- and the harm you do, by undermining people who are risking their lives, can only come to others. That does not make it less evil, however. In my experience, the sanctimonious pose is the invariable indicator of a fraud, before God and his fellow man. You find that the moment his ideals are put to the test.

Whereas truly righteous indignation is not a pose, and will endure testing.

Naturally, the peaceniks fought back when attacked. Their prescriptions are only meant for others. It was a good scuffle, according to Reuters journalists, although "there were no reports of any serious injuries."

Hundreds of people have been slaughtered this year alone by the Tamil Tigers, who use -- who pioneered -- many of the techniques that fanatical Muslim terrorists now use around the world. They are the original "suicide bombers," according to one account, and pioneering recruiters of women and children. Their fanaticism is more ethnic than Hindu -- but anti-Muslim as well as anti-Sinhalese. Arguing with them is as pointless an activity as this planet offers. They are armed, organized, determined, ruthless and the thing to do is kill them. Capturing them is only a holding action, because they will return to slaughter when released.

As usual, the western media tend to romanticize the Tamil Tigers, and give easily distracted attention to any "war crimes" that could possibly be charged against the legitimate forces of the government of Sri Lanka. What can I say? It is hard to account for the behaviour of some western journalists without a theory of demonic possession. I'm sure the pro-war Buddhist monks would agree.

All I can say is, "Bravo, pro-war Buddhist monks!" You do honour to your saffron robes.

## Bravo to pro-war monks

Am I a warmonger, as many of my correspondents, and some journalistic colleagues, suggest? I am glad they are able to get something right. When there is a war to fight, and no alternative to fighting it, you bet I am a warmonger. The sooner we have destroyed the enemy, the sooner we can get back to sucking our thumbs.

The rostrum I should particularly like to attack -- ideally with the help of a few battle-seasoned Buddhist monks -- is that upon which the West's diplomatic community arranged itself last week, after brokering a Lebanese ceasefire that leaves Hezbollah neither disarmed nor accommodating; waiting to have its missiles replenished by its masters in Tehran and Damascus. I felt particularly ill while reading Condoleezza Rice's defence of the infamy in Wednesday's Washington Post.

It contained the ridiculous lie that Hezbollah had earned "the blame of the world for causing the war." (Lying is another indication of poor character.)

The war wasn't over. Israel hadn't won it yet. They had no business signing a ceasefire agreement before Hezbollah had been destroyed. The rest of the world had no business making them sign a ceasefire that the whole Muslim world is reading as a "hudna" (a deceitful peace, allowing one's own side to regroup). I can only hope a few lessons are learned, and that the next round in this war will end differently.

In the meantime, do not ask peace from Israel. The sponsors of Hezbollah and Hamas, chiefly Iran and Syria, have been perfectly candid about their intentions: "Ceasefire now, annihilation later."

I am a Catholic. We have our own history with the Jews. But forget that: no time to discuss it. If the reader of this column is a Jew, I want him to go to the mirror right away, and say 1,000 times, "never again!" And I want every Catholic, every Christian, every decent person, Muslims included, to say the same on Israel's behalf.

This is a war -- a real, honest-to-goodness war between irreconcilables -- and it ends not in ceasefire, but in victory or defeat.

David Warren's column appears Sunday, Wednesday and Saturday.

**Load-Date:** August 20, 2006

## *Our vital role in Iraq's road to freedom*

The Advertiser (Australia)

August 4, 2006 Friday

State Edition

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**Section:** OPINION; Pg. 18

**Length:** 759 words

**Byline:** WITH ANDREW SOUTHCOTT

### **Body**

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NIGHTLY TV images of car bombings or attacks on mosques in Iraq are no doubt confronting. They raise questions about how well the reconstruction of Iraq is going and whether Australia should be there.

Yet the insurgent attacks on civilians in Iraq are only part of the picture. The work that many young dedicated Australian servicemen and women are doing to rebuild this shattered country rarely hits the news and yet has been quietly effective in a typically understated Australian way. An Australian Anzac-class frigate, HMAS Ballarat, undertakes important work in the Persian Gulf monitoring Iraqi dhows for illegal activity and protecting Iraq's offshore oil platforms, their only significant source of export income.

Orions from RAAF base Edinburgh, in Adelaide's north, conduct maritime patrols to support the security of Iraq's shipping. In Al Muthanna province, ADF personnel have trained an Iraqi brigade and provided security for Japanese engineers to rebuild local infrastructure. Significantly, Al Muthanna is the first province where security has been handed to the Iraqi military and shows the way forward for the coalition in Iraq.

Australia's role has not gone unnoticed. Senior U.S. commanders have been impressed by the cultural sensitivity Australian troops have shown in working with local Iraqi people. They believe the Australian approach on the ground is one they could learn from. It should be a matter of pride that our families, schools and communities prepare these young Australians so well for such a challenging role.

The work in Al Muthanna province is part of a long tradition in the ADF of working in a counter-insurgency and nation-building role. East Timor is only the most recent example of this. In the 1940s and '50s, British and Australian special forces worked with their local counterparts in Malaya to defeat a communist insurgency. Their success was instrumental in achieving Malaysia's independence as a free and stable nation. Regardless of whether you supported the military action in Iraq in 2003, the important question is to deal with the situation in Iraq as it is now.

Looking at Iraq's neighbours, it is clear that a stable and democratic Iraq is far better than any alternative. Iran continues to defy world opinion in pursuit of a nuclear capability. Syria and Iran fund and support the terrorist organisations of Hamas and Hezbollah and their attacks on the people of Israel

Syria stands accused of the 2005 assassination of Lebanese prime minister Hariri. It is in no one's interests to have a weak Iraq surrounded by rogue states.

## Our vital role in Iraq 's road to freedom

After World War II, rather than turn their back on Japan and Germany, the Allies recognised that it was in their interests to rebuild their defeated foes. The Marshall Plan helped reconstruct Western Europe and the U.S. and Commonwealth countries, including Australia, helped provide stability for Japan.

With the enormous revenue generated by oil, Iraq today should be an affluent country. The fact it is not is due to decades of neglect under Saddam Hussein. Rather than leave Iraq to fend for itself, Australia's role should be, together with other responsible countries, to see that the Iraqi military and Iraqi security forces are in a position to safeguard the security of the population of Iraq.

In March, 2004, Mark Latham announced that it would be the policy of the Australian Labor Party to have Australian troops in Iraq home by Christmas. What was never made clear was which troops he was referring to or even, according to one Labor candidate, which Christmas.

I do not see our role in Iraq as a commitment without end. But it would be wrong for Australia to turn its back on the people of Iraq before they can provide their own security. The Iraqi people and the Iraqi Government do not want us to withdraw. It is in all of our interests that Iraq emerges as a stable and democratic country rather than leave it as a failed state which will be a haven to Islamic terrorists.

\*

Andrew Southcott is the federal member for Boothby and recently visited Australian service personnel deployed in the Middle East as part of the ADF Parliamentary Program.

## SECOND THOUGHTS

### AUSTRALIAN FORCES IN IRAQ

\* About 1400 personnel are involved in Operation Catalyst, the Australian Defence Force contribution to the coalition in Iraq.

\* The commitment includes 110 security and escort personnel in Baghdad; 440 in the southern province of Dhi Qar; a team of 34 helping to train the Iraqi army; 330 RAAF personnel flying Hercules and Orions; and HMAS Ballarat deployed in the Persian Gulf.

**Load-Date:** August 3, 2006

**Thinking Right; Complacency won't subdue ruthless foe**

The Atlanta Journal-Constitution

August 1, 2006 Tuesday

Online Edition

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**The Atlanta  
Journal-Constitution**

**Section:** EDITORIAL; Pg. 0

**Length:** 761 words

**Byline:** JIM WOOTEN

Staff

**Body**

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Tuesday, August 1, 2006, 06:18 AM

Hezbollah and its Iranian and Syrian puppet-masters have won the moment. In provoking Israel to bomb a village, killing 37 children and at least 20 adults, terrorists willing to use civilians as human shields have found the leverage they need to win.

They can't win on the battlefield. Not al-Qaida, not the Baathists in Iraq, not Hezbollah, not Hamas, nor Syria, nor Iran nor any other assemblage of jihadists.

Civilian deaths, and especially the deaths of children, are useful to terrorists. They influence world opinion and arm the anti-war left in America with powerful images of the suffering war inflicts on innocents. Those compelling images can shift battlefield advantage, one example of which is Israel's 48-hour suspension of air attacks in southern Lebanon.

It's unfathomable cruelty to use civilians as shields, as Hezbollah does, but that is the nature of this enemy. Every death that weakens Israeli or U.S. resolve, and every death that tilts world opinion against the United States and Israel, is of military value.

And if Hezbollah fires rockets from civilian areas and draws retaliation killing civilians, it can hope, too, that the attack will encourage the Lebanese to identify with Hezbollah. The deaths of women and children are all-around victories for terrorists.

And yet, despite the risk, Israel can't sit back and do nothing --- and no matter the consequences, if any, for the November elections in this country, the Bush administration should not lean on Israel to stop pursuing Hezbollah until it's rendered militarily inert.

## Thinking Right Complacency won't subdue ruthless foe

We are in a long war, both the United States and Israel, and if world and domestic opinion shapes the battlefield, we lose.

Europeans and Americans have lived for decades without having to commit, as the Israelis do daily, to the life-or-death question of which siege, which provocation, which round of suicide bombings is an immediate threat to their survival, and which can be suffered, lest retaliation evoke the disapproval of a "neutral" world quick to judge as "disproportionate" any response unintentionally harming anybody not certified as a credentialed, card-carrying terrorist.

Peace, or the illusion of it, combined in this country with a volunteer army that frees all citizens of the obligation that prior generations shared to put themselves at risk, has nurtured a detachment that carries consequences.

One disturbing consequence is that, just as members of the U.S. Supreme Court think it useful to look to international law for guidance when interpreting the U.S. Constitution, some Americans, and a sizable chunk of the left, now see themselves as arbiters of international disputes.

To the liberal mind, as it has evolved through decades of the tenured professors who took their anti-war, anti-Vietnam radicalism to campus, no nation or culture is inherently superior, except militarily and economically.

The United States does not enter any dispute with moral advantage or intent presumed to be noble. To the left, this country --- but for world opinion and international bodies positioned to temper democracy's predatory impulses, military and economic --- would abuse and exploit, conducting wars for oil simply to avoid the cost and inconvenience of energy independence.

Unlike the Israelis, Americans are now free, as referees in a sporting contest, to sit out conflicts that don't meet their test of worthiness, that happen not to fit in with their lifestyles, that fall on the watch of a president they dislike or that aren't predetermined to be essential to the survival of this country or to the free world.

We are a nation seriously complacent, far too susceptible to photos and to emotion to sustain a war on terrorism against an enemy given to butchery, to suicide as a weapon, and to treating civilian innocents, including women and children, as soldiers on the battlefield.

We are a compassionate people who simply cannot imagine any human inviting an enemy to kill women and children. But that is the face of the evil that we encounter and that Israel encounters in the war on terrorism.

We can recoil in horror. We can pretend that if the militants saw our compassionate side, knew us as we know ourselves, they'd see too, as our anti-war left does, that war is not the answer.

But when confronted with an enemy willing to serve up children, war is the answer. And until Hezbollah is defeated, we should not try to persuade Israel otherwise.

[http://www.ajc.com/opinion/content/shared-blogs/ajc/thinkingright/entries/2006/08/01/complacency\\_wont\\_subdue\\_ruthle.html](http://www.ajc.com/opinion/content/shared-blogs/ajc/thinkingright/entries/2006/08/01/complacency_wont_subdue_ruthle.html)

**Load-Date:** March 25, 2008

## **DEATH AT QANA: The world reacts**

The Irish Times  
July 31, 2006 Monday

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**Section:** WORLD; Qana Bombing; Pg. 8

**Length:** 787 words

### **Body**

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The following are a selection of comments made yesterday in the aftermath of the Israeli attack on Qana:

Lebanese prime minister Fouad Siniora: "There is no place on this sad morning for any discussion other than an immediate and unconditional ceasefire as well as an international investigation into the Israeli massacres in Lebanon ... The persistence of Israel in its heinous crimes against our civilians will not break the will of the Lebanese people."

Israeli prime minister Ehud Olmert: "I would like to express my deep sorrow at the death of innocent civilians . . . [but] we will not blink in front of Hizbullah and we will not stop the offensive despite the difficult circumstances."

US secretary of state Condoleezza Rice: "I think it is time to get to a ceasefire . . . We actually have to try and put one in place . . . We have to try and do our work well so that there will not be more and more and more incidents over many, many more years."

French president Jacques Chirac: "France condemns this unjustified action, which demonstrates more than ever the need for an immediate ceasefire, without which there will only be other such incidents."

Hizbullah statement: "This horrific massacre [at Qana] will not go without a response."

Jordan's King Abdullah: "This criminal aggression is an ugly crime that has been committed by the Israeli forces in the city of Qana that is a gross violation of all international statutes."

British foreign secretary Margaret Beckett: "It is absolutely dreadful, it is quite appalling. Undoubtedly today's events will make things worse, at least in the short term . . . We have repeatedly urged Israel to act proportionately."

EU foreign policy chief Javier Solana: "I have talked to the prime minister of Lebanon . . . I have expressed to him my profound dismay and deep sorrow at the attack and the death of innocent civilians in Qana. Nothing can justify that."

Egyptian president Hosni Mubarak: "The Arab Republic of Egypt expresses its profound alarm and its condemnation of the irresponsible Israeli bombing of the Lebanese village of Qana, which resulted in innocent casualties, mostly women and children."

Syrian president Bashar al-Assad: "The massacre committed by Israel in Qana this morning shows the barbarity of this aggressive entity. It constitutes state terrorism committed in front of the eyes and the ears of the world."



## DEATH AT QANA: The world reacts

Arab League secretary-general Amr Moussa: "The attacks that Israeli forces are launching, targeting civilians and the Lebanese infrastructure, are another confirmation of Israeli aggressive intentions."

Senior **Hamas** lawmaker Mushir al-Masri: "In the face of this open war against the Arab and Muslim nations, all options are open, including striking [ at] the depth of the Zionist entity."

Iranian foreign ministry spokesman Hamid Reza Asefi: "The Qana bombing is the outcome of [ US secretary of state Condoleezza] Rice's trip to the region. Some American officials should be put on trial for the crimes in Lebanon."

Pope Benedict: "In the name of God, I call on all those responsible for this spiral of violence so that weapons are immediately laid down on all sides."

International Crisis Group analyst Nicholas Pelham: "Major Israeli assaults on Lebanon have ended following a major killing of civilians. [ The bombing] makes the pressure for an immediate ceasefire that much greater. But an immediate ceasefire would make it more difficult to negotiate the entry of international forces because the pressure will be on Israel rather than Hizbullah."

UN secretary-general Kofi Annan: "No one disputes Israel's right to defend itself, but by its manner of doing so it has caused, and is causing, death and suffering on a wholly unacceptable scale . . . The most urgent need is to bring the fighting to a halt without further delay . . ."

US ambassador to the UN, John Bolton (speaking outside the UN Security Council chamber): "It says something about the morality and respect for human life of Hizbullah that they would use innocent civilians as shields . . . But that is why as well, in Israel's exercise of its legitimate right to self-defence, they have to take into account this barbaric practice that Hizbullah has and exercise the utmost restraint so that Lebanese civilians are spared the brunt of this conflict."

British UN ambassador Emyr Jones Parry: "It reinforces the need for the violence to end now. That will be achievable through a Security Council resolution which should embody an immediate cessation of hostilities and set out the political basis for resolving this crisis on a longer-term basis . . . There is no reason why such a resolution should not be introduced into the council very quickly and adopted as a matter of urgency."

**Load-Date:** July 31, 2006

## *Complacency won't subdue ruthless foe*

The Atlanta Journal-Constitution

August 1, 2006 Tuesday

Main Edition

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### **The Atlanta Journal-Constitution**

**Section:** EDITORIAL; Pg. 11A

**Length:** 755 words

**Byline:** JIM WOOTEN

Staff

## **Body**

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Hezbollah and its Iranian and Syrian puppet-masters have won the moment. In provoking Israel to bomb a village, killing 37 children and at least 20 adults, terrorists willing to use civilians as human shields have found the leverage they need to win.

They can't win on the battlefield. Not al-Qaida, not the Baathists in Iraq, not Hezbollah, not Hamas, nor Syria, nor Iran nor any other assemblage of jihadists.

Civilian deaths, and especially the deaths of children, are useful to terrorists. They influence world opinion and arm the anti-war left in America with powerful images of the suffering war inflicts on innocents. Those compelling images can shift battlefield advantage, one example of which is Israel's 48-hour suspension of air attacks in southern Lebanon.

It's unfathomable cruelty to use civilians as shields, as Hezbollah does, but that is the nature of this enemy. Every death that weakens Israeli or U.S. resolve, and every death that tilts world opinion against the United States and Israel, is of military value.

And if Hezbollah fires rockets from civilian areas and draws retaliation killing civilians, it can hope, too, that the attack will encourage the Lebanese to identify with Hezbollah. The deaths of women and children are all-around victories for terrorists.

And yet, despite the risk, Israel can't sit back and do nothing --- and no matter the consequences, if any, for the November elections in this country, the Bush administration should not lean on Israel to stop pursuing Hezbollah until it's rendered militarily inert.

We are in a long war, both the United States and Israel, and if world and domestic opinion shapes the battlefield, we lose.

## Complacency won't subdue ruthless foe

Europeans and Americans have lived for decades without having to commit, as the Israelis do daily, to the life-or-death question of which siege, which provocation, which round of suicide bombings is an immediate threat to their survival, and which can be suffered, lest retaliation evoke the disapproval of a "neutral" world quick to judge as "disproportionate" any response unintentionally harming anybody not certified as a credentialed, card-carrying terrorist.

Peace, or the illusion of it, combined in this country with a volunteer army that frees all citizens of the obligation that prior generations shared to put themselves at risk, has nurtured a detachment that carries consequences.

One disturbing consequence is that, just as members of the U.S. Supreme Court think it useful to look to international law for guidance when interpreting the U.S. Constitution, some Americans, and a sizable chunk of the left, now see themselves as arbiters of international disputes.

To the liberal mind, as it has evolved through decades of the tenured professors who took their anti-war, anti-Vietnam radicalism to campus, no nation or culture is inherently superior, except militarily and economically.

The United States does not enter any dispute with moral advantage or intent presumed to be noble. To the left, this country --- but for world opinion and international bodies positioned to temper democracy's predatory impulses, military and economic --- would abuse and exploit, conducting wars for oil simply to avoid the cost and inconvenience of energy independence.

Unlike the Israelis, Americans are now free, as referees in a sporting contest, to sit out conflicts that don't meet their test of worthiness, that happen not to fit in with their lifestyles, that fall on the watch of a president they dislike or that aren't predetermined to be essential to the survival of this country or to the free world.

We are a nation seriously complacent, far too susceptible to photos and to emotion to sustain a war on terrorism against an enemy given to butchery, to suicide as a weapon, and to treating civilian innocents, including women and children, as soldiers on the battlefield.

We are a compassionate people who simply cannot imagine any human inviting an enemy to kill women and children. But that is the face of the evil that we encounter and that Israel encounters in the war on terrorism.

We can recoil in horror. We can pretend that if the militants saw our compassionate side, knew us as we know ourselves, they'd see too, as our anti-war left does, that war is not the answer.

But when confronted with an enemy willing to serve up children, war is the answer. And until Hezbollah is defeated, we should not try to persuade Israel otherwise.

\* Jim Wooten is associate editor of the editorial page. His column runs Tuesdays, Fridays and Sundays.

[jwooten@ajc.com](mailto:jwooten@ajc.com)

**Load-Date:** August 1, 2006

## *Statue attack fuels fears of an Islamist Egypt*

The Sunday Telegraph (LONDON)

June 18, 2006 Sunday

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**Section:** NEWS; International; Pg. 30

**Length:** 698 words

**Byline:** HARRY DE QUETTEVILLE in Cairo

### **Body**

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A RELIGIOUSLY motivated attack on statues at a museum in Cairo has sparked outcry in Egypt and fuelled fears that the country is veering towards an Islamic state.

The attack on three artworks, by a black-clad and veiled woman screaming, "Infidels, infidels!" followed a fatwa issued by the Grand Mufti of Cairo, Ali Gomaa, which banned all decorative statues of living beings.

It led to furious criticism of the mufti from Egyptian liberals. In a televised debate with the mufti after the attack, one poet raged that "the prevalent religious discourse in the country encourages terror".

Although the ancient treasures of Egypt have been protected under Islam so far, an increasing extremism in the country could make statues such as the quartzite head of Nefertiti, the colossus of Amenhotep, and the golden death mask of Tutankhamen possible targets in future.

At the scene of the attack, in the villa and museum of the Egyptian sculptor, Hassan Heshmat, guards said they had been woken in the middle of the night by the woman's shouts and the sounds of destruction.

"It was a fully covered, religious woman," said Raisa Intesar, who looks after both the museum and Mr Heshmat, who is now 86. "She had jumped over the wall. We rushed out to stop her but by the time we had overpowered her, she had destroyed three statues."

The damaged works included Motherhood, a piece featuring three delicately carved heads, all of which had been snapped off. Also damaged was a smaller piece, The Victory Leap, Heshmat's tribute to Egyptian troops in the 1973 Yom Kippur war.

But the patriotic sentiment of the work was lost on the attacker, who was intent on following a religious imperative. "She had been listening to the mufti, and was following his orders," Ms Intesar said.

In Islam, representations of the human form and potential idolatry are particularly sensitive topics and helped to fuel the riots over the depiction of the Prophet earlier this year. So, in Egypt, which has become markedly more conservative in recent years, artists such as Mr Heshmat now find that national pride is losing out to religious fervour.

The attack exemplifies the clash of secular and religious societies in Egypt where, on the streets of Cairo, beauties in low-cut tops mingle with veiled women who walk behind their husbands.

## Statue attack fuels fears of an Islamist Egypt

"We are seeing an increase of conservative, Islamist feeling," said Nabil Abdel Fatah, from the Al Ahram centre for Political and Strategic studies in Cairo.

"The Islamisation of Egyptian society is happening from the bottom up, and now it has reached the middle classes - the doctors, the lawyers.

"Over the next few years political Islam will grow and grow," he added. "The duality between secular and religious is very dangerous and will lead to a very serious conflict in Egyptian society. We are already seeing terror attacks. And we will see new radical groups who will want to change the state in the most basic way - by suicide bombs and assassination."

Comfortably installed in the cafe at the top of Egypt's parliament building, 72-year-old Sheikh Said Askar smiled benignly at such ideas.

Sheikh Askar is one of 88 members of parliament for the Muslim Brotherhood, whose offshoots include **Hamas**, now in power in the Palestinian territories, and which seeks to impose Sharia law throughout Egypt. Although he is also a long-serving scholar at Cairo's al Azhar mosque, from where the mufti issued his fatwa on statues, he said the Brotherhood will use its growing voice in parliament - not bombs - to effect change. "I want to see Egypt become an Islamic state," he said. "We are near to that."

As little as a year ago, such an idea would have been fanciful. Sheikh Askar was locked up ahead of last autumn's parliamentary elections, from which the Brotherhood was banned. Running as independents, and despite widespread government interference, its members markedly exceeded expectations by winning enough seats to become the main opposition. Had it not been so restricted, some say, it could have won.

"I understand that an Islamic Egypt scares the West," said Sheikh Askar. "But the secular government has failed the people. Now our group will spread the glory of Islam."

**Load-Date:** June 18, 2006

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End of Document

**'Nobody here is a terrorist ... But we are all ready to fight'**

South China Morning Post

June 15, 2006 Thursday

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**Section:** NEWS; Pg. 10

**Length:** 713 words

**Byline:** Nick Meo in Jakarta

## **Body**

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The hard-eyed young men in ***Hamas***-style headbands, mujahedeen T-shirts, and woollen Afghan caps formed a small, silent army for the television cameras outside Cipinang Prison as they waited for their hero.

The discipline was impressive until the alleged spiritual head of Southeast Asia's most dangerous terrorist organisation, Jemaah Islamiah, emerged from jail, 45 minutes earlier than expected.

The young men mobbed him, drowned out his carefully prepared speech with cries of Allahu akbar! (God is great), punched the air, and jostled with photographers and camera crews who threatened to outnumber them. Cameramen fought each other and the fanatics to snatch pictures of the elderly, stick-thin religious teacher who has become, to many, the face of terror in Indonesia.

Abu Bakar Bashir's release yesterday from prison, where he had been jailed for giving his blessing to the plotters of the 2002 Bali bombings was supposed to be a triumph for Indonesia's religious hardliners.

It was carefully staged and coincided with the launch of a book, written in prison, declaring his innocence - its title translates as *I Was Slandered*.

The whole event was a bit of a flop. The crowd of 150 fanatics only seemed to underline the lack of mainstream support for religious extremists who are regarded by most Indonesians as mad and dangerous - although many moderate Muslims do revere Bashir as a teacher and believe his claims of innocence.

"I will continue to fight to uphold the Islamic sharia," he said in a brief speech before being whisked off. It was all over in a couple of minutes, leaving a bizarre array of oddballs milling around in search of more excitement.

To a man and woman they all insisted that the preacher was innocent of involvement in the Bali bomb blasts which killed 202, including 11 Hong Kong residents.

Gampung Suharto, 42, claimed to have been an accountant for a US company and said his support for Jemaah Islamiah, had cost him his job.

"I didn't mind," Mr Suharto said. "That company was damned by God."

The jobless accountant insisted that the Bali bombs had been planted by the CIA to discredit Bashir, and claimed that the 150 supporters had actually been 3,000.

'Nobody here is a terrorist ... But we are all ready to fight'

Other supporters wore an array of skull-caps, homemade uniforms and badges from radical mosques and disbanded Islamic militias which have fought bloody battles all over Indonesia. Some wore Afghan woollen caps, a mark of honour in jihadi circles where they are worn by veterans of al-Qaeda training camps. The boys wearing them sniffed disdainfully when asked where the caps had come from, but barely looked old enough to have trained overseas as grown-up terrorists.

A man who wore a Lashkar Mujahideen badge on his black paramilitary-style waistcoat, praised Mr Bashir and condemned the Indonesian leaders who he said were his "oppressors".

"Nobody here today is a terrorist," the man said. "But we are all ready to fight jihad. I would, at a moment's notice."

**Women** were present too. They stood at the back. One grandmotherly figure with tears pouring down her face said Mr Bashir was loved by the people.

"He fights for Islam and he wasn't responsible for the Bali bombs," she said. The woman, Nur Diniyah Binti Hasan Saad, said she was a professor of chemistry and had sent two sons to Mr Bashir's Al-Mukim religious school, which security experts say is notorious for producing terrorists.

However eccentric his supporters, yesterday's release marked the beginning of a new phase for the radical preacher who had been heard of by few Indonesians before his arrest.

Mr Bashir is expected to become a media celebrity, touring radical mosques with his trademark firebrand rhetoric and attempting to energise a hardline fringe that has seen its fortunes wane since his jailing.

The bombing campaign blamed on Jemaah Islamiyah failed to ignite jihad in Indonesia and the carnage even repelled many hardliners. It also led to effective police crackdowns in which most leaders were jailed.

Mr Bashir also has a tailor-made political weapon, a campaign for anti-pornography legislation which has already galvanised Islamic radicals. Despite the poor display outside the prison yesterday for the radical fringe it was a day to remember. Their star performer is back in business.

## Graphic

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Credit: EPA; Supporters of radical Muslim cleric Abu Bakar Bashir cheer as he is released from prison in Jakarta yesterday. ; Abu Bakar Bashir

**Load-Date:** June 15, 2006

*Irresistible force, immovable object*

Weekend Australian

July 8, 2006 Saturday

SA Review Edition

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**Section:** REVIEW; Books Review; Pg. 8

**Length:** 800 words

**Byline:** Peter Rodgers

## Body

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MATP

A front-row seat to the Israel conflict isn't exactly safe but it brings invaluable insight,

writes Peter Rodgers

It's Easier to Reach Heaven Than the End of the Street: A Jerusalem Memoir

By Emma Williams

Bloomsbury, 448pp, \$45

THIS is a clever book, in the best sense of the word. Emma Williams deftly weaves two stories into one, using a personal journey through the grinding Israeli-Palestinian conflict to explore its larger dynamics and personalities. But it is mostly a depressing read, and so it should be.

Williams is an unusual professional mix of doctor and journalist. In August 2000 she arrived in Jerusalem with her three young children to join her husband. There she worked as a doctor, also writing for The Spectator and several other newspapers about Israeli-Palestinian affairs.

A month after her arrival, the second Palestinian uprising was triggered by Ariel Sharon's provocative tour of the Temple Mount complex in Jerusalem's Old City, which includes the third holiest site in Islam.

The violence over the next five years would leave thousands dead and injured. Most may have been Palestinian but Israelis -- including civilians, women and children -- suffered grievously at the hands of Palestinian suicide bombers. The head of one bomber, who had disguised himself as an Orthodox Jew, landed in the schoolyard where Williams's children played daily.

Terrorism, she writes, is both a weapon of the weak against an enemy of superior military strength and a weapon of the strong to force the weak to submit: "Either way it is repellent."

In a chilling comment, one Palestinian boasted to Williams that a suicide bomb was far more advanced than any weapon yet designed: "It walks, it talks, it thinks. It can decide when and where to detonate. It can withdraw, unexploded, if it thinks it best. It can hesitate, change its mind, go back again and then explode." To this, Williams's



## Irresistible force, immovable object

husband, working with the UN, retorted that some Palestinians just didn't understand how disastrous the suicide bombings were for them. Their sheer awfulness brought down "universal condemnation" and silenced any debate.

The book's strength lies in its many conversations, which capture the relentless determination of what Williams rightly describes as "two extraordinary peoples" to remain blind to the plight of the other. Perhaps she is right in arguing that only a few are bent on killing. But this mentality permanently stains a relationship in which both sides have "manipulated their suffering" and put a premium on victimhood.

Israelis occasionally like to remind us that even paranoiacs have enemies, and there are good grounds for wariness and suspicion on the part of the Jewish state. Williams explores both the Israelis' "underlying, omnipotent fear of annihilation" and the terrible cost that occupation of the Palestinians inflicts on Israel, physically and mentally. Fear shackles "every Israeli, hanging around their future".

On the Palestinian side, there is bitterness, resentment, rebellion and a clinging to a full "right of return" for Palestinian refugees from the war of 1948, which created modern Israel. That's a non-starter for Israelis, as it would destroy their country more effectively than any amount of terrorist bombings.

In countless conversations, Williams writes, Arafat's figure "lurked like a djinn in the background: terrorist, scapegoat, leader, figurehead, proxy, betrayer". Almost everyone called him a betrayer at some point: "Israelis because he had not brought them security, Palestinians because he had not brought them freedom, and internationals because they weren't sure where their donated money was going or whether, if ever, he was telling the truth."

The book gives little cause for optimism. Take the question of the forcible transfer of Palestinians from the West Bank to Jordan and possibly elsewhere in the Arab world, which former Israeli tourism minister Benny Elon tried to put back on the mainstream agenda with such persuasively phrased car stickers as "No Arabs, No Problem" and "Deport the Fers".

According to Williams, prime minister Sharon's spokesman Ra'anan Gissin said: "Sharon would like to expel the Palestinians but did

not believe this could be carried out under present conditions."

With this mentality lurking in Israel's political Right, with Palestinian politics now dominated by Hamas -- which remains nominally committed to Israel's destruction and called off its truce after the recent Gaza beach killings, allegedly by the Israeli military -- the notion of a negotiated two-state solution to the conflict is a myth. A Jerusalem Memoir makes a valuable, highly readable contribution in showing why.

Peter Rodgers has been Australia's ambassador to Israel; his latest book is Herzl's Nightmare: One Land, Two Peoples.

**Load-Date:** July 7, 2006

## *Syria: lift the veil and discover an enigma*

The Sunday Telegraph (LONDON)

June 18, 2006 Sunday

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**Section:** FEATURES; Comment; Pg. 22

**Length:** 686 words

**Byline:** Mary Wakefield

### **Body**

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As the midday call to prayer spread out into Damascus last week, I felt a burst of anxiety. There were bullet holes in the roof of the El Hamidiyeh souq - a legacy of the troubled French mandate - and the floor was dotted with circles of sunlight. Women in black burqas drifted past, the tiny spotlights sliding over the folds of their nylon skirts, then men in white dresses, looking too young for their serious beards.

Day one in Syria and I felt jumpy, and judged. By the north gate of the Great Umayyad mosque, I put on a vast, grey, polyester burqa (mandatory for girl tourists), took off my shoes and stepped inside.

What was I expecting? Obvious fanatics? Wall-eyed mullahs and cowed women? Instead, Syria's most sacred Islamic space looked like a crèche. The vast courtyard was wriggling with children; boys knelt over remote-control cars, girls held hands, skipped, dragged toddlers backwards across the slippery marble. Beneath the 8th-century mosaics of Islamic paradise - trees and citadels in green and gold - young mothers and their husbands gossiped, glanced at me and laughed.

With each new day in Syria, the idea I had arrived with - of an aggressive country, repressive, hungry for jihad - diverged more sharply from the Syria in front of me: young, peaceful, hungry mostly just for kebabs. Not that one refuted the other exactly, more that both pictures, though contradictory, seemed to be equally true.

It is a fact, for instance, that Syria is only a mock democracy. Bashar al-Assad, like his father before him, is in effect a dictator who owes his authority to the army and the dreaded Mukhabarat, the secret police. Last Sunday, Abdel Halim Khaddam, the exiled leader of the opposition, claimed that Assad had ordered his assassination; in a week or so, the UN will probably conclude that Syria's military intelligence (headed by Bashar's brother-in-law) was behind the assassination of the liberal Lebanese Prime Minister Rafiq Hariri. Many "dissidents" - a lawyer, a writer, a human rights activist - have been arrested by the regime.

Even so, Assad's Ba'ath party is a long way from Saddam's. It has lifted the ban on internet access and mobile phones, and ordinary Syrians seem free not just from fear, but from regular Western misanthropy as well. Throughout Syria, passers-by paused to say "welcome" and invite me in for mint tea - no furtive looks, no soviet-style reluctance to be singled out.

For most of us, Syria is the sugar daddy of Islamic terror, riddled with al-Qaeda training camps, funding Hamas and the Hezbollah, goading deranged Iraqi insurgents into battle with the Christian West. But within its borders, there's the sort of mutual respect between the different faiths that Bradford can only dream of. Syria is a refuge for Armenian Christians driven out of Turkey and for Nestorians who have fled Iraq.

## Syria : lift the veil and discover an enigma

In the Christian town of Maaloula, some of the last remaining speakers of Aramaic dedicate themselves to keeping the language of Christ alive. At the heart of the Umayyad mosque in old Damascus, octogenarian Muslim men whisper prayers at the tomb of John the Baptist's head. "I love Christians," said a Sunni man as the crusader castle, Krak des Chevaliers, appeared through the windows of our bus. He kissed the tips of his fingers and closed his eyes. "Christians are people of the Book. We are all sons of God."

On my last day in Aleppo, half-lost somewhere in the 18 miles of covered souq, I stopped beside a juice bar to wonder whether a glass of squashed strawberries would be nice. "What nationality are you?" said the juice-man. "English," I said. "Tony Blair? George Bush?" he asked. "Yes," I said firmly, though a curious crowd had begun to gather and to my right, a fat, blind man selling piles of crushed cumin was ignoring customers so as to listen in.

Then the juice-man put his hands in the air and began to smile. "Crazy!" he said. "They're crazy!" Then in Arabic: "Majnoon!" Soon everybody was shouting, "Tony Blair! George Bush! Majnoon!" and laughing, and patting me sympathetically on the back.

Mary Wakefield is assistant editor of The Spectator

**Load-Date:** June 18, 2006

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End of Document

## *International Briefs*

Telegraph Herald (Dubuque, IA)

July 12, 2006 Wednesday

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**Section:** IOWA; Pg. b6

**Length:** 757 words

**Byline:** ASSOCIATED PRESS

### **Body**

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Iran rules out reply to offer this week

BRUSSELS, Belgium - Iran ruled out responding this week to international incentives to suspend its nuclear program, saying Tuesday that the offer contains too many "ambiguities."

Ali Larijani, Tehran's top nuclear negotiator, said after meeting with European Union foreign policy chief Javier Solana that the "ambiguities must be removed first in order to have serious talks."

His comments dashed any hope that that Iran would meet today's deadline on a six-nation offer of incentives aimed at dissuading Tehran from uranium enrichment.

Central American leaders agree on plan

PANAMA CITY, Panama - Central American presidents agreed on a plan Tuesday to ease border controls and install a common customs system on the way to negotiating an eventual free-trade agreement with the European Union.

The agreement, signed by the leaders of Panama, Costa Rica, Guatemala, Nicaragua, El Salvador, Honduras and Belize, would allow residents to cross borders without passports or visas.

"This accord will open huge opportunities to boost the development and well-being of the Central American people," Panamanian President Martin Torrijos said of the deal that still must be ratified in each country.

30 militants killed in southern Afghanistan

KANDAHAR, Afghanistan - Coalition and Afghan forces hunting a Taliban commander killed an estimated 30 extremists Tuesday in a raid on a hide-out in southern Afghanistan, the military said.

The firefight came a day after a U.S. warplane bombed another militant hide-out in southern Afghanistan, killing more than 40 Taliban fighters, the military said. Wounded Afghans from the raid said Tuesday that children and women were killed.

The renewed violence came as Defense Secretary Donald H. Rumsfeld made an unannounced visit to the Afghan capital, Kabul, for talks with President Hamid Karzai on the escalating violence.

## International Briefs

At a joint news conference with Karzai, Rumsfeld said militants "don't want to see a country like Afghanistan have a successful democracy."

"They won't succeed," he added.

## Hundreds of fighters surrender in Somalia

MOGADISHU, Somalia - Somalia's hard-line Muslim militia forced hundreds of fighters who had been resisting strict Islamic rule to surrender Tuesday after some of the most ferocious fighting in the capital in months.

Fighting since Sunday has killed more than 70 people and wounded 150, and the death toll was expected to rise as the wounded streamed into hospitals. The bloodshed was the latest sign the radical militia won't tolerate opposition.

The fighters "were holed up inside buildings and we were pounding them with heavy artillery and mortars from every corner," said Abdi Shakur, a member of the Islamic militia that controls nearly all of southern Somalia. "They had no option but to surrender."

As in past fighting, many victims were noncombatants caught by stray shells. Hawa Mohamed said a mortar shell killed her 85-year-old grandmother, and the roadblocks erected during the battles prevented the family from burying her.

## Mexican politicians planning next moves

MEXICO CITY - Mexico's presumptive president-elect began forming his transition team Tuesday and announced plans for a victory lap through Mexico, while his opponent finished filing a legal challenge alleging election fraud.

With both ruling-party candidate Felipe Calderon and his leftist rival Andres Manuel Lopez Obrador claiming they won the closest presidential race in Mexican history, the struggle for the hearts and minds of the country stretched from foreign embassies to dueling news conferences.

Calderon asked his campaign director Josefina Vazquez Mota to reach out to other political parties and help build a coalition government.

"We have begun working toward the transition between the administration headed by President Vicente Fox and the administration I will have the honor of leading starting Dec. 1," Calderon said.

## Israeli president dogged by allegations

JERUSALEM - Israel's president is being dogged by allegations of sexual harassment in a spiraling scandal that has pushed the country's violent standoff with Hamas off the front pages.

The swirl of accusations against President Moshe Katsav has not led to charges or even a police investigation. But it is threatening to tarnish the image of a Mr. Clean politician and has invited comparisons to another presidential sex scandal.

"Who does he think he is? Clinton?" a pair of comedians wrote in a newspaper column this week.

Katsav, who has held the largely ceremonial office since 2000, denies wrongdoing.

**Load-Date:** July 12, 2006

## *Impeded by blinkers and blindfolds*

Weekend Australian

June 24, 2006 Saturday

All-round Review Edition

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**Section:** REVIEW; Books; Pg. 13

**Length:** 706 words

**Byline:** Alan Gold

### **Body**

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MATP

Freedom Next Time

By John Pilger

Bantam Press, 356pp, \$35

IN the movie *Casablanca*, Captain Renault responds to the murder of Major Strasser by ordering his men to "round up the usual subjects". John Pilger's latest book deals with imperialism in much the same way.

The author of many books promoting his view of the indelible evil of the US and its allies, Pilger seems to know only one tune, and he sings the same song about the iniquity of Western imperialism as Noam Chomsky, Edward Said, Harold Pinter and other vocalists in the left-wing choir. Although *Freedom Next Time's* condemnation of Western imperialism and its aftermath is a worthy topic, the book is hopelessly flawed because it concerns itself with the West alone: imperialistic and religious genocides conducted by murderous thugs of developing countries barely get a mention.

Like the comic-book hero Pogo, Pilger has seen the enemy, and it is us. And so he devotes most of his book to proving that Western imperialists and their lackeys are the terrorists, the guilty and the criminals who continue to oppress the poor, voiceless and underprivileged, who are uniformly the victims of aggression, greed and expansionism.

Patently, the US, Britain and other Western nations are guilty of imperialism and human rights abuses; equally patently, the record of most of the Third World is writ large with acts of basest inhumanity.

The neo-cons have committed egregious acts of global folly and have caused untold misery with their agenda, but where in Pilger's book can we read of the genocide in Rwanda? Or the ethnic cleansing of Sunnis by Shi'ites and vice versa? Or the Indonesian army's slaughter of East Timorese, the Bosnian Serbs' building of concentration camps for Muslims and Croats, China's ethnic cleansing in Tibet or Zimbabwe's murderous elite? Why, when dealing with Israel's so-called apartheid wall, does Pilger fail to mention the massive fortified fence built by India along its border with Pakistan? Or the barrier the US is building against Mexico's illegal immigrants? Or the many other hi-tech security fences protecting nations from belligerent neighbours?

## Impeded by blinkers and blindfolds

His blinkers become blindfolds when he considers the Middle East. "For 35 years," he writes, "the Israelis had successfully manoeuvred Washington into ensuring that the only UN agency allowed into the West Bank and Gaza was the impoverished UNRWA, whose remit was strictly humanitarian aid."

Really? The UN Relief and Works Agency has more than 24,000 staff, 99 per cent of them Palestinian refugees. In the past, its food storage facilities have been used to stow bombs and weapons, while its ambulances have been used to transport terrorists. Its former chief Peter Hansen recently admitted on Canadian television that his staff included members of the terrorist organisation Hamas, although he didn't see it as a problem. Where in Freedom Next Time does the journalistic Pilger do his job by investigating these details?

After a fly-by over "Shining India" and its dichotomy between the fabulously rich information technology professionals in Mumbai and the slum-dwellers everywhere else, he writes about the present apartheid in South Africa and the continuing destruction of Afghanistan. There's barely a mention of the hideous treatment of women by the Taliban in that benighted nation: what of the closure of education to women, the beatings of those who didn't wear a full burka, the lack of female medical facilities? Pilger writes only about the conditions Afghan women have to suffer because of the anarchy created by the warlords since US intervention.

Freedom Next Time can best be defined as a gigantic kvetch by a man who rails against a world that isn't run the way he wants. Only a blind neo-con would argue that all's well with the world; only a fool would argue that the wars in Afghanistan and Iraq have brought universal benefits; but only a rabid Savonarola such as Pilger would argue that the world's ills are the responsibility of the US and its allies.

Pilger would reach a much wider and more influential congregation if he returned to his former profession, journalism, and left the preaching to others.

Alan Gold has written 14 books; his latest novel is The Pirate Queen.

**Load-Date:** June 23, 2006

## *Creative Chaos Checkmated*

New York Sun (Archive)

June 16, 2006 Friday

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**Section:** FOREIGN; Pg. 6

**Length:** 722 words

**Byline:** Youssef Ibrahim

### **Body**

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America's neoconservative initiative for the Greater Middle East, "creative chaos," has been checkmated by a Muslim fundamentalist counterstrategy, "bloody chaos."

Back in 2000, when various neocons from both the Republican and Democratic parties advanced it, the strategy of creative chaos in the Middle East was designed to shake loose secular and theocratic tyrannies. The idea then, as it is today, was that autocracies encroach on freedoms, produce corruption, and breed poverty, anger, and religious fanaticism with their corollary, terror.

Using this theory, secular dictators like Muammar Gadhafi of Libya or Bashar Al-Assad of Syria are as ready for regime change as the Wahhabi fundamentalist royal rulers of Saudi Arabia or the mullahs of Iran.

But sometime in the past two years, America and the West changed course, cuddling up to Colonel Gadhafi and, most recently, proposing a dialogue with the Iranian regime. In their quest for democratic reforms, they have taken a step backward, fearful of yielding greater ground to radical Islam.

The enemy has not flinched, however. The Muslim fundamentalist response, while less ambitious, has been sharply focused, sending a clear message that life outside medieval Islam is not an option for Arabs and Muslims. In this, they have lacked neither will nor resolve in the face of their Western foes, who have faltered.

As always, the consequences have been grave.

In Iraq, where the mission was to replace Saddam Hussein with a democratic, multiethnic Iraqi government driven by an oil economy, we got bloody mayhem by pursuing Shiite ayatollahs and Sunni sheiks for their favors. Warring Sunni and Shiite tribes backed by regimes in the region are slaughtering each other as Iran's mullahs swoop in to take control of much of the country. A large secular Iraqi segment of the population is being driven out of the country or forced to veil its women and live under the growing shadow of Sunni or Shiite fundamentalism.

Instead of refocusing their goals, the politicians in Washington who enthusiastically sent their troops to war are now debating various plans, all aimed at withdrawing those who took Iraq and held it.

Even those of us who counseled against the invasion are adamant that abandoning such a strategic asset to Iran, Syria, Muslim fundamentalists, and absolute chaos would be catastrophic.

Elsewhere in the Middle East, the results of the West's lack of convictions are coming back to haunt it.



## Creative Chaos Checkmated

The optimism generated two years ago by the spread of democratic reforms in the region - a feeling that America, France, and Britain promoted - has devolved into an obscene reassertion of power by all the region's despots.

Syria has widened its reign of terror over Lebanon, getting away not only with the murder of a former prime minister, Rafik Hariri, but also with a renewed alliance with Iran, Hezbollah's Shiite army, and Lebanon's 400,000 Palestinian Arabs, whom Damascus is arming to form yet another militia for the Syrian-Iranian proxy wars in the region.

Saudi Arabia, which has the world's largest oil reserves, has largely shelved its alliance with America in favor of new ties with China, America's primary rival for world power. China, the Saudis know, does not demand democratic reforms, just oil.

Over in the Palestinian Arab territories, total chaos now reigns as Palestinian factions war among themselves. The Israelis will take care of themselves, to be sure, but the Palestinian Arab collapse will make the coming years pretty ugly.

Creative chaos is the right strategy when played unflinchingly by the rules, one of which is never to promise a people democratic reform if you do not plan on standing behind it every step of the way. A second is that in today's Middle East, values that include democracy, civil society, and separation of mosque and state must prevail if the region is to become peaceful.

The West must unite behind a policy of imposing more sanctions on Syria for meddling in Lebanon and Iraq. Iran should be ignored, not embraced. The country has a long way to go before it acquires any weapons of mass destruction, but a shorter way toward more economic sanctions and international isolation. Israel should go back into Gaza and topple the **Hamas** regime.

Above all, Iraq needs to be won.

The alternatives are so dark they cannot be contemplated.

**Load-Date:** June 16, 2006

*regional news Around the North ...*

Townsville Bulletin (Australia)

July 15, 2006 Saturday

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**Section:** WEEKEND EXTRA; Pg. 98

**Length:** 711 words

## **Body**

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### INNISFAIL

A man who survived on witchetty grubs for more than three days has been found on Mt Bartle Frere.

The off-duty police officer became disoriented while dodging cyclone debris scattered along the walking track.

### INNISFAIL

This year's Innisfail Show will be a celebration of resilience against Cyclone Larry. Entry will be free so residents have a chance to escape their worries for a day.

### INGHAM

Hinchinbrook Shire Council is close to signing off on an ethanol technology pilot plant at the former Foxwood veneer milling site. Ethanol Technologies Limited said the site was favourable because of its existing infrastructure.

### INGHAM

Eagle Boys could be open in Ingham by October, if the franchise gets the go-ahead from Hinchinbrook Shire Council. It will be the first major takeaway food chain to come to town since McDonalds eight years ago.

### THE BURDEKIN

A Scottish backpacker was fighting for his life after being bashed with a piece of wood during a fight in Home Hill on Saturday. The 20-year-old suffered serious head injuries. A man has been charged with grievous bodily harm.

### THE BURDEKIN

The Burdekin could be producing its own ethanol and electricity by 2007 if a planned energy park comes to fruition. Growers have been urged to get behind the proposal for at least four new energy production sites in the area.

### BOWEN

Bowen would be the clear winner for the Chalco alumina refinery if the decision was based solely on community support, Premier Peter Beattie has said.

### CHARTERS TOWERS

Charters Towers' historic stories were captured on film when a television crew arrived for three days. It will feature among 24 other towns in the Australian Icon Towns series, being filmed for the History Channel on Austar and Foxtel. The series will be aired later this year.

## CHARTERS TOWERS

Political and community support will be needed if a coal-fired, base-load power station is to become a reality for Pentland. Kennedy MP Bob Katter spoke on the proposal at a Charters Towers meeting.

### Around the State

\* THE Winton grazier famous for finding remains of 'Elliot' the dinosaur on his property has hit paydirt again.

After searching for two years, David Elliott has discovered two rare meteorites weighing almost 30kg.

His search began after residents reported seeing lights in the sky in 2004.

In a further bizarre twist, Mr Elliott said he later had a dream which told him where the bones were.

One of the meteorites will go on display at the Waltzing Matilda Centre in Winton.

\* SPEED cameras will be dropped from Queensland road zones which are no longer dangerous.

It will be the first time camera zones are dumped since the program started in 1998.

The move came after a long-awaited review into the speed camera program.

But motorists must not become complacent.

Transport Minister Paul Lucas said he would try to limit the number of camera zones that were decommissioned.

\* BREASTSCREEN Queensland is being sued by two women who say they were given a clean bill of health then later diagnosed with breast cancer.

Phillipa Naismith, 52, is dying of cancer while Sandra Harley, 48, has had her left breast removed due to cancer.

The women have hired a top lawyer's firm to mount a medical negligence case against BreastScreen Queensland.

Queensland Health's Cancer Screening Services Unit would not comment on the case pending legal action.

## TOP 10 NEWS ITEMS OF THE WEEK

1 LIBERAL LEADERSHIP -- John Howard and Peter Costello fall out over whether the PM agreed to step aside after two terms.

2 WORLD CUP -- Zinedine Zidane was sent off 10 minutes before Italy won the final over France.

3 WIMBLEDON -- Roger Federer maintained his impeccable tennis record.

4 INDIAN TERROR ATTACK -- Seven separate bombs went off on peak-hour trains in Mumbai.

5 TOUR DE FRANCE -- Robbie McEwen won another stage of the cycling tour.

6 ISRAEL-HAMAS STAND-OFF -- Violence in the Middle East continued to escalate.

7 NEW PM FOR EAST TIMOR -- Jose Ramos Horta was sworn in.

8 WALLABIES MATCH-- the All Blacks comprehensively thumped the Wallabies 32-12.

regional news Around the North ...

9 INDUSTRIAL RELATIONS POLICY -- the Opposition claimed the Liberal leadership battle was a diversion from the IR laws.

10 PETROL PRICES -- Another leap was expected as anger turned to the lack of tax relief offered by the government.

Source: Media Monitors Index

**Load-Date:** July 15, 2006

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## *East Carolina U. graduate studies in the Middle East*

University Wire

June 14, 2006 Wednesday

Copyright 2006 East Carolinian via U-Wire

**Length:** 728 words

**Byline:** By Christopher Stevenson, East Carolinian; SOURCE: East Carolina U.

**Dateline:** GREENVILLE, N.C.

### **Body**

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The Middle East is a place of history and conflict filled with a richness of religion that has impacted nearly the entire planet. Heather Crisco, who graduated from East Carolina University in 2004 with a double BA in anthropology and religious studies, is currently a MA student at the American University in Cairo, Egypt in the sociology-anthropology department.

Crisco went on a student abroad trip with ECU to the Middle East area. Crisco was so impacted by her student abroad trip to the Middle East that she decided to stay. Crisco spent a great deal of time on her trip in the Palestinian and Israeli areas.

Americans are not completely alien to the Middle East environment. Americans hear mainly negative things about the Middle East through filtered news stations like CNN. Americans hear about other Americans being taken hostage by extremists and terrorist. Americans hear about the suicide bomb attacks on a weekly basis. It is not a warm, fuzzy feeling that comes to mind.

Crisco wrote by e-mail about this very situation but shared a stark contrast to what the media mainly filters to Americans concerning the Middle East. "Before coming to Egypt, I was faced with many concerns (especially from family and friends) about being the target of hatred and violence because I am an American and a ***female***. I've found that this is a huge stereotype among many Americans that is just that...a stereotype. I've not once during any of my travels throughout the Middle East, experienced negativity, hostility or threats of danger because of my nationality. If anything, I have been welcomed to the point that it almost becomes irritating," wrote Crisco.

Crisco conversed to both Israeli and Palestine soldiers and to a variety of people in each region. During her trip, Crisco did spend a great deal of time with Palestinians. Crisco emphasized that the Palestinian people are in favor of promoting peace and democracy. Crisco wrote that though the political group ***Hamas***, who is thought of as a terrorist organization by much of the world, officially has not committed any acts of violence since being elected and are actually calling for the violence to stop.

Crisco has been impacted greatly by her trip abroad, "because of my Palestine/Israel trip specifically, I have definitely changed. I have changed in that, after meeting with government officials, university officials and peacekeepers from both sides; it has become clear to me that something has to be done. Voices need to be heard and not only the voice of Israel," Crisco wrote.

It's no secret that the U.S. Government favors Israel over Palestine. Our government gives Israel millions of dollars and military equipment on a continual basis, which is one reason why Israel has the third most powerful air force in

## East Carolina U. graduate studies in the Middle East

the world. Even American residents, for the most part, seem to favor Israel over Palestine. The U.S. has a huge Christian population, and the Christian belief is that the people of Israel are God's chosen people. The question is, does this religious connection with Israel blind Americans from seeing the conflict situation between Israel and Palestine clearly and in a non-biased manner?

Crisco does think that there is a huge misconception some Americans tend to share about the Israeli and Palestinian conflict.

"Americans are unfortunately only exposed to a censored media which does not always portray the conflict in a fair manner, thus many Americans tend to think that the Palestinians are nothing but a group of militant, fundamentalist Muslims who are attacking Israel non-stop. This is absolutely not true, and if anything, it is Israel doing most of the attacking," Crisco wrote.

After finishing school, Crisco hopes to eventually have a job that at least keeps her coming back to the Middle East. Many students like Crisco go on student abroad trips every year for the feeling of adventure and for the educational aspects that contribute to an unforgettable experience. Calvin Mercer, who is the co-director of the religious study program at ECU, is the one who got Crisco interested in taking the trip abroad to the Middle East. "I know students often sign up for study abroad because of the sights and adventure, but most students find out that the physical travel is really about expanding the internal journey of the mind and heart," wrote Mercer.

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**Load-Date:** June 14, 2006

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## *A Democratic Catch-22*

University Wire

May 4, 2006 Thursday

Copyright 2006 The Dartmouth via U-Wire

**Section:** COLUMN

**Length:** 724 words

**Byline:** By Zak Moore, The Dartmouth; **SOURCE:** Dartmouth

**Dateline:** HANOVER, N.H.

### **Body**

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If the events precipitated by the election of Mahmoud Ahmadinejad as president of Iran teach us anything, it is that democracy in the Arab Middle East is a catch-22. Unlike many of the other Arab countries in that part of the world, Iran has a substantiated semblance of democracy in a tiny part of its society. Sure, the unelected Supreme Leader lays down and supervises all laws, commands the armed forces, has the sole power to declare war, can appoint and dismiss members of the judiciary and controls state television and radio networks, but Iran still showcases the consequences of popular control in the area of presidential election.

Only a few months ago President Ahmadinejad was elected under the more democratic instant runoff system with a combined total of nearly 70 percent of the vote. In the months since then, this man has proved to be a raving, if not outright, psychopath, or at least something very close. In the "death to America" vein, comments like "God willing, with the force of God behind it, we shall soon experience a world without the United States..." have been particularly troubling. In the global community you do not wish or threaten annihilation and extermination. That some entertain debate about whether we should let this man have his finger on the nuclear trigger is another question altogether.

But this democratically-elected deviant raises larger questions about the efficacy and desirability of democracy in the non-Israeli (and possibly Lebanese) Middle East. If this man, in the context of an ostensibly democratically elected office, is indicative of the outcome of potential popular control in similar countries, then we may need to rethink our strategy. The more Middle Eastern countries have opened up their governments to the people, the more we have seen discouraging results. From the Muslim Brotherhood in Egypt to *Hamas* in the Palestinian-occupied territories, we have seen the election of forces more than a little hostile to *women*, the West, Christianity and liberty. That Iraq will necessarily follow the same unfortunate path is unclear, but the degree of influence exercised recently by forces in Iran does not bode well.

Unfortunately, the opposite strategy does not seem to be working much better. In the majority of other countries where the government is sufficiently insulated from the people, authoritarian rule is the name of the game. In countries like Egypt and Saudi Arabia, authoritarian rulers are far more liberal and far less genocidal than the governments that might spring up in their place, to judge from the Iranian example. These governments are hated, tyrannical and above all seen as stooges of the American government, which is in turn blamed for all the economic and social ills of the country.

## A Democratic Catch-22

So, as Americans we are caught in a difficult catch-22. Promoting democracy may well lead to the election of borderline-insane fanatics, while backing tyrannical regimes is probably better for the people there and around the world but is very much undemocratic. We can allow zealots and demagogues to whip people up into a terroristic frenzy themselves or we can continue to stand behind tyrannies that repress their people into an even more all-consuming hatred but at least do not give it government sanction.

For my part, I hope that we can increasingly avoid being forced towards one or the other of these choices and opt for a third: energy independence. With this option we can extricate ourselves from what is, at present, the lose-lose situation that is the oil-corrupted, Arab Middle East.

I am not going to pretend that this has not become a disgustingly politic remark to make especially among hapless lawmakers and I am similarly not going to pretend that I know how to do this. But if Brazil can power their cars on sugarcane, with the promise of being able to do the same thing with corn, soybeans, and more, we have to do this and do it now.

Allowing the economy the freedom to expand is generally the best course of action, but when vital national security interests are at stake, we must put our foot down. If, as Thomas Friedman wrote, green is the new red, white and blue we had better start wrapping ourselves in conservation and renewable sources today to avoid even worse involvement in the unstable Middle East tomorrow.

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**Load-Date:** May 4, 2006

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## *Palestine Awareness Week needs to advocate peace*

University Wire

May 4, 2006 Thursday

Copyright 2006 Mustang Daily via U-Wire

**Section:** COLUMN

**Length:** 689 words

**Byline:** By Ben Goodman, Mustang Daily; **SOURCE:** Cal Poly

**Dateline:** SAN LUIS OBISPO, Calif.

### **Body**

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Since the assassination of Anwar Sadat in Egypt in 1981 by the Moslem Brotherhood for making peace with Israel, Egypt has been in a state of emergency, allowing it to arrest suspects without charging them and to restrict public freedom. Last week, their "parliament" extended this state for another two years. Israel has lived with terrorism, under threat of annihilation, assassinations, suicide bombings and economic boycotts all her life, with no such state of emergency against any of her citizens.

Arabs living in Israel enjoy the same rights as all Israelis and have 16 members in the Knesset. They are free to do as they wish, even if they advocate destruction of Israel. There are hardly any Jews left in any Arab country.

India built a separation wall to combat terrorism from Pakistan in Kashmir. In fact, just a few days ago, another 35 Indians were killed by Kashmiri separatists. Chinese emperors built a 5,000-mile-long wall to protect themselves against their enemies. All other countries build fences along their borders too. Israel too, after years of suicide murders against her civilians, built a fence/wall combination to combat terrorism.

Yet, during the Palestine Awareness Week, Amir Abdel Malik Ali, Imam of the Oakland's Masjid Al-Islam talks about Israel as an apartheid country, calls her a Nazi regime, and vocally advocates a one-state solution: Palestine. No Israel. The title of another speech by Jeff Halper refers to it as the Apartheid Wall.

What part of Israel is apartheid or racist? Arabs, Christians, and Jews live together under the same laws, they practice their religion freely, they live together, and you cannot even tell what background a person has as you walk on the street, as most of them look alike. There are no places where Moslems, Arabs or non-Jews cannot enter. There are no laws against any one particular group. And although you would not be able to even travel to Saudi Arabia as a Jew, let alone live or vote there, the speaker has the audacity to call Israel apartheid and Nazi. This is nothing but to accuse Israel of all the atrocities that were perpetrated against the Jews in the past, and to say it enough times, and it will be believed as truth.

But at the same time, he has no words about the atrocities of Arabs in Darfur, where Moslem Arabs have killed at least 180,000 black Africans, have raped their women, and have displaced millions. Not one word from him or the professors at Cal Poly.

These speakers are advocating a one-state solution not peace and justice between the two people. They expect Jews to live under a government such as Hamas, the Baathist government of Syria or a government like Saudi Arabia. Would you? Would they? They are living in Oakland and San Luis Obispo!

## Palestine Awareness Week needs to advocate peace

Israel captured the West Bank from Jordan and the Gaza Strip from Egypt in 1967 after years of terrorist attacks, and when Jordan, Syria and Egypt had amassed their armies at her border to annihilate her once and for all. In fact, she returned the Sinai to the Egyptians when Saddat made peace with her. Last summer, Israel withdrew from the Gaza Strip as well and is planning on withdrawing from the West Bank too. At that time, a group of philanthropists bought \$14 million worth of greenhouses from the Israelis and gave them to the Palestinians to grow vegetables and make money. Three days after the Israelis left, the Palestinians destroyed all the greenhouses. Now they complain against the Israelis for their shambled economy because Israel has closed the border to Gaza, although they have been firing Kassam rockets into Israel every day.

Yes, you should be aware of the Palestinian leaders and the terrorists. They are their own people's worst enemies, not Israel. Israel built seven universities in the West Bank since 1967. How many were there before?

Instead of bringing speakers here for propaganda, for inciting hate and for advocating the annihilation of Israel as the president of Iran does, would it not be better to advocate for peace and against terrorism and hate?

Yes, Israelis are Jews, but even Jews have the right to live in peace.

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**Load-Date:** May 4, 2006

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## Israel 101

University Wire

April 4, 2006 Tuesday

Copyright 2006 The Daily Princetonian via U-Wire

**Section:** COLUMN

**Length:** 780 words

**Byline:** By Jason Sheltzer, The Daily Princetonian; **SOURCE:** Princeton

**Dateline:** PRINCETON, N.J.

### **Body**

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Two elections took place recently in the Middle East. In one, Palestinians chose to be led by a terrorist group whose official charter calls for a genocide of Jews. Voting was marred by violence as different factions fought openly in the streets. In the other, Israelis elected a moderate party, and the only violence of the day came in the form of a Palestinian rocket attack against Israeli farms.

Israel is a modern country with liberal laws and a booming economy that is stuck amid medieval theocracies. Yet, on college campuses across America, few other countries are subject to the vitriolic attacks that Israel is. From divestment proposals to the respect given to professors like Noam Chomsky, who authored the preface to a book that denied the existence of the Holocaust, and Edward Said, who took time off from teaching at Columbia to throw rocks at Israeli border guards; many students are presented with a one-sided account of the Israeli-Palestinian conflict. Few are ever made aware of the reality.

In truth, the preference of Palestinians for anti-Semitic leaders is nothing new. In the 1920s and 30s, the official leader of the Muslims in Palestine was the grand mufti of Jerusalem, Haj Amin al-Husseini. Using his position of power, Hussein fermented riots and pogroms against the local Jewish population. When Hitler became Chancellor of Germany in 1933, he quickly established an alliance with Hussein in Palestine. As Hussein wrote in his memoirs, "Our fundamental condition for cooperating with Germany was a free hand to eradicate every last Jew from Palestine and the Arab world."

Hussein frequently visited Hitler in Berlin and was taken on a personal tour of Auschwitz by Heinrich Himmler. If Germany won World War II, Hussein planned to construct concentration camps of his own for the Jews of Palestine.

Surely any modern country with historical ties to a Nazi like Hussein ought to be ashamed of it. Yet, Hussein is still so highly regarded in the Arab world that in a 2002 interview Yasser Arafat referred to him as the Palestinians' hero.

Hussein escaped war criminal prosecution by going into hiding in Egypt after 1945. His successors in Palestine and others in the Middle East who idolized him, however, worked to further his genocidal goal. In 1948, Arab armies invaded Israel and attacked its civilian population centers in Tel Aviv and Jerusalem with the expressed intent to "drive the Jews into the sea." They were repulsed in 1948 and again in 1967 and 1973. Each time, the Arab armies

specifically targeted Jewish population centers while the Israeli Defense Force fought back, knowing that defeat could result in a second Holocaust.

Continually threatened with extermination, Israel captured additional territory to buffer its population against future attack. Moreover, immediately after fighting ceased, Israel expressed its willingness to comply with Resolution 242 of the U.N. Security Council, which called for the return of captured land upon the Arab states' recognition of Israel's right to "live in security." In response, Arab leaders issued their infamous "three no's statement: No peace with Israel, no negotiations with Israel, no recognition of Israel." As the Arab nations were unwilling to cooperate with Israel and were also uneager to assume responsibility for the 600,000 Palestinians living in the West Bank, Israel "occupied" Palestine until 1995, when power was handed over to the Palestinian Authority.

Against this ever-present possibility of annihilation, Israel has remained a tolerant, democratic country that functions within the rule of law. Though Israeli leaders have made their share of mistakes, they remain accountable both to the people and to the courts. Under Israeli law, all citizens may vote, hold property or run for office, which makes Israel one of the only countries in the Middle East where Arab women have those rights. Compare this to Palestine, where, tellingly, Yasser Arafat was the first leader to congratulate Jiang Zemin on violently suppressing the democratic demonstrations in Tiananmen Square.

Today, Israel deserves not scorn but praise. Even the United States has much to learn from Israel, as questions about the extent of government and military power to combat terrorism have been debated in the Knesset and the Israeli Supreme Court for years. While the Hamas thugs that have been handed control of Palestine pose a threat to Israel, it has dealt successfully with such dangers in the past, and I believe it can continue to do so in the future.

Jason Sheltzer is a sophomore from St. Davids, Pa. He can be reached at [sheltzer@princeton.edu](mailto:sheltzer@princeton.edu).

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**Load-Date:** April 4, 2006

**TO SERVE THE NATIONAL CITY AND THROUGH IT THE NATION; Solomons mission going nowhere**

Canberra Times (Australia)

April 20, 2006 Thursday

Final Edition

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**Section:** A; Pg. 16

**Length:** 791 words

**Byline:** The Canberra Times

## **Body**

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THE DUTY of Australian troops and police, and of their regional assistants, to help restore law and order in the Solomon Islands, particularly after this week's riots in its capital, Honiara, are fairly clear. But just what is the status quo that everyone is trying to restore? And how comfortably can anything sit with the view that the opinion of the population, as expressed through its representatives, resolves all questions?

The neighbours and friends of the Solomons Islands intervened in its affairs three years ago after a complete breakdown in its politics, in law and order, and in its delivery of goods and services to the population of more than 500,000 people. The intervention, led by Australia, is titled RAMSI - the regional assistance mission to the Solomon Islands - and has restored some basic services, incarcerated some villains, provided some basic level of personal security and provided the stability from which an election could, recently, be held. By all accounts, it was a fair and free Solomon Islands election: about half of the sitting members were thrown out, populists of various types were elected and many candidates made much of their mileage by blaming all ills of the world on everyone else, including RAMSI.

Despite a substantial turnover of personnel, the chosen of the people of the Solomons were much the same rum lot as before - of much the same ilk who had brought this nation to its collapse. The former prime minister, Allan Kemakeza, long discredited internationally for his management, retained effective power, but not enough personal credibility even in that debilitated polity; his nominee, Snyder Rini, was instead narrowly selected. His election, by secret ballot, was greeted by riots and looting which stretched RAMSI resources; as ever in these matters, the chief sufferers were the Chinese mercantile population, the natural fall guys whenever anything inconvenient happens to a population all too used to blaming everyone but themselves for everything which goes wrong. Both Australia and New Zealand have reinforced RAMSI with troops and police. These may have some effect in keeping at bay various parties of rioters - some working directly at the instigation of politicians, others simply taking opportunist advantage of the disorder. Outsiders, even those with strong sympathies for the nation and its people, will not be holding their breath waiting for a general sanity to occur. They would be wise to suspend hope that all of this is but a temporary setback in a logical development towards a free, self-sustaining, and equitable community which is going places, because they will know that little on the horizon which suggests anything will be much different in the near future. The Solomon Islands, like some of its brother and sister Melanesian nations, is going backwards, not forwards, faces more disorder and more disrupted basic services to its population than since colonial times, and may need a complete reinvention before anyone can speak of political or economic viability, or the hope that its **women**, and its

## TO SERVE THE NATIONAL CITY AND THROUGH IT THE NATION Solomons mission going nowhere

children can confidently expect peace, order, justice, and basic educational and health services regardless of how tribal and regional ambitions overwhelm common sense or proportion.

This poses a particular problem for Australia and New Zealand, moral successors to the British post-colonial obligation, and natural believers in the will of the people as expressed through the ballot box. The assumption that the people are always right is, for us, fairly fundamental; the notion of **Hamas** winning a free and fair Palestinian election (or an anti-US coalition an Iraqi election) is a deep challenge, as is a refusal of the people of an essentially bankrupt and disintegrated nation such as the Solomons to understand that a completely new approach is needed. Australians, or New Zealanders for that matter, have no desire whatever to recolonise or to govern the Solomons - let alone to manage, without much power to change things, the consequences of their disastrous misjudgments. But it is, it seems, a necessity forced upon us by the unacceptability of the disorder and breakdown of services caused by local incompetence, corruption and mismanagement. No doubt some of this is a consequence of imperialism, colonialism and cultural oppression - one reason why nations such as Australia stand ready to help.

Increasingly, however, it is clear that nothing much will happen until the people of the Solomons recognise that most of the problems, and most of the solutions, lie within themselves. And, perhaps, until even concerned Australians accept that our actions, in attempting to stave off instant catastrophe, may be helping to create an even bigger one later on.

**Load-Date:** October 11, 2011

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**Released journalist Returns to U.S.; Reporter Jill Carroll avoids spotlight during reunion with family**

Charleston Daily Mail (West Virginia)

April 3, 2006, Monday

Copyright 2006 Charleston Newspapers

**Section:** NEWS; Pg. P3A

**Length:** 700 words

**Byline:** GLEN JOHNSON, THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

## **Body**

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BOSTON - Jill Carroll, the journalist kidnapped in Iraq for 82 days, returned to America and a tearful reunion with her family, enveloping herself in long hugs with her parents and twin sister, and flashing the smile that made her a symbol of sympathy.

Carroll arrived Sunday in Boston on a commercial jet from Germany, wearing a dark blouse and jeans. The Christian Science Monitor reporter was accompanied on the flight by Monitor colleagues, who described her seven-hour flight back to the U.S.

"I finally feel like I am alive again. I feel so good," Carroll said. "To be able to step outside anytime, to feel the sun directly on your face - to see the whole sky. These are luxuries that we just don't appreciate every day."

Carroll was seized Jan. 7 in western Baghdad by gunmen who killed her Iraqi translator while the two were on the way to meet a Sunni Arab official. She has said her kidnappers confined her to a small, soundproof room with frosted, opaque windows. She was released Thursday.

On her flight, Carroll was touched to find a red rose on her dinner tray, the Monitor reported. Later, a flight attendant dropped off a copy of Friday's USA Today in which she saw her own face framed by a black head scarf. It was a photo of a giant poster that had been erected in Rome.

The 28-year-old American journalist stayed out of public view but reports on the Monitor's Web site, along with photos, showed a joyful reunion with her parents and sister.

"When Jill is ready, the Monitor will begin to tell her story and we will also hold a press conference where she will speak," editor Richard Bergenheim said in a statement.

Carroll left the Ramstein Air Base in southwestern Germany on Saturday after arriving from Balad Air Base in Baghdad. She strongly disavowed statements she had made during her captivity and shortly after her release, saying she had been repeatedly threatened.

In a video recorded before she was freed and posted by her captors on an Islamist Web site, Carroll spoke out against the U.S. military presence.

On Saturday, she said the recording was made under duress.

## Released journalist Returns to U.S. Reporter Jill Carroll avoids spotlight during reunion with family

"During my last night in captivity, my captors forced me to participate in a propaganda video. They told me I would be released if I cooperated. I was living in a threatening environment, under their control, and wanted to go home alive. So I agreed," she said in a statement.

"Things that I was forced to say while captive are now being taken by some as an accurate reflection of my personal views. They are not. The people who kidnapped me and murdered Alan Enwiya are criminals, at best."

She also condemned her captors, although she did not address the war in Iraq. "I will not engage in polemics. But let me be clear: I abhor all who kidnap and murder civilians, and my captors are clearly guilty of both crimes," she said.

Carroll attracted a huge amount of sympathy during her ordeal, and a wide variety of groups in the Middle East, including the Islamic militant group Hamas, appealed for her release.

The kidnappers, calling themselves the Revenge Brigades, had demanded the release of all female detainees in Iraq by Feb. 26 or Carroll would be killed. U.S. officials released some female detainees at the time, but said it had nothing to do with the demands.

In the statement, Carroll also disavowed an interview she gave to the Iraqi Islamic Party, a Sunni Arab organization in whose offices she was dropped off upon her release. She said the party had promised her the interview would not be aired "and broke their word."

Sen. John McCain, R-Ariz., who was held prisoner for more than five years during the Vietnam War, said Carroll found herself in "a terrible, terrible position" and said Americans should view her taped statements critical of the U.S. military presence in Iraq in that context.

"We understand when you're held a captive in that situation that you do things under duress. God bless her, and we're glad she's home," McCain said Sunday on NBC's "Meet the Press."

Carroll, a Michigan native who graduated in 1999 from the University of Massachusetts with a degree in journalism, was freelancing for the Monitor when she was kidnapped, and was hired about a week later.

AP-ES-04-03-06 0308EDT

**Load-Date:** April 4, 2006



## OTHER FILMS

The Sunday Telegraph (LONDON)

April 2, 2006 Sunday

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**Section:** SEVEN; Pg. 23

**Length:** 694 words

**Byline:** CATHERINE SHOARD

### **Body**

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The Ballad of Jack & Rose (15) HHHII

Paradise is lost pretty pronto in Rebecca (daughter of Arthur) Miller's oddly hypnotic biblical drama, complete with snake. Our Edenic couple are a father and daughter: Jack (Daniel Day-Lewis, Miller's real-life husband), and 15-year-old Rose (Camilla Belle), who spend their time in blissful isolation on an ex-commune off America's East Coast. They collect seaweed, tend to the chickens, gaze lovingly at one another and try to forget that he has a chronic heart condition. Then, out of the blue, Jack invites his girlfriend (Catherine Keener, brassy but sympathetic) to stay. She brings her two teenage sons (Paul Dano and Ryan McDonald). Rose ain't happy.

It weaves a spell of sorts, but Miller's third film never quite fulfils its early promise, and, for all the breezy cinematography and good-looking sand dunes, the action seems stilted. Day-Lewis is as excellent as ever, yet even he can't save the story from slipping into a soap.

Shooting Dogs (15)

Hard on the heels of Hotel Rwanda comes another gripping tribute to the victims of the 1994 genocide, this one directed, rather astonishingly, by Michael Caton-Jones, responsible for Basic Instinct 2.

John Hurt and Hugh Dancy star as Brits abroad - one a priest, the other a teacher - whose base hosts thousands of largely Tutsi refugees. It's deeply fraught and confounding; Hurt and Dancy are superb, also Dominique Horwitz as the UN captain hamstrung by his superiors, and Nicola Walker as a BBC reporter who'd covered the war in Bosnia and had cried every day. This time round, not a tear: 'When I looked at those dead Bosnian women I'd think - that could be my mum. Over here, they're just dead Africans.'

Firewall (12A)

Harrison Ford, 63 this year, totters his way through Richard Loncraine's hostage thriller - a thoroughly predictable piece of hackwork and almost enjoyable for it. He's playing Jack, top bank exec, loving father of two small children, and still-virile hubbie to wife Virginia Madsen. But before long, the doorbell's pinged and evil Paul Bettany, plus heavies, are demanding Jack's help with their hi-tech bank robbery. Otherwise they'll ... wait for it ... feed peanuts to his allergic son.

Three Burials (15)

## OTHER FILMS

Tommy Lee Jones's modern-day Western trots into town, garlanded with gongs. Jones himself stars as a crusty Texas cowboy who kidnaps the cop who accidentally shot his Mexican friend, and sets off on horseback with both the body and the killer so that he can bury the former in Mexico. Flashback-addict Guillermo Arriaga shuffles with the script's chronology to good effect; Lee Jones has rarely been more moving.

## Failure to Launch (12A)

The appeal of Matthew McConaughey has long foxed most right-thinking movie-goers. This dismal romcom, in which he stars as a loafing, selfish, yet apparently lovable 35-year-old still living at home, only thickens the mystery. Sarah Jessica Parker is the girl with the task of batting her eyelashes at him; Zooey Deschanel earns a star as Parker's sarky flatmate. Some incongruous slapstick involving a CGI chipmunk completes the horror.

## Yours, Mine and Ours (PG) HHIII

Dennis Quaid is a straight-laced naval officer raising eight children single-handedly since the death of his wife (we're not told why she died, but there's a clue there somewhere). Rene Russo is a quirky handbag designer, also widowed, with 12 children, many adopted - there's an Indian girl who's a whiz at sewing, for instance, and a black boy who likes rapping. Quaid and Russo get hitched. Hilarity ensues. Well, so long as your idea of hilarity is a burping pig.

## The Shaggy Dog (U)

Tim Allen gets turned into a dog and learns to be a better dad in this dire family comedy with a surprisingly classy cast - Kirsten Johnson, Danny Glover and Robert Downey Jr.

## Diameter of the Bomb (12A)

This brief documentary about the suicide bombing of a bus in Jerusalem in 2002 is bravely comprehensive - they show the **Hamas** bomber's proud mum as well as the victims' grieving relatives - but a little slicker than seems quite appropriate.

## Iqbal (PG)

A deaf mute 18-year-old dreams of becoming a world-class cricketer in this scrappy Indian crowd-pleaser.

**Load-Date:** April 2, 2006

## *The female touch of Rice and Merkel has real clout MARTA DASSU and ULRIKE GUEROT*

Financial Times (London, England)

March 1, 2006 Wednesday

London Edition 1

Copyright 2006 The Financial Times Limited

**Section:** COMMENT; Pg. 17

**Length:** 763 words

**Byline:** By MARTA DASSU and ULRIKE GUEROT

### **Body**

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Is there a ***female*** touch at work in foreign policy? Most powerful ***women*** would probably deny this and consider the hypothesis thinly veiled discrimination. And yet, meeting in Berlin for an Aspen Conference, we decided to speculate a bit.

Germany's first "Madame Chancellor" is a case in point, and Angela Merkel's solid start on the international scene lends support to our untested assumption. After all, she visited President George W. Bush in Washington to re-launch a productive German-American relationship but uttered clear words on the need to close down the Guantanamo prison. She decided not to embrace (nor kiss, à la Gerhard Schröder) Vladimir Putin, Russia's president, and sent strong signals to ***Hamas***.

From these initial - and rather successful - moves we may draw two general rules that seem to apply to Ms Merkel's "***female***" foreign policy: firm but sober on principles, tough but patient on implementation. Nothing particularly original but significant progress from the glaring inconsistencies that characterise most of her (male) colleagues. Only time will tell whether Ms Merkel will pass the test of making coherent decisions under pressure, as well as learning from mistakes.

In the meantime, we are tempted to ask a similar question regarding another ***female*** heavyweight, Condoleezza Rice, US secretary of state. A ***female*** touch in Washington, too? It is less easy to respond, since a secretary of state, however influential, is accountable to the president (a man, for the time being). Still, a depressed US diplomatic corps has found new vigour under Ms Rice's leadership, offsetting some of the influence gained in recent years by the Pentagon. America's chief diplomat delivered a sensitive speech openly criticising decades of US foreign policy in the Middle East before an Egyptian audience in Cairo. Firm on pro-democracy principles, we might conclude. Since then - June 2005 - progress has been elusive but Ms Rice keeps trying: as subsequent trips to the region demonstrate, she does not dislike travelling extensively, another similarity with Ms Merkel.

The political trajectories of Ms Merkel and Ms Rice intersected in their first, rather frank official meeting: in spite of some tension and suspense, the encounter helped restore badly needed civility and collaborative spirit across the Atlantic. Overall, what appears to unite these powerful ***women*** is a sense of balance. Their experiences and instincts act as safeguards against excesses: the legacy of a radical identity transformation for Ms Merkel and the background of a realpolitik thinker turned "Bush's foreign policy tutor" for Ms Rice, make them resolute but practical.

The female touch of Rice and Merkel has real clout MARTA DASSU and ULRIKE GUEROT

Thinking of precedents on both continents, the cases of both Margaret Thatcher and Madeleine Albright strongly suggest that at least one of the assumptions of old-style feminists is mistaken: women in power do not seem to have distinctive, feminine attitudes toward the use of force. In search of hints, one could read Ms Merkel's speech at the recent Munich Security Conference, where she mentioned the "process of convergence" between the US and European security strategies, discarding, as "philosophical", differences between pre-emption (the US way) and prevention (the European way). On the issue of Iran's nuclear capabilities, moreover, Ms Merkel struck a harsher tone than her predecessor ever did, while reminding Americans that strength requires friends.

Let us wait and see whether the claimed convergence is solid enough to pass the Iranian test. So far, the idea that foreign policy requires consensus-building - a tenet of Ms Merkel's diplomacy that distances her from Mr Schroder and reconnects Berlin to the best German postwar tradition - has worked well in Europe. It was first within the European Union that Madame Chancellor succeeded in sewing together the positions of diverse countries - large and small - like a crafty tailor. That test was passed at her first EU Council meeting last December.

Whether it is her female touch or just gender-blind political shrewdness, Ms Merkel's sense of balance offers the best hope for an extrovert Germany, committed to an important role for Nato and a more effective EU. This is exactly the notion that Ms Rice has come to see as an important asset for America as well. Colin Powell, her predecessor, probably had the same feeling but lacked the political clout to follow through. This is, perhaps, the advantage of the female touch.

Marta Dassu is director of Aspen Institute Italia. Ulrike Guerot is senior fellow at the German Marshall Fund of the United States

**Load-Date:** March 1, 2006

## *Cartoons of Muhammad*

The Irish Times

February 17, 2006 Friday

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**Section:** LETTERS; Pg. 19

**Length:** 782 words

### **Body**

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Madam, - Arguing that the cartoons of Muhammad are an intolerable affront to Muslims (Opinion, February 15th), Vincent Browne contends that Europe has not been tolerant of anti-Christian blasphemy in recent times, implying hypocrisy in those who justify the cartoons as an expression of free speech.

The sole evidence Mr Browne finds for this is a long-forgotten case from 1977 involving Mary Whitehouse and Gay News, in which the campaigner brought a private prosecution against that publication for depicting Jesus as a homosexual.

One can only assume Mr Browne stopped reading books, watching television and visiting art galleries around 1977, as there has been no shortage of anti-Christian blasphemy in the public domain ever since. Such Olympian indifference to the vulgar circus that modern life has become is indeed praiseworthy; yet may I be allowed to remind your commentator of some of the more interesting examples of irreverence?

Has Mr Browne picked up a copy of the Da Vinci Code, a hugely popular and deeply tedious novel that claims Jesus Christ married Mary Magdalene? Is he familiar with the situation comedy Father Ted in which three Catholic priests are variously portrayed as an embezzler, a moron and a degraded alcoholic? Does he know of the sculptor Andres Serrano, whose Piss Christ consisted of a crucifix submerged in a jar of the artist's urine? The fact is that Christians and Christianity have been unrelentingly insulted and abused by those with products to flog in the marketplace, from the world of high art down to the gutter of tabloid journalism. Few apologies have been sought, and certainly none have been forthcoming.

Indeed Mr Browne himself has been putting the boot into the Catholic church, for sins real and imagined, over the past 30 years. His putative reinvention as a champion of religious tolerance does not convince.

The craven gullibility of the Irish establishment in its response to manufactured hysteria over some silly cartoons does not augur well for the future of freedom and democracy. In their campaign to subvert Western Judaeo-Christian culture and values and replace them with relativist nullity our liberal intelligentsia have been all too successful. It is a success they may soon regret.- Yours, etc,

PHILIP DONNELLY, Brookfield Avenue, Maynooth, Co Kildare.

Madam, - I read in The Irish Times that hundreds of Muslims were demonstrated in Dublin against the Danish cartoons. I only wish thousands would protest against Iranian newspaper cartoons depicting Hitler in bed having sex with the young Anne Frank, with the caption: "Write this one in your diary, Anne". I find this more outrageous than the silly, albeit irreverent, cartoons published in an unknown newspaper four months ago.

## Cartoons of Muhammad

The Life of Brian, The Last Temptation of Christ and all the ridiculous films on exorcism that Hollywood loves to churn out are far more insulting to Christian believers than a cartoon, but they do not resort to burning flags and buildings or issue death threats against film directors.

Cartoons satirise news events; if there were no suicide bombers, the cartoons could not have been drawn. I wonder what was the real objective of the mullah in Denmark who travelled to the Middle East with copies of the cartoons as well as others not published - to make life better for Muslims living in Denmark? This is politics, and the real issues include Syrian anger over the loss of Lebanon and accusations of involvement in the murder of Lebanese premier Hariri, **Hamas** perhaps being denied European funding, having won the elections in Palestine. But Denmark is paying the price.

It is time to put this whole issue into perspective. The editor of the Danish newspaper has apologised. The matter should end; perhaps it would end if TV cameras stopped filming the demonstrators in the Arab world. What heavenly grace they would earn if they would only use as much energy to help their Muslim brothers and sisters enduring the most horrible sufferings after the earthquake in Kashmir. - Yours, etc,

SYLVIA L. SEVERI, Beijing, China.

Madam, - You did not publish the contentious cartoons that offend Muslims. However, you regularly publish pictures of a **female** pop singer who has adopted the title of the most revered saint in the Catholic Church, Madonna. She performs sexual gyrations in front of audiences under the name of someone who to Catholics is the very epitome of sexual purity and innocence.

I suggest the difference is that you are confident Catholics will not react violently. I don't think that respect is the guiding principle in not publishing the cartoons. I think it is fear. - Yours, etc,

KEVIN COOPER, Forest Avenue, Kingswood Heights, Dublin 24.

**Load-Date:** February 17, 2006

## *Time for Last Hurrah for America's Al-Hurra*

The Toronto Star

February 16, 2006 Thursday

Copyright 2006 Toronto Star Newspapers, Ltd.

**Section:** OPINION; Pg. A21

**Length:** 717 words

### **Body**

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The crushing victory of ***Hamas*** in the Palestinian elections has revealed the bankruptcy of the Bush administration's strange strategy of trying to democratize Arabs while ignoring their feelings and opinions.

Democracy is representative. If the United States acts in ways that Arabs see as hostile to their interests, Arab democracy will produce outcomes that are hostile to American interests.

One of the chief means by which democracy was to be preached to Arabs is the U.S. Arabic-language television station Al-Hurra ("the Free One") and its sister station, Radio Sawa ("Together"). Instead, these government-funded stations represent everything that is wrong about official U.S. ways of approaching the Arab world.

Widespread Muslim fury at the European media's caricatures of the Prophet Muhammad, and widespread Western incomprehension of that fury, illustrate the extent to which we are talking past each other. Clearly there is an urgent need for media that will bridge this gap. But to be effective, they have to be credible with Muslims - which Al-Hurra is not.

Still, President George Bush has requested a 13 per cent spending increase for Al-Hurra. Yet, according to a recent Zogby poll, only 1 per cent of Arab viewers watch it as their first choice.

Al-Hurra claims 21.3 million viewers, but it will not publish the Nielsen survey that supposedly supports this figure. The station is rightly regarded by most Arabs as a mouthpiece for Washington.

This is because Al-Hurra's basic conception is wrong. It was modelled on U.S. stations like Radio Free Europe, founded during the Cold War to counter Soviet Communist propaganda and to spread democratic ideas. They played a useful role in that struggle.

But in the Cold War, America was facing a hostile, totalitarian empire and a monolithic media rigidly controlled by the Soviet Communist party.

The situation in the Arab world is utterly different. Arabs may be oppressed by their own governments, but, with the exception of the Palestinians and some Iraqis, they are not seeking liberation from alien domination. And their media are now genuinely diverse. There are more than 200 competing satellite television channels. The ones with serious news services do show deference to their government sponsors - but then, these Arab governments themselves have very different cultures, attitudes and policies.

## Time for Last Hurrah for America 's Al-Hurra

As a consequence, Arab viewers have access to a variety of views on democracy, terrorism, religion, the role of women and economic reform. The most well-known Arabic stations, Al-Jazeera and Al-Arabiya, have some degree of independence.

Because these stations opposed and criticized the U.S. invasion of Iraq, and have given prominence to negative stories about U.S. policies, they and the Arab media have been treated as enemies by the Bush administration, the American media and many U.S. politicians.

If, however, these stations' attitudes toward our original enemies in the "war on terror" - the perpetrators of 9/11 - are examined, the situation looks very different.

The executives and journalists of these stations know what the Taliban and Al-Qaeda did in Afghanistan - and what an Al-Qaeda regime would do to them personally. Most want democratic progress for their countries.

These stations have broadcast Al-Qaeda statements as news, but they also have broadcast ferocious criticism of Al-Qaeda's actions and ideology. And they have suffered for this.

Following criticisms of Al-Arabiya by Islamist insurgents, its Baghdad office was destroyed in a suicide bombing, killing five of its staff.

The propaganda techniques of the Cold War once made sense. But such state propaganda is not the American way.

Rather, our approach should be based on Oliver Wendell Holmes' belief that "the best test of truth is the power of the thought to get itself accepted in the competition of the market."

The Arab media provide such a market. Let's compete in it with the high-quality, independent media that the U.S. can produce and Arabs respect.

Al-Hurra should be closed down at once.

Anatol Lieven is a fellow at the New America Foundation and author of America Right or Wrong. David Chambers specializes in Middle East broadcasting and was a member of the White House Arts and Entertainment Task Force. This article first appeared in the Los Angeles Times.

**Load-Date:** February 16, 2006



## *Dane Sees Greed and Politics in the Crisis*

The New York Times

February 10, 2006 Friday

Late Edition - Final

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**Section:** Section A; Column 1; Foreign Desk; Pg. 9

**Length:** 725 words

**Byline:** By JOHN VINOCUR and DAN BILEFSKY

International Herald Tribune

**Dateline:** COPENHAGEN, Feb. 9

### **Body**

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Prime Minister Anders Fogh Rasmussen said Thursday that attempts by European companies in the Middle East to disassociate themselves from Denmark or Danish products were "disgraceful."

At the same time, Mr. Rasmussen tried to shield the Bush administration and some of Denmark's partners in NATO from accusations that they had been tardy and overcautious in coming to Denmark's defense in the crisis, which he attributed more to attempts by Iran and Syria to cause diversions in the Middle East than to a few satirical cartoons depicting the Prophet Muhammad in a Danish newspaper.

Looking tired after what he acknowledged had been a difficult week, Mr. Rasmussen said in an interview that attempts to gain commercial advantage at Denmark's expense had struck at the hearts of all Danes.

Mr. Rasmussen did not refer to a particular business organization or country. But his response came in reply to a question referring to attempts in the Arab world by companies associated with Nestle, the Swiss food giant, and Carrefour, the French retailer, to distance themselves from Denmark. Danish industry estimates it has lost more than \$55 million in sales in the Middle East since the furor began a week ago.

But the prime minister declined to criticize the Bush administration about its cautious defense of an ally. President Bush referred to his solidarity with Denmark for the first time on Wednesday, after five days of rioting in the Middle East against Danish interests.

"I have never doubted that Bush would stand up for Denmark," Mr. Rasmussen said. "He values faithfulness and loyalty. I was not surprised he decided to call me and express support."

Mr. Rasmussen reiterated that there would be no Danish apology for the cartoons. He brushed aside any suggestion that Denmark's policies requiring immigrants to accommodate themselves to Danish tradition were at fault, and asserted, "We are on the right track." More broadly, he said, "I see a very clear tendency that other European countries will go in our direction."

## Dane Sees Greed and Politics in the Crisis

In light of statements here that Denmark had been abandoned in the early phase of the crisis, Mr. Rasmussen was asked if Parliament would maintain troops in Iraq and Afghanistan if it were asked to vote on the issue now. "The situation would be the same; we haven't changed," he said.

Mr. Rasmussen argued that the cartoon crisis had been hijacked by Middle Eastern interests using the caricatures for domestic ends.

He said Iran, isolated over its nuclear program, was using the cartoons to generate support in the Muslim world, while Syria, under investigation for the assassination of the former Lebanese prime minister, Rafik Hariri, was trying to cause a distraction. The Palestinian Authority, divided over the recent election of Hamas, was exploiting the cartoon crisis to unite its disparate elements, he said.

"We have religious extremists who exploit the situation and fuel the flames to pursue their own agenda," he said. "Religious extremists aim at destabilizing the situation in the whole region."

The issue will be discussed this week at a meeting of NATO defense ministers in Sicily, he said.

Mr. Rasmussen said he believed that Islam was compatible with democracy but argued that it was incumbent on Muslim immigrants in Denmark and Europe in general to embrace the liberal values of their adopted countries.

"Denmark is a liberal country," he said. "We do believe in individual liberty and freedom. People can live according to their own customs. However, I think we have to insist on respecting our core values, including freedom of expression, gender equality for women and men, and a clear distinction between politics and religion."

Mr. Rasmussen said the perception of Denmark in the Muslim world had been distorted by falsehoods spread by cellphone and Internet messages across the Middle East.

In particular, he said the government was re-evaluating relations with local Muslim leaders who traveled to the Middle East in December, stoking tensions by showing the cartoons to religious leaders.

Asked if he would have done anything differently in retrospect, Mr. Rasmussen said he had no regrets. "I don't think we could have done something in another way," he said. "We are witnessing events with deep sadness and disbelief. We are not used to it in Denmark."

<http://www.nytimes.com>

## Graphic

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Photo: Prime Minister Anders Fogh Rasmussen before a news conference on Tuesday, when President Bush called to support him over the cartoons. (Photo by Keld Navntoft/Scanpix, via Reuters)

**Load-Date:** February 10, 2006

## *A man of pragmatism*

University Wire

January 12, 2006 Thursday

Copyright 2006 The Dartmouth via U-Wire

**Section:** COLUMN

**Length:** 689 words

**Byline:** By Zach Moore, The Dartmouth; **SOURCE:** Dartmouth

**Dateline:** HANOVER, N.H.

### **Body**

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As Ariel Sharon's political career comes to a close, the time has come to honor the life of this remarkable man. The story of his life reveals a man of many characteristics: defender of country, over-aggressive commando and general, compassionate statesmen, firebrand conservative hawk and ultimately a practical and even dovish peacemaker.

Who would have thought that a man known earlier in his career as "the Bulldozer" would be such a pragmatist in his later life? The even bigger question is, who would have foreseen a former member of the Israeli far-right taking criticism from even some of those on the left? Despite the lack of moves toward peace on the part of Palestinian leadership, Sharon accepted the road map for peace sponsored by the European Union, the United Nations and the United States, and started leading Israel down this course.

In an unprecedented move toward peace, Sharon jeopardized his political career in the best interest of his countrymen and everyone in the Middle East. In 2005, Sharon unilaterally withdrew Israeli troops from the Gaza Strip and parts of the West Bank and turned many areas over to Palestinian control. Only a man like Sharon, who combined right-wing credentials and left-wing policies with pragmatism, could pull off a move like that.

Sharon is able to do this because he is a larger-than-life figure in Israeli politics. As The New York Times observed, "Israel has never fought a war without Ariel Sharon in the front lines or in command, or both." Having led his country in the fight for independence and in defending Israel in the face of numerous invasions and against ever-present Palestinian terrorism, Sharon has the credentials to make peace. He has the support of such a wide swath of Israeli voters because he appeals to both sides of the political spectrum (a lesson which some in the U.S. might do well to learn). He appeals to the left because he is willing to engage in the classic "land-for-peace" trade and has reversed precedent by unilaterally moving toward peace, the theory being that tangible benefits will give the Palestinian government the credibility and the power to make terrorists lay down their arms. He appeals to the right because that is where his history lies: founding the Likud party, originally building settlements in the West Bank and Gaza, supporting a security barrier and taking a hard-line approach against terrorism.

Even though Sharon has united most of the Israeli populace under his newly-created Centrist party, Kadima, things are far from easy. Indeed, even the left cringed when the pullout from Gaza was followed by Hamas claims that "the blood of our martyrs" drove the Israelis out, or that soon the whole coast of Israel would be under Palestinian control, as Palestinian prime minister Mahmoud Abbas declared. The right was incensed at the very idea of ceding land to a government and a people who have done nothing but declare never-ending war on not only the Israeli

## A man of pragmatism

army but the state of Israel and all its people: women, elderly and children. Even to the objective observer, scenes of the Israeli army forcibly evicting Israeli settlers from their own homes and villages was a terrible sight.

Nevertheless, the Middle East seems closer to peace than at any time in recent memory.

Although it is too early to tell for sure whether he will be able to resume the post of Prime Minister, it is definitely not too early to hail Sharon for his profound contributions to peace. And as Sharon fades from the political picture, we can only hope that acting Prime Minister Ehud Olmert will be able to hold Kadima together so Israel can move forward as the party name implies. With the popular politicians Tzipi Livni and Shimon Peres also in the equation for the newly created Centrist party, polls still predict that Kadima will dominate in the March elections. We must hope the polls are correct.

With Sharon's legacy of resolutely demanding defense and pragmatically seeking peace, it seems that Kadima and Israel will be able to move forward. Now, for the first time, peace may be on the horizon for Israel.

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**Load-Date:** January 12, 2006

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## *Muslim backlash over cartoons forces Danish newspaper to apologise*

THE AUSTRALIAN

February 1, 2006 Wednesday

All-round First Edition

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**Section:** WORLD TABLE; Pg. 9

**Length:** 779 words

### **Body**

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AP, The Times

COPENHAGEN: The Danish newspaper which angered millions of Muslims by publishing caricatures of the Prophet Mohammed apologised yesterday as the Islamic world took sweeping retaliation against Denmark.

In a statement to "Honourable Fellow Citizens of the Muslim World", the editor-in-chief of Jyllands-Posten, Carsten Juste, said the cartoons, first published on September 30, "were not in violation of Danish law but they have undoubtedly offended many Muslims, for which we would like to apologise".

The contrition came after the long-simmering row erupted into widespread street demonstrations and flag-burnings in the Middle East, with Libya joining Saudi Arabia in withdrawing their ambassadors from Copenhagen.

Islamic governments and organisations issued furious denunciations, and a boycott of Danish goods took hold across the Muslim world.

Before the newspaper's apology, Denmark-based dairy group Arla Foods, with annual sales of about \$US430million (\$574million) in the Middle East, had urged the Danish Government to take action.

"I urgently beg the Government to enter a positive dialogue with the many millions of Muslims who feel they have been offended by Denmark," Arla's executive director Peder Tuborgh said in a statement.

The Danish Government warned its citizens against travelling to Algeria, Egypt, Jordan, Lebanon, Pakistan, Saudi Arabia and Syria, and withdrew aid workers from the Gaza Strip.

EU foreign ministers responded with a statement in support of Denmark, and the European Commission threatened to report to the World Trade Organisation any government backing the boycott of Danish goods.

The fury echoed the outcry that followed the publication in 1989 of the Salman Rushdie novel *The Satanic Verses*.

The trigger for the clash of cultures was the publication by the Jyllands-Posten on September 30 of 12 cartoons of Mohammed. A biographer of the prophet had complained no one would dare to illustrate his book, and the newspaper challenged cartoonists to draw pictures of the prophet in a self-declared battle for freedom of speech.

## Muslim backlash over cartoons forces Danish newspaper to apologise

One cartoon showed Mohammed wearing a bomb-shaped turban. In another, he tells dead suicide bombers he has run out of virgins with which to reward them. Any portrayal of Mohammed is considered blasphemous in Islam, lest it encourages idolatry.

In October, ambassadors from 10 Muslim countries complained to Danish Prime Minister Anders Fogh Rasmussen, who refused to interfere with the press's freedom.

But the issue began to boil over this month after the cartoons appeared in *Magazinet*, a Christian newspaper in Norway, and on the website of the Norwegian newspaper *Dagbladet*.

Imams denounced Denmark from their pulpits, the Arab press inflamed pent-up Muslim anger at the West, and last Friday the Saudi Government recalled its ambassador. But still Mr Rasmussen refused to apologise.

He condemned attempts to "demonise people because of religious beliefs", but argued: "The Government can in no way influence the media."

By Monday, governments across the Arab world had begun responding to public outrage. Libya closed its embassy in Copenhagen, and the Egyptian parliament demanded that its Government follow suit. The Kuwaiti and Jordanian governments called for explanations from their Danish ambassadors.

President Emile Lahoud of Lebanon condemned the cartoons, saying his country "cannot accept any insult to any religion".

The Justice Minister of the United Arab Emirates said: "This is cultural terrorism, not freedom of expression."

In Gaza, gunmen briefly occupied the EU office in Gaza, and warned Danes and Norwegians to stay away. Palestinians in the West Bank burned Danish flags.

The Islamic militant groups **Hamas** and Hezbollah and Egypt's Muslim Brotherhood demanded an apology.

Supermarkets in Algeria, Bahrain, Jordan, Kuwait, Morocco, Qatar, Tunisia, the United Arab Emirates and Yemen all removed Danish produce from their shelves and refused to accept any more stock.

## PUBLISH AND BE DAMNED

1988 Ayatollah Khomeini issues fatwa against Salman Rushdie after publication of *The Satanic Verses*

2001 Author Khalid Duran faces mass condemnation from Muslims for his book, which sought to explain Islam to Jews, culminating in alleged death threats for his apostasy

2002 Fatwa issued against the Nigerian journalist Isioma Daniel after she suggested that Mohammed might approve of the Miss World contest

2004 Extremist kills Dutch director Theo Van Gogh after he made *Submission*, a 10-minute film about the abuse of Muslim **women** featuring Koranic verses written on **female** bodies

2005 Swedish museum is forced to remove a painting depicting a couple making love while covered in verses from the Koran

**Load-Date:** January 31, 2006

## *Hard-to-kill militia chief is cut from different cloth*

The Australian (Australia)

July 24, 2006 Monday

All-round Country Edition

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**Section:** WORLD; Pg. 11

**Length:** 1718 words

**Byline:** Peter Wilson

### **Body**

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MATP

AS Israeli warplanes buzzed overhead late yesterday afternoon, the portrait of a determined man in black headwear stared down from a painted billboard on to one of the apartment-lined streets in southern Beirut that have become ground zero in Israel's assault on Hezbollah.

Israeli forces have been desperately trying for 11 days to kill the man in that poster; Hezbollah leader Sheik Hassan Nasrallah.

And the jets that have already destroyed his nearby home and offices would return after dark with more bunker-blasters for another raid on these shattered streets.

"He is our hero and he is up to this challenge," said Abu Jaffa, a 42-year-old merchant who was sitting with two friends near the poster in the almost deserted Ruweis area, just 4km from central Beirut.

Rubble and shattered apartment buildings lined the streets, which were deserted so quickly that clothes still hung from clothes lines where they were abandoned a week ago.

But Abu Jaffa smiled confidently as he pointed to the fiery rhetoric of Nasrallah written on the poster in Arabic: "We will cut off the hands and tear out the soul of whoever thinks of taking away our weapons."

The armed and tightly disciplined fighters who had twice stopped us in the devastated streets of southern Beirut, and the resistance they are mounting to Israel's incursions into southern Lebanon, showed that Hezbollah was still functioning well despite almost two weeks of heavy bombardment of its headquarters district.

But Abu Jaffa seemed less confident when asked what difference it would make if the Israelis did manage to take out Nasrallah.

"He has strong men behind him and the resistance is not just one man, but, yes, he is very important to us all ... it would be terrible to lose him."

The importance of the 46-year-old Beirut-born cleric is underlined by the way his face pops up all over southern Beirut -- in posters, keyrings, even on computer screensavers and telephone cards.

### Hard-to-kill militia chief is cut from different cloth

Some US government officials now share Israel's assessment that Nasrallah is a bigger danger than Osama bin Laden, and Israel's Interior Minister, Roni Bar-On, has removed any doubt that killing Nasrallah has become a top priority in the current conflict.

"Nasrallah has issued his own sentence. I doubt if he would be able to find a life insurance agent these days," Bar-On said. Nasrallah has certainly shown a much broader range of skills than bin Laden while leading and shaping the Shia "Party of God" over the past 14 years.

As a military leader, the charismatic religious orator is credited throughout the Arab world with driving Israel out of Lebanon in 2000, leaving him revered as the only Arab leader to have beaten modern Israel on the battlefield.

He is also such a shrewd player in mainstream politics that he ranks among the most influential politicians in Lebanon, and as an administrator he has built his organisation into a state within a state which often outdoes Lebanon's weak official government.

Apart from running the last private militia left in Lebanon, Hezbollah operates its own hospital, schools, clinics, TV and radio station. It also runs social welfare services ranging from collecting the garbage to repairing damaged homes for the largely poor Shia community.

"He is the shrewdest leader in the Arab world and the most dangerous," Israeli ambassador to the US Daniel Ayalon has told The Washington Post.

In a recent interview with the Post in his now-shattered offices, Nasrallah portrayed himself as a cleric with a life-long religious calling.

"When I was 10 or 11, my grandmother had a scarf. It was black, but a long one. I used to wrap it around my head and say to them that I'm a cleric, you need to pray behind me."

Beirut

His family was not especially religious but the young Nasrallah took a much more intense interest in Islam than his eight younger brothers and sisters.

In 1975, Lebanon's civil war forced his parents to shift from Beirut to their ancestral village in the country's south, where the intelligent and intense 15-year-old met and impressed radical clerics. They sponsored him for stints at respected Islamic schools in Iraq and Iran, but his studies were repeatedly interrupted by his growing political activities.

While still in his early 20s, his fiery preaching at a hardline religious school in Lebanon built him an avid following that he used to form armed resistance groups after the Israeli invasion of Lebanon in 1982.

Those groups helped to form the Iranian- and Syrian-sponsored Hezbollah, which formally announced its formation in 1985 to fight a holy war to liberate southern Lebanon.

In 1987, he was lightly injured while leading Hezbollah forces which defeated the rival secular Shia group Amal for influence in southern Lebanon.

He became the head of Hezbollah's central military command but

Continued -- Page 15

From Page 11

his biggest advance was in 1992. With the personal endorsement of Iran's Ayatollah Khomeini he became Hezbollah's overall leader at the age of just 32 after its previous leader, Abbas al-Musawi, was ambushed and killed by an Israeli helicopter gunship.



### Hard-to-kill militia chief is cut from different cloth

Already seen as more devout and brave than most Arab leaders, who have been notorious for their corruption and mismanagement, Nasrallah's status among disenchanted Arabs and other Muslims soared after the 1997 death of his eldest son, Hadi, who was killed while fighting Israelis in the south of Lebanon. While Lebanese leaders are better known for helping their own sons to avoid militant service, Nasrallah announced that he was pleased that he could now look the parents of other "martyrs" in the face.

Under his leadership, Hezbollah's guerilla campaign had sharply lifted its "kill rate" of Israeli troops in southern Lebanon. Thirteen Israeli troops had been killed in 1992 but that toll doubled the following year and tripled by 1997.

The Party of God usurped the role of the official Lebanese army near the border with Israel and pioneered modern Islamic suicide bombers and the deployment of simultaneous terror attacks, tactics that have been copied by Hamas and al-Qa'ida.

Israel's unconditional withdrawal from southern Lebanon in 2000 was portrayed throughout the Arab world as Nasrallah's triumph, even though his group had been armed and funded by Syria and Iran.

He won further fame by using kidnapping to convince Israel to make huge unbalanced swaps of hostages, on one occasion securing the release of 23 Lebanese prisoners and more than 400 Palestinians in return for just one Israeli businessmen and the bodies of three dead soldiers.

The current crisis was sparked by another successful bid to capture human bargaining chips, with Hezbollah's seizure of two Israeli soldiers and killing of eight others.

But Nasrallah's most striking achievement has been as a political strategist, and his ability to build a force in legitimate Lebanese politics without ever abandoning violence.

Just months after Nasrallah became leader, Hezbollah contested Lebanon's parliamentary elections, winning 12 of 128 seats to blaze a trail later followed by the Palestinian radicals Hamas.

In the 2005 parliamentary elections, Hezbollah grew to 23 seats, making it one of the country's largest parties and earning it two cabinet seats, to go with an army of trade union leaders and local council members, clearly usurping Amal as Lebanon's main Shia movement.

To complement its support from Tehran and Damascus, Hezbollah built up independent funding from the Shia Lebanese diaspora in Australia and elsewhere, with Nasrallah's personal popularity acting as a major fundraising draw.

Hezbollah is on Washington's "priority list" of terrorist organisations, and in 2003 Australia made membership of its military wing illegal for Australian citizens, but Nasrallah has still enjoyed the trappings of a mainstream political leader.

He often addressed large rallies, converted his headquarters in the southern suburbs, which house about a third of Beirut's 1.5 million people, into something of his own political capital, and was further legitimised in 2000 when UN Secretary General Kofi Annan paid him a public visit during an official visit to Lebanon.

Nasrallah has often been happy to play the moderate. He opposed the use of violence over the publication of provocative cartoons of the prophet Mohammed by a Danish newspaper, has fiercely opposed bin Laden, and criticised the 9/11 attacks on the World Trade Centre towers.

"What do the people who worked in those two towers, along with thousands of employees, women and men, have to do with war that is taking place in the Middle East? Or the war that Mr George Bush may wage on people in the Islamic world?" he asked a reporter. "Therefore we condemned this act -- and any similar act we condemn."

"The method of Osama bin Laden, and the fashion of bin Laden, we do not endorse them. And many of the operations that they have carried out, we condemned them very clearly."

### Hard-to-kill militia chief is cut from different cloth

"The worst, the most dangerous thing that this Islamic revival has encountered ... was the Taliban," Nasrallah said. "The Taliban state presented a very hideous example of an Islamic state."

In 2004, he condemned the beheading of US contractor Nicholas Berg by al-Qa'ida in Iraq as a "despicable act" that did "grave damage to Islam and the Muslims". "It is unacceptable, it is forbidden to harm the innocent," he said.

Attacks on Israeli civilians were a different matter.

"There is no other means for the Palestinians to defend themselves. That is why I cannot condemn this type of operation in occupied Palestine."

Accused by Western intelligence services of running several overseas terror operations, Nasrallah is believed by some analysts to have long dissuaded the Israelis from killing him by making it clear that Hezbollah would respond with major attacks on civilians.

If the Israelis did see him as untouchable that protection is now over.

If he does survive the current conflict the crucial question is whether the overwhelming Israeli response to Hezbollah's latest provocation increases or undermines his support.

"This is not a legitimate organisation, this is a terrorist organisation," warned junior British Foreign Minister Kim Howells in Beirut yesterday.

"But by destroying infrastructure they (the Israelis) are driving moderate Muslims into the arms of Hezbollah."

**Load-Date:** July 23, 2006

## *Know enemies, not slogans*

University Wire

September 20, 2006 Wednesday

Copyright 2006 The Pitt News via U-Wire

**Section:** COLUMN

**Length:** 813 words

**Byline:** By Elham Khatami, The Pitt News; **SOURCE:** U. Pittsburgh

**Dateline:** PITTSBURGH

### **Body**

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Our military and domestic efforts to combat terrorism have been described in many ways - war with Islamic radicalism, war on terror, war against jihadism. The list goes on and on and shows just how ill-defined our enemies really are. And, recently, our many foes acquired newer, more frightening terminology - terminology that can further oversimplify the entire Middle Eastern malevolence in two apocalyptic words.

"Islamic Fascism" is the phrase President Bush, Defense Secretary Donald Rumsfeld and our very own Republican Sen. Rick Santorum have been using to refer to terrorism these days. The phrase seemed to appear out of nowhere, as if the numerous enemies we're fighting suddenly transformed into one all-inclusive entity with radical Mussolini-esque goals overnight.

But this phrase serves as more than just added spice to the rhetoric of all our favorite politicians. "Islamic Fascism" distorts the many conflicts in which we are engaged when it comes to the Middle East. It demonstrates if anything, how little we know about our enemies, and it's impossible to successfully fight opponents we do not understand.

The label is a blatant display of the nation's growing us-vs.-them mentality, which stems from our ever-escalating apprehension and ignorance surrounding our enemies. We bunch up all the conflicts in the Middle East and cry "Islamic Fascism!"

Take the latest violent clashes between Israel and Lebanon, for example. This is a conflict that has been so warped underneath the umbrella of "Islamic Fascism" that many of us seem to have forgotten how and when it originally began. It is misleading to assume, as Boston Globe columnist Jeff Jacoby does, that Hezbollah's recent actions are a "part and parcel of the radical Islamist jihad against the free world."

The Israeli-Hezbollah dispute is not merely a component of the overall global war on terror. It is also not, as President Bush claims, a US-Iran proxy war, spurred to distract the Western world from Iran's nuclear ambitions. This conflict has deep historical and political roots in the 1982 Lebanon War when Hezbollah was first formed to combat the Israeli invasion of southern Lebanon. Oversimplifying terms like "Islamic Fascism" prevent all of this from being taken into consideration.

Not only that, the phrase suggests we are fighting people of one like-minded ideology who are working together to achieve a common goal. This prevents us from seeing the stark differences between them. And, trust me, the differences are plenty:

## Know enemies, not slogans

Saddam Hussein ran a secular dictatorship that was not based upon traditional Islamic law.

The Iraqi insurgency is made up of many independent guerilla groups each with separate goals.

Al-Qaeda forces and their infamous leader, Osama bin Laden, hold self-proclaimed fundamentalist motives to remove foreign influence in Islamic countries.

Hezbollah is a Shiite organization while Hamas is Sunni.

The human rights situation in Iran, a country that follows Islamic law, is more moderate than those of some other Middle Eastern countries, as women have the right to vote and hold public office.

The Taliban of Afghanistan was using an extreme interpretation of Islamic law to justify their poor standards of freedom.

Also, some are independent non-state terrorists, and some are nations with undemocratic governments and laws. Moreover, so many of these people we collectively label as "Islamic Fascists" are enemies with one another. It's obvious "Islamic Fascism" is much too simplistic to serve as an accurate description for all of them.

Apart from all that, "Islamic Fascism" is an inaccurate historical analogy. For one thing, Italian Fascism and German Nazism of the early 1900s were prominently autocratic and secular movements with the main objective of creating large, dominant fascist states through the use of military conquest. Often, these fascists even collaborated with one another, whether to further their own individual aims or to gain more influence on an international level.

Furthermore, Adolf Hitler and Benito Mussolini were enemies we could pinpoint, with regimes and militaries that could be defined and targeted - we cannot say this about terrorists today, as they are unidentifiable, hazy individuals with goals that are often difficult to distinguish.

But what's in a name? Maybe the phrase "Islamic Fascism" is just that - a phrase, and nothing more. Well, as unimportant as terminology may seem during the trying times of war, it nonetheless illustrates how much we know about our enemies and how we perceive them. In this case, it also propagates excessive fear and ignorance.

This is why "Islamic Fascism," as a phrase, is almost as dangerous as the enemies it struggles to describe. And the only way we can protect ourselves is by taking a look behind its veiling curtain to see what truly lurks beneath our words.

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**Load-Date:** September 20, 2006

**NDP endorses call to pull out of Afghanistan: 'No sign the world is safer,'  
Layton tells convention delegates**

Ottawa Citizen

September 11, 2006 Monday

Final Edition

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**Length:** 792 words

**Byline:** Mike De Souza, The Ottawa Citizen

**Dateline:** QUEBEC

## **Body**

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QUEBEC - Pulling Canadian troops out of Afghanistan will be one of five priorities for the New Democratic Party leading up to the next election campaign, leader Jack Layton pledged yesterday as he wrapped up a weekend party policy convention.

The position on the war on terrorism, endorsed by 90 per cent of the 1,500 delegates at the convention, has prompted harsh criticism from leaders of the Muslim Canadian Congress, among others, who have called the NDP "reckless and opportunistic."

But, as the world marks the fifth anniversary of the Sept. 11, 2001 attacks on the U.S., Mr. Layton is insisting the Afghanistan war is the wrong mission for Canada.

"There is no sign that it is making the Taliban weaker or the world safer," Mr. Layton told delegates in his closing speech. "There is no hope of changing the realities on the ground in Afghanistan -- with the forces we have or can commit."

Mr. Layton, who received a 92-per-cent approval rating from the NDP delegates, also laid out other key priorities in response to the five-point plan used by the Conservatives in the last election campaign. The other NDP priorities consist of a plan for more affordable housing, better education and training programs for young people, improved care for seniors through the creation of 50,000 new long-term care spots, and a strong environmental plan that would cut greenhouse gas emissions by 80 per cent below 1990 levels by 2050 through tougher industry regulations.

The NDP, which holds no seats in Quebec, filled its convention with policies designed to appeal to that province's voters. They included a near unanimous adoption of a constitutional position that recognizes Quebec as a nation and promises more powers for the province, following a model of asymmetrical federalism.

While he took shots at the Liberals, saying they deserved more time in the penalty box, and the Bloc -- for not representing Quebec's best interests -- Mr. Layton reserved most of his criticism for Prime Minister Stephen Harper. He said the Conservative government was taking Canada down a dangerous path, and must be stopped.

NDP endorses call to pull out of Afghanistan : 'No sign the world is safer,' Layton tells convention delegates

But the convention was dominated by debates over the party's foreign policy, leaving some MPs uncomfortable about the tone and positions adopted by members. Nova Scotia MP Peter Stoffer, who has a large military presence in his riding, said there should have been more debate and consultation on the issue.

"Canadians themselves, I think in most cases, are generally confused about what's going on in Afghanistan," said Mr. Stoffer. "So I will still push to have that national debate."

Speaking to reporters, Mr. Layton stressed that his calls for a new independent policy for Canada were endorsed by a member of Afghanistan's national assembly, who was invited to speak to delegates at the convention.

Malalai Joya had said the current mission is not making Afghanistan any safer, since it is helping increase the powers of drug lords and warlords who continue to suppress the rights of women and children. Mr. Layton said a better plan should be developed that is balanced with aid, reconstruction aid and diplomacy.

"She called for an independent and new path for Canada and for those countries looking to help in Afghanistan," Mr. Layton said. "This is why we're calling on our prime minister to abandon the path which he has taken along with (U.S. President) George Bush and to carve out a uniquely Canadian path founded on Canadian values."

But there was also controversy over proposals regarding the latest Middle East conflict, with one NDP resolution referring to Hezbollah, considered to be a terrorist group by the Canadian government, as a political party.

"I found that there was just too much in the descriptive part of the resolution to justify support for it," said Judy Wasylycia-Leis, the MP for Winnipeg North. "While we may agree that Israel's response to the kidnapping was disproportionate, one cannot forget that Israel has been, for years, the victim of bombings and taunts and attacks against its very right to survive as a nation."

The Canada-Israel Committee called the resolutions "irresponsible" and "dangerously misinformed."

"Despite the efforts of some caucus members to steer the party toward a constructive set of resolutions, the NDP will now be known for its biased positions and for lending support and credibility to terrorist entities like Hezbollah and Hamas that are committed to the destruction of the State of Israel," said the committee's national chairman, Marc Gold.

The convention was the second-largest in NDP history. While it drew strong endorsements from Canada's largest labour unions, the NDP failed to attract any new support from Quebec's labour movement, which has traditionally supported the Bloc Quebecois.

**Load-Date:** September 11, 2006

## *West is not at war with Islam: Bush*

The Australian (Australia)  
September 21, 2006 Thursday  
All-round Country Edition

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**Section:** WORLD; Pg. 7

**Length:** 770 words

**Byline:** David Nason, New York correspondent

### **Body**

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MATP

GEORGE W.Bush has appealed to the Muslim world to reject the "false propaganda" of extremists who say the West is at war with Islam.

In a landmark speech to the UN General Assembly, Mr Bush said the propaganda was being used to confuse Muslims and "justify acts of terror" in the twisted belief that violence and martyrdom could restore human dignity.

Aiming his remarks directly at rank-and-file Muslims rather than Islamic governments, the US President returned over and over to the twin pillars of the so-called Bush Doctrine, saying the US would not shirk from fighting terrorists and was as determined as ever to spread freedom and democracy, especially in the Middle East.

"We respect Islam, but we will protect our people from those who pervert Islam to sow death and destruction," Mr Bush said.

"Our goal is to help you build a more tolerant and hopeful society that honours people of all faiths and promotes peace."

But as Mr Bush was speaking in New York, the commander of US forces in the Middle East, General John Abizaid, was delivering gloomy news in Washington, saying there was little prospect of US troop numbers in Iraq being reduced before April-May next year because of the strength of the insurgency.

General Abizaid said it was even possible troop numbers would be increased from the current level of about 140,000, an assessment well short of last year's optimism that troop levels might be reduced to about 100,000 by the end of this year.

Vice-President Dick Cheney was also on the warpath, telling a convention of car salesmen that the hopes of the civilised world depended on a US victory in Iraq, which Mr Cheney regards as a front in the war on terror.

"The war on terror is a test of our strength, a test of our capabilities and, above all, a test of our character," he said.

"We know that the hopes of the civilised world ride with us. Our cause is right, it is just and this nation will prevail."

## West is not at war with Islam: Bush

Mr Bush told the UN that it was clear the world was engaged in a great ideological struggle between extremists who used terror as a weapon to create fear and "moderate people who work for peace".

But a world beyond terror, where "the extremists are marginalised by the peaceful majority", was within reach, he said. "This world can be ours if we seek it and if we work together."

Mr Bush cited several examples of democratic advances in Muslim nations as evidence of a bright future taking root in the broader Middle East.

"Some of the changes in the Middle East are happening gradually, but they are real," he said.

"Algeria has held its first competitive presidential election, and the military remained neutral. The United Arab Emirates recently announced that half of the seats in its Federal National Council will be chosen by elections. Kuwait held elections in which women were allowed to vote and run for office for the first time. Citizens have voted in municipal elections in Saudi Arabia, in parliamentary elections in Jordan and Bahrain, and in multi-party presidential elections in Yemen and Egypt.

"Every nation that travels the road to freedom moves at a different pace, and the democracies they build will reflect their own culture and traditions. But the destination is the same: a free society where people live at peace with each other and at peace with the world."

However, Mr Bush also said the millions of people trapped by oppression and hopelessness in the Middle East represented "a breeding ground for extremism".

He called on civilised nations everywhere to support those in the region who offered a more hopeful alternative. "We know that when people have a voice in their future, they are less likely to blow themselves up in suicide attacks," Mr Bush said. "We know that when leaders are accountable to their people, they are more likely to seek national greatness in the achievements of their citizens, rather than in terror and conquest."

Turning to Iran, he said the US respected the Iranian people and their rich and vibrant history.

But Mr Bush said Iran's potential was being shackled by rulers who denied liberty and used the nation's resources to fund terrorism and pursue nuclear weapons.

Similarly, he accused Syria's leadership of making the country a "crossroad for terrorism".

"In your midst, Hamas and Hezbollah are working to destabilise the region, and your Government is turning your country into a tool of Iran," Mr Bush said.

"This is increasing your country's isolation from the world. Your Government must choose a better way forward by ending its support for terror, and living in peace with your neighbours."

Cut & Paste -- Page 13

**Load-Date:** September 20, 2006



## *A phone call means an Israeli missile is aimed at your house*

The Irish Times

August 2, 2006 Wednesday

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**Section:** WORLD; Middle East Crisis; Pg. 9

**Length:** 757 words

**Byline:** Ashraf Khalil in Gaza City

### **Body**

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A man with an Israeli accent called Omar Mamluke on his cell phone just before midnight and asked for him by name. "You have just a few minutes to get out of the house," the man said. An Israeli missile was about to hit.

"I asked if he was joking, and he told me: 'The Israeli defence forces don't joke'," Mamluke recalled.

Mamluke, a police officer and former Palestinian champion jump jockey, wasted no time; he had heard what happened to others in Gaza who had received such calls.

He gathered up his two wives and 15 children and they ran out of the house in their nightclothes, yelling for their neighbours to do the same.

The missile struck within half an hour, lifting Mamluke's house in the air, sending the foundation columns across the street.

No one was hurt, which the Israeli army says is the whole point of the phone calls.

The Israeli military, which launched campaigns in both the Gaza Strip and Lebanon after soldiers were captured in border incursions, says it does its best to warn civilians of impending military action.

Its warnings to civilians to leave southern Lebanon are at the centre of controversy over the air strike early on Sunday on the Lebanese village of Qana that killed almost 60 people, most of them women and children.

Although many people have fled southern Lebanon, some say they are afraid to travel roads which have been bombed by Israeli aircraft. The sick or injured, the very young and the old sometimes can't travel, Lebanese say.

Israeli officials have suggested that after several warnings, those who remain behind are responsible for their own fate.

"Those who stay have apparently decided to take the risk, or are being held by Hizbullah, which has accepted the risk on their behalf," said Brig Gen Alon Friedman, deputy head of the Israeli army's northern command headquarters, last week. "We have no intention of hitting innocent civilians and will do all possible to avoid harming them, but the fighting has a price."

In Gaza, where the Israeli military began issuing specific warnings in the last two weeks, the practice has not won over many hearts or minds.

## A phone call means an Israeli missile is aimed at your house

Few here accept the idea that Israel, even for public-relations reasons, really is trying to limit civilian deaths.

At best, residents decry it as a cynical attempt to portray Israel's military campaigns in a better light. Palestinian Authority prime minister Ismail Haniyeh calls it a form of psychological warfare.

"They just want to sow fear and confusion among the people," Haniyeh said.

Although Palestinians report that dozens of warnings have been received in the last two weeks, only a handful of buildings have actually been hit.

Israeli army officials are tight-lipped about the practice and will not discuss individual cases. The official daily updates of the army's attacks on suspected weapons factories and warehouses in the Gaza Strip invariably mention steps taken to warn residents and limit civilian casualties.

Calls have also targeted official buildings such as the main Gaza City courthouse and the ambulance dispatch centre at Khan Younis Hospital, said Iyad Nasr, spokesman for the International Committee of the Red Cross. Neither has been hit.

"It's still collective punishment," Nasr said. "Dozens of families have been informed and have evacuated their homes."

The first known case of a pre-strike warning call came on July 23rd, targeting the Gaza City home of Mohammed al-Sheikh Dib. In that case, neighbours generally acknowledged that al-Sheikh Dib was a ranking member of the Islamic Jihad militant group and that rockets probably were being stored in the house. Jihad gunmen surrounded the house immediately after the attack and barred all access.

Other less personal forms of warnings have also been used.

Thousands of leaflets have been dropped on to Gaza towns. One was signed by the "Leadership of the Israeli Defence Forces" and asked: "Will the residents of Gaza pay the high price for the behaviour of those who arrogantly boast about solving the Palestinian issue?"

Last week, many Khan Younis residents answered the phone and heard a recorded warning message in Arabic. The Israeli army also has broken in on the frequency of the **Hamas** radio station to broadcast warnings.

In all cases the message was similar: Don't harbour militant fighters or store weapons for them. Those who do will place themselves in harm's way.

"It's intense psychological pressure," said Abu Ahmed, a spokesman for Islamic Jihad. "They're trying to force the civilians to drive the resistance away from the civilian population centres."

**Load-Date:** August 2, 2006

**America has emerged as a loser in the Middle East PHILIP GORDON and  
JEREMY SHAPIRO**

Financial Times (London, England)

August 21, 2006 Monday

London Edition 1

Copyright 2006 The Financial Times Limited

**Section:** COMMENT; Pg. 13

**Length:** 832 words

**Byline:** By PHILIP GORDON and JEREMY SHAPIRO

## **Body**

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As Israelis and Arabs continue their debate over who won and lost in Lebanon, one outcome already seems clear: America lost. Washington's decision to back Israel's military campaign unconditionally and refusal actively to seek an early ceasefire may have had some marginal benefits for the US, such as the destruction of some of Hizbollah's military capability. But in the broader scheme of things, Washington's support of this war and tolerance for the way it was fought have been a disaster.

America's stance on the Lebanon war has had a wide range of negative consequences for America. It has driven Sunni and and Shia Arabs together in an anti-US front, at a time when potential US allies among Sunni Muslims were themselves worrying about the rise of Hizbollah and Iran. It has provoked and empowered the Iranian-backed militias in Iraq, just as Washington is deploying more troops to Baghdad to try to quell the violence there. It has distracted attention from the Iranian nuclear issue, just as the United Nations Security Council was coming together to threaten sanctions on Tehran. It has destroyed whatever remaining hope there was for the US to be perceived as an honest broker between Israelis and Arabs in the search for peace in the Middle East. It has undermined US allies and democratic reformers in Arab states. It has also created a new crisis of confidence with America's European allies just when transatlantic relations were starting to improve.

Perhaps most important, it has almost certainly helped create more terrorist enemies, as images of Lebanese women and children crushed under Israeli bombs were broadcast on satellite televisions throughout the world. On an overall balance sheet, these developments vastly outweigh whatever benefits came from giving Israel a few more weeks to destroy Hizbollah's mostly replaceable missiles.

Proponents of the Bush administration's approach claim that far from undermining US interests with its Lebanon campaign, Israel was actually doing a service for America. In this view, the US is essentially at war with an "Islamic-fascist" front, to borrow president George W. Bush's language, and Israel's attack on Hizbollah was just an early battle in what some US neo-conservatives and politicians such as Newt Gingrich are already calling "world war three".

They argue that the only way to deal with such a front is to destroy it, and therefore Israel was acting in America's interest in launching the campaign. But this is a huge over-simplification of the strategic situation in the Middle East today, one that risks turning the assumption of a single enemy into a self-fulfilling prophecy. It conflates a complex array of connected but separable challenges - a Shia theocracy in Iran, a secular dictatorship in Syria, the

America has emerged as a loser in the Middle East PHILIP GORDON and JEREMY SHAPIRO

nationalist/Islamist **Hamas** in Palestine, various Shia militia and Sunni insurgent groups in Iraq, and Lebanon's Hizbollah - into a monolithic threat that cannot be deterred or dealt with except through overwhelming force. Just like the Bush administration's approach to Iraq, it demonstrates utter disregard for the tendency of foreign military intervention to generate nationalist resentment and violent resistance.

It remains unclear whether US officials were involved in the planning of Israel's war on Hizbollah (as asserted by Seymour Hersh in last week's New Yorker magazine) or whether Israel's actions surprised Washington and were unconditionally supported out of political reflex. Either way, it seems astonishing that US policymakers did not think through the ways in which Israel's military campaign might undermine competing American goals in the region. US officials now portray the decision by Condoleezza Rice, US secretary of state, to go to New York to negotiate a ceasefire last week as a bold diplomatic move that demonstrated US leadership and brought peace, but the real question is why it took her nearly 30 days to act. The damage done to western interests in the greater Middle East - to say nothing of the social and physical infrastructure in Lebanon and Israel - far exceeds whatever gains the Israeli military campaign achieved in the intervening period.

It is too late now to undo all this damage. To make the best of a bad situation, the Bush administration should do what it can to bolster the Lebanese government, support the deployment of a capable UN force, provide reconstruction assistance and encourage a political process in the region.

In the future, however, the US must think more carefully about the broader impact of its Middle East diplomacy, even if at times this means taking a different position from its closest regional ally. This would be the best way to help Israel, which would benefit from having a superpower friend that maintains some credibility and diplomatic influence in the Middle East.

Philip Gordon is senior fellow for US foreign policy and Jeremy Shapiro a fellow in the foreign policy studies programme at the Brookings Institution in Washington, DC

**Load-Date:** August 20, 2006

## *Deafening silence that shames all moderate Muslims*

Yorkshire Post

August 16, 2006

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**Length:** 767 words

### **Body**

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Bernard Ingham

SINCE we have a Government that has never known how to behave - from Tony Blair's early change of policy to suit Bernie Ecclestone to John Reid's potentially prejudicial claim to have caught the "main players" in the current alleged airline plot - I should say that nobody has yet been charged, let alone convicted, of trying to blow aircraft out of the sky.

This does not, of course, stop people trying to fathom what causes young British Muslims to make a brief career out of suicide bombing, especially as a year ago they slaughtered more than 50 passengers on London's Underground.

Many weird and wonderful theories are advanced by white, liberal crackpots whose instincts are to blame their own society for all the world's ills.

In view of this, the great and the gullible from the UK branch of Islam not surprisingly took out advertisements to condemn British foreign policy for manufacturing terrorists.

I am not a fervent admirer of our foreign policy, not least because it is conducted at the expense of our over-stretched military. While I do not mourn the political passing of Saddam Hussein, Blair's justification for war proved to be fraudulent and certainly neither we nor the Americans thought through the implications of getting rid of the tyrant.

But where I think policy is more right than wrong is in taking terrorism seriously.

Terrorism and its suicide bombers are the current scourge of the world. They guide the Government's actions - some would say counter-productively - over Afghanistan and Iraq and also Lebanon from which operates one of the many groups (Hezbollah) seeking to wipe Israel off the map.

We did not go into Iraq or Afghanistan until after the al-Qaida atrocities in America of 2001 and I am sure Israel would not be so fierce if it did not live under siege from Hezbollah and **Hamas**, acting as fronts for Iran and Syria.

The plain fact is that the globe is at risk from terrorists, most of them Muslim, who also divide the Islamic world.

Look at the way Shias and Sunnis are wiping each other out in Iraq now that Saddam is no longer there to terrorise them into quiescence and at the way the Taliban is still seeking to bend Afghans to its medieval will.

In short, it is a bit simplistic to blame British foreign policy for recruiting terrorists to the extremist-Muslim cause against an often pathetic West.

## Deafening silence that shames all moderate Muslims

I would have thought Spain's disgraceful capitulation to the Madrid bombers offered more encouragement to terrorism than America's Wild West response or Britain's more sophisticated reaction.

The truth is that nobody has a clue why British Muslim youngsters - and now, reportedly, British middle-class converts to the faith - can be recruited as terrorists ready and willing to die in the process of their murderous trade.

It cannot be poverty, not even if they are living on benefits. They would be a lot less comfortable in Islamic countries.

It cannot be alienation or lack of opportunity. There are daft Britons queuing up to welcome anybody and everybody, with open arms and an open public purse, to our shores. And our entire system is geared to hailing ethnic-minority heroes who make it. Monty Panesar and Sajid Mahmood are now celebrated England cricketers.

It could be that the appalling condescension inherent in the actions of most British do-gooders towards immigrants troubles

the minds of young Muslims,

even if it is only their parents who have experienced the full humiliation of it. I find it nauseating.

The wilful refusal of their elders to integrate with their host country, and the tensions between the teachings of Islamic fundamentalism and the way

of life in a frankly decadent Britain, may well cause confusion and resentment.

But against whom or what? Is anybody seriously suggesting that rational human beings who have experienced the freedom of the West would die for the primitive horrors of sharia law and its treatment of women?

And can any of this remotely explain volunteering as a suicide bomber?

The trouble is that not all people are rational. So, instead of looking for complex sociological excuses, let's face reality.

The best explanation is often the simplest. The tiny minority of British Muslims who opt for terrorism are mad - deranged by their fashionable zeal as religious fanatics. And those who opt for suicide missions are the maddest of the lot.

This Friday's text at all mosques run by moderate imams should be: the madness of fanaticism.

What are thousands of moderate Muslims afraid of? Terrorists in their midst? Their deafening silence shames them. Terrorism is evil. Either you condemn it or you condone it.

**Load-Date:** August 16, 2006

**Middle East crisis: Israelis take cover as rockets rain down on north:  
Barrage reminiscent of height of war in 1980s: One dead, dozens hurt as  
residents flock to bunkers**

The Guardian - Final Edition

July 14, 2006 Friday

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**Section:** GUARDIAN HOME PAGES; Pg. 4

**Length:** 740 words

**Byline:** Inigo Gilmore, Naharia and Rory McCarthy, Jerusalem

## **Body**

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First came the whistling whooshing noise, then two earth-shuddering bangs. The rockets had landed and people started running everywhere in panic. Naharia hospital was in emergency.

The loud-hailers around the hospital erupted. "Go to the bunkers, go to the bunkers", they barked in Hebrew. A handful of workers, taking a break after helping the wounded from an earlier Katyusha rocket barrage, rushed back inside. Dark smoke was swirling through the hospital grounds. "Don't go out there," a man in white warned ominously.

Hizbullah fighters in Lebanon fired at least 70 rockets into northern Israel yesterday, killing at least one woman in Naharia and injuring 42 people across the region. The woman was sitting on a fifth-floor balcony when a rocket hit her building and sliced through her ceiling.

Residents in towns near the Lebanese border were ordered to take cover in bomb shelters during what was the heaviest rocket barrage seen in northern Israel in a decade. Cars were seen driving south with suitcases tied to the roof, and rockets were reported to have landed up to 30km inside Israel. Several buildings were damaged at the Meron Air Force base when rockets hit, the army said.

Inside Naharia hospital there was a mood of controlled panic - but also one of defiance. Mano Cohen, a Holocaust survivor, was locking up the canteen much against his will. "The management told us to do it but I think they're wrong," he said angrily. "I feel it's important to stay here and to serve the people."

His co-worker, an Argentinian Jew, had just come off the phone from her panicked son in Buenos Aires. She started to cry and he placed a comforting arm around her. Mr Cohen admitted he had sent his children and grandchildren to Tel Aviv in the south but he was going nowhere. As a child he had survived by hiding from the Nazis in underground basements in Poland and vowed never do so again.

"Look, when I opened my front door this morning I saw a Katyusha rocket fly by, literally. It was a bit strange but I've seen a lot of strange and frightening things in my life. In Naharia they've not seen so much, that's why some people are worried," he said.

Hospital workers agreed: the last time a rocket landed in the town was 10 years ago and the last barrage was at the height of the Lebanon war in the early 1980s.

Middle East crisis: Israelis take cover as rockets rain down on north: Barrage reminiscent of height of war in 1980s: One dead, dozens hurt as residents flock t....

As a precaution yesterday many of the patients, including women and children, were taken to the underground hospital - a reinforced basement which can hold 250 patients. It was completed in 2003 and was being used for the first time.

Walking through the corridors, a hospital spokeswoman, Judy Jochwitz, showed where dozens of patients were lined up in underground wards. "It's a very dramatic development," she said.

One of the survivors of a rocket attack, Dr Pesach Gal, 59, was nursing wounds from flying glass. "The missiles hit the wall 40 metres from me. The windows, doors, everything was shattered but I guess God helped me today," he said.

Propped up on a nearby bed, Ruth, a resident of Naharia with a broken arm and hip, said: "We're frustrated and angry. Now we have to change our whole life and go back 20 years. It's an unbearable situation living on the ground, but I think the real panic will only last for a few days. After all Jewish people are used to it - to fight, to suffer, to fight for our existence."

But no one in the hospital or Naharia city appeared to offer a clear idea of what they wanted the government or military to do - or how to do it, just so long as they made the rockets stop.

Later in the day a trickle of traffic made its way through Naharia's near-deserted streets. Men, women and children slowly emerged from underground bunkers.

Eli Ran, 22, had kept his kiosk open all day but knew a rocket had hit the adjacent building. He was thinking about closing, but only because of a lack of customers. "I've just left the army," he said. "So I've seen this kind of thing happen. What are we supposed to do?" he said, without seeking an answer.

Meanwhile Israel destroyed the office of the Palestinian foreign minister, Mahmoud al-Zahar, in Gaza city in an air strike. Palestinian officials said no one was hurt. Mr Zahar is a senior figure in the Hamas movement. The International Committee of the Red Cross said water and fuel supplies had become a big concern in the Gaza Strip and called on the Israelis to ensure food, water, health care and shelter for the 1.4 million Palestinians living there.

**Load-Date:** July 14, 2006



## *U. Michigan campus stage for anti-violence rally*

University Wire

July 24, 2006 Monday

Copyright 2006 Michigan Daily via U-Wire

**Length:** 820 words

**Byline:** By Kelly Fraser, Michigan Daily; **SOURCE:** U. Michigan

**Dateline:** ANN ARBOR, Mich.

### **Body**

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About 250 community members, students and faculty members gathered on the campus Saturday afternoon in a rally against Israel's military actions in Lebanon.

As speakers began to give personal accounts of relatives in Lebanon, supporters and families wearing red, green and white -- the national colors of Lebanon -- slowly trickled into the crowd.

"It's extremely easy for people to forget about injustices happening oceans away," said Shima Abdelfadeel, an organizer of the rally and political chair of the Muslim Students' Association.

Abdelfadeel said the Lebanese perspective has not been equally covered in the media. "The event was more of an educational demonstration than anything," she said.

Today marks the 13th day of violence between Israeli and Hezbollah forces in Lebanon.

The conflict began when Hezbollah fighters captured two Israeli soldiers.

Calling the action an act of war, Israeli Prime Minister Ehud Olmert responded by sending planes to bomb Hezbollah camps in southern Lebanon.

The Washington Post estimates that at least 375 Lebanese, mostly civilians, and 36 Israelis -- including 17 civilians -- have been killed since the conflict began.

President George W. Bush has not called for a cease-fire, saying Israel has the right to defend itself.

Although some spoke and carried signs specifically addressing Israeli's military action in Lebanon, crowd members also chanted against United States involvement in Iraq and escalating conflict in Gaza between Israeli forces and Palestinians.

Abdelfadeel said it's easier to focus on Lebanon because the nation is receiving the most media attention of the countries experiencing conflict in the Middle East -- but that other areas, such as the Gaza Strip, were equally important to organizers.

The rally culminated in a nearly 40-minute march through the Ann Arbor Street Art Fair but city law requires a permit for large groups to march in the streets.

## U. Michigan campus stage for anti-violence rally

Due to time constraints, organizers did not apply for a permit, Abdelfadeel said. Instead, the march made two laps on the sidewalks of campus.

Four Department of Public Safety Officers escorted the march.

During the group's second lap, one man screamed back at the demonstrators, causing some adverse reaction from marchers. The instance was quickly broken up by organizers.

American Culture and Women's Studies Prof. Nadine Naber, who spoke at the rally, said the individual was "insignificant" to the event's overall success.

Abdelfadeel said that the biggest misconception onlookers might have of the rally is that "we as a group support Hezbollah or Hamas and that we don't care about the Israel civilian casualties. That's not true at all."

University alum Laurel Federbush and her mother, who are Jewish, marched with signs reading "Real Jews denounce Israel's war crimes."

Federbush said that while the Israeli government often speaks on behalf of Jewish people, she does not support its actions in Lebanon.

Over the past few months Federbush has asked the University's Board of Regents to cut financial ties with Israel twice.

Each time the line passed University President Mary Sue Coleman's residence on South University Avenue, leaders paused to demand that the University divest from Israel.

Activist and University alum Tarek Diya shouted into a bullhorn, "Mary Sue, I told you we'd be back," as police officers monitored the crowd from Coleman's lawn.

"This will be the year of divestment for Ann Arbor," he continued. Abdelfadeel said Students Allied for Freedom and Equality plans to make a push for divestment in the fall.

The Muslim Students' Association has signed a resolution created by SAFE in support of divestment.

This past March, about 140 faculty and students petitioned the University's Board of Regents to cut all financial ties with Israel.

At that time, Regent Laurence Deitch (D-Bingham Farms) told the Daily the board would never support divestment.

Deitch said many regents question whether divestment is an appropriate action for a university to take, even in extreme cases, because it opposes the board's goal of encouraging investment.

The University last divested from the tobacco industry in 2000.

Locally, the rally was sponsored by the Muslim Students' Association, SAFE, the Michigan Congress of Arab American Organizations and the Muslim Community Association of Ann Arbor and Vicinity. Several Toledo-based groups also sponsored the demonstration.

Abdelfadeel said the event was also heavily publicized throughout Dearborn's Muslim community.

She said that although she expected more supporters from out of town, she was impressed by the number of Ann Arbor community members who marched.

This past Tuesday, a similar Dearborn rally attracted nearly 10,000 people.

Israel supporters have also been vocal in the metro Detroit area. In a demonstration of solidarity with Israel last Wednesday, several thousand people filled a synagogue in Southfield.

U. Michigan campus stage for anti-violence rally

(C) 2006 Michigan Daily via U-WIRE

**Load-Date:** July 24, 2006

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***Carrier heads for the Gulf to rescue Britons in Beirut hell; ...but it's  
still two days' sailing away***

Mail on Sunday (London)

July 16, 2006 Sunday

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**Section:** FB 04; Pg. 9

**Length:** 792 words

**Byline:** MARTIN SMITH

## **Body**

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BRITAIN'S flagship aircraft carrier HMS Illustrious was last night preparing to steam to Lebanon to assist in the evacuation of British citizens trapped in the war zone.

The deployment of the 22,000-ton warship follows criticism from Britons in the Lebanese capital Beirut that while other countries had activated their armed services to evacuate foreign nationals, little was being done to help them.

But last night the vessel was docked at Gibraltar, two days away from the Lebanese coast. A Ministry of Defence spokeswoman said: 'No decisions have been taken but we are monitoring the situation and we are engaged in contingency planning. We are not prepared to comment on the details.'

However, a military source said the MoD could order eight helicopters Sea Kings and EH101s on board Illustrious to fly ahead of the carrier, refuel at Aviano in Italy and in Cyprus before starting an evacuation in Lebanon.

They could airlift small numbers to Cyprus. But before the mercy flights begin, the SAS and SBS are likely to be sent ahead to secure the ground in order to guarantee the safety of British citizens.

One British woman yesterday described how she was hiding in terror in her Beirut home from the constant air strikes and that she felt 'completely abandoned' by the British Government.

Clair Vainola, 31, from Newcastle, working as a drug counsellor in the city since last November, said: 'There are planes overhead and I can hear bombs falling. It's terrifying.'

'I rang the embassy and they told me the conflict was not serious and they would not be evacuating any British citizens.'

How many more have to die before the Government classifies this as serious?' Marnie Cashmore, 39, from Ashby de la Zouch, Leicestershire, said her partner William Rushton, 43, arrived in Beirut on business last Tuesday just before the air strikes began.

She said last night: 'Bill has been virtually trapped in his hotel. He went to the embassy on Friday afternoon for help and no one answered the door.'

Carrier heads for the Gulf to rescue Britons in Beirut hell ...but it's stilltwodays' sailing away

'He said it was just like a case of "would the last person to leave turn off the lights". He is now driving to Syria.' It was a different story for American, Italian and French citizens as their governments swiftly arranged for evacuation by warships and aircraft.

Israel launched its offensive after Hezbollah guerrillas crossed the border last Wednesday and captured two Israeli soldiers. Israel has bombarded Lebanon's airport and main roads and destroyed Hezbollah's headquarters in south Beirut. The Israeli military has conceded it has hit more than 150 targets.

Yesterday an Israeli missile targeted a van near the southern Lebanese port of Tyre, killing 20 passengers including women and children and wounding six, police said. The van was carrying families fleeing Marwaheen.

Israeli aircraft also bombed a Hezbollah office in southern Beirut and attacked roads, bridges and petrol stations in north, east and south Lebanon, killing at least 12 and wounding 32, security sources said.

A senior Israeli intelligence official claimed Iranian troops helped Hezbollah fire a missile that damaged an Israeli warship off the Lebanese coast killing two and leaving two missing on Friday. Israeli officials also said a Hezbollah missile sank a merchant ship with 12 sailors on board.

Last night Israeli rescue services said Hezbollah had fired a second barrage of rockets at the city of Tiberias. Israeli warplanes then destroyed the Beirut office of senior Hamas official Mohammed Nazzal. He was not hurt in the attack.

Blair's fury as Chirac blames Israel TONY BLAIR sparked a new diplomatic row with the French last night over the Middle East crisis.

Mr Blair's spokesman delivered an outspoken attack on French president Jacques Chirac for taking sides in the dispute between Israel and the Palestinians. As the Prime Minister arrived for the G8 meeting of world leaders in St Petersburg, his spokesman slapped down Mr Chirac for describing Israel's actions in South Lebanon as 'completely disproportionate'.

Mr Chirac had claimed to speak on behalf of the whole of Europe when he issued his comments earlier in the week.

But Mr Blair's spokesman said: 'As we have said from the start, the important thing is that the Israeli hostages are returned and the other important thing is that people act with restraint.

'We're not going to get into a fingerpointing-exercise. We're not going to get into the blame game.' In private British officials acknowledge that France and Russia in particular do not see eye-to-eye with the United States and Britain on Middle Eastern matters.

US President George W. Bush went further than Mr Blair, blaming Hezbollah alone for the violence and putting himself at odds with Russian President Vladimir Putin, who was more critical of Israel.

**Load-Date:** July 16, 2006

*U.S. has wool pulled over its own eyes*

The Atlanta Journal-Constitution

July 27, 2006 Thursday

Main Edition

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**The Atlanta  
Journal-Constitution**

**Section:** EDITORIAL; Pg. 19A

**Length:** 761 words

**Byline:** JAY BOOKMAN

Staff

**Body**

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Back in the giddy days before reality exposed their naivete for what it is, advocates of invading Iraq liked to argue that "the road to peace in the Middle East goes through Baghdad," as Deputy Defense Secretary Paul Wolfowitz and others put it.

After removing Saddam Hussein, the story went, we would create a pro-American, pro-Israeli democracy that other countries would emulate, making the Middle East a more friendly place for both Israel and the United States.

Today, though, Arabs horrified by the slaughter in Iraq are now far less eager to experiment with democracy. And as recent events make clear, a democratic Iraq is no more friendly to Israel than Saddam's Iraq had been.

Just last week, Iraq's Parliament condemned what it called Israel's "criminal aggression" in responding to attacks by Hezbollah. Cleric Muqtada al Sadr talked of sending his fighters to aid Hezbollah --- something Saddam would never tolerate --- and the speaker of Iraq's Parliament, Mahmoud al-Mashhadani, even blamed Iraq's internal violence on the Jews.

"I am sure that he who does this is a Jew and the son of a Jew," al-Mashhadani said, claiming Zionists "are using Iraqi money and oil to frustrate the Islamic movement in Iraq."

Yet President Bush continues to cling to the notion that democracy is the cure.

"The terrorists are afraid of democracies," he said this week. "And what you've witnessed in Israel, in my judgment, is the act of a terrorist organization trying to stop the advance of democracy in the region."

Hezbollah, however, attacked Israel, not democracy, and in fact is a full and ardent participant in Lebanon's democracy, to the point that it holds seats in its Parliament. The same holds true in the West Bank and Gaza, where free elections have given power to **Hamas**, another terror group dedicated to Israel's destruction. While

## U.S. has wool pulled over its own eyes

democracy is a wonderful thing, it produces a tolerant, peaceful government only if it's elected by a tolerant, peaceful people.

But unfortunately, the naivete of this administration is armor-plated and can't be penetrated, and not just on the question of democracy.

Our invasion of Iraq, for example, was motivated by an equally naive faith in the transforming power of violence. It may seem odd to think of it that way --- it is usually the pacifist, not the aggressor, who gets tagged with the label of naive --- but the term is accurate nonetheless. It is just as easy to have a foolish, simplistic faith in the power of force as to have a similar foolish faith in the power of pacifism.

Answering violence with even more violence does offer a powerful emotional gratification. After the outrage of Sept. 11, 2001, Americans sought --- and for a short time got --- emotional gratification out of invading Iraq. But we've also paid a heavy price for that.

Israel offers another case study. Using airpower and excessive force to crush Hezbollah may feel good, but as a strategy that approach violates every tenet of counterinsurgency warfare. For every 10 guerrillas you kill that way, you risk creating 100, and in the long term the mathematics of that will ruin you.

Israel ought to understand that by now. A generation ago, it invaded Lebanon, all but leveling Beirut in the process, trying to teach its enemies a lesson. In the process it ended up radicalizing the Shiites of southern Lebanon and creating Hezbollah, the very group now firing missiles at Israeli cities and killing Israeli soldiers.

That invasion had consequences for others as well.

"The events that affected me directly were that of 1982, and the events that followed, when America allowed the Israelis to invade Lebanon, helped by the U.S. 6th Fleet," Osama bin Laden recalled two years ago. "As I watched the destroyed towers in Lebanon, it occurred to me to punish the unjust the same way [and] to destroy towers in America so it could taste some of what we are tasting and to stop killing our children and women."

To some, questioning the effectiveness of brute force is akin to advocating appeasement. That too is naive. You do not --- must never --- surrender to or appease terrorists. You must defeat them, but you do so first by understanding that however good it might feel, indulging in vengeance is weakness, not strength, and harms your cause more than that of your enemy.

You use your military power to kill your enemy, but only your enemy. And you understand that all the military power in the world cannot beat anger and hatred out of people.

\* Jay Bookman is the deputy editorial page editor. His column appears Thursdays and Mondays.

[jbookman@ajc.com](mailto:jbookman@ajc.com)

**Load-Date:** July 27, 2006

## *Canada set to begin Lebanon evacuations*

The Star Phoenix (Saskatoon, Saskatchewan)

July 19, 2006 Wednesday

Final Edition

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**Section:** NATIONAL; Pg. A8

**Length:** 790 words

**Byline:** Juliet O'Neill, with files from Kirsten Smith, Ottawa Citizen, Matthew Fisher, CanWest News Service, CanWest News Service

**Dateline:** OTTAWA

### **Body**

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OTTAWA -- About 2,000 anxious Canadians were set to escape the violence in Lebanon today in the first wave of a government-organized mass evacuation via cruise ships to Turkey and Cyprus and then flights home to Canada.

After several days of frustration and allegations that the Canadian evacuation plan was too slowly organized, the Canadian Embassy in Beirut began Tuesday notifying some of the 25,000 Canadians registered in Lebanon to turn up near the port of Beirut in the early hours today to begin their journeys home.

Israel offered assurances of safe passage and Turkey, where most of the first wave of evacuees are headed, pledged to facilitate the entry and passage of the Canadians, many of whom were caught during their summer holidays in the conflict between Israel and the Hamas and Hezbollah militant groups in Gaza and Lebanon, respectively.

The government chartered seven vessels to transport Canadian families to the port of Larnaca, Cyprus, a four-hour trip, and the port of Mersin, Turkey, about an eight-hour trip. It also chartered an unspecified number of aircraft from Air Canada and other carriers to fly families home from both countries. Prime Minister Stephen Harper said Tuesday the evacuation will be the largest in this country's history.

Foreign Affairs Minister Peter MacKay said Monday that six cruise ships had been chartered, each with a capacity of 600 to 900 passengers. Other reports quoted Foreign Affairs officials saying up to 4,500 Canadians per day could be transported, but the capacity of the seven vessels was described by Foreign Affairs officials Tuesday as "more than 2,000." No explanation of the apparently lower number was provided.

"All costs related to the evacuation of Canadian citizens from Lebanon will be borne by the government of Canada," said a notice issued by the Canadian Embassy in Beirut. By contrast, reports said U.S. citizens had to sign papers promising to repay their evacuation costs.

Most of the first wave of Canadians out are expected to be taken today to Turkey.

The first group was told to assemble near the Beirut port at 4 a.m., with the first vessel scheduled to depart four hours later.



## Canada set to begin Lebanon evacuations

The news was a relief to Omar El- Harrache, of Montreal, whose wife and three children had been vacationing in Tripoli and are expected home in the first wave. He has spent several anxious days worried his family would be separated because only his infant daughter is a Canadian citizen; the rest of the family are permanent residents.

"I am grateful, not just for our family but for the many families," he said.

Whether the evacuees would arrive in Toronto, Montreal or both, and exactly when, are among the details yet undetermined, as of Tuesday. It is also not known whether everyone will immediately fly home or have to stay overnight, said Foreign Affairs spokesperson Pamela Greenwell.

She said the seven vessels "will be used continuously, day after day, to evacuate all Canadians who wish to leave Lebanon." "As most of Europe's flights and hotels are booked, due to summer holidays, we are routing our planes back to Canada," she added.

Foreign Affairs officials were not provided with a high level of detail about the evacuation, but a media briefing is expected today after the evacuation is underway.

The government estimates 50,000 Canadians either live in or are visiting Lebanon. Since those registered with the government doubled to more than 25,000 since fighting with Israel broke out a week ago, the government assumes many thousands want to leave.

"We're working around the clock with Canadians on the ground so that the evacuation can proceed as quickly and efficiently as possible," Greenwell said.

Liberal MP Raymonde Folco, who had criticized the government for a slow response, changed her tune Tuesday after notices went out to her contacts in Beirut.

"It's starting to work," she said of the evacuation plan. She understood families would not be broken up, although the ill, injured, elderly, women and children were to be given first priority.

The Turkish Embassy said it responded swiftly and positively to a request Monday from Canadian authorities to use the port of Mersin and Adana Airport for the evacuation effort.

"Turkish border authorities are notified to ensure the easy entry of the evacuees into Turkey and facilitate their passage," the embassy said in a statement.

Defence Department spokesperson Capt. Stephanie Godin said a 15-member contingency planning assistance team had been sent to the embassy to help the evacuation.

"That team consists of military experts in the areas of planning, logistics, security and communications, " she said.

Large-scale evacuations by British, American and French governments are also underway.

## Graphic

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Colour Photo: Getty Images; Lebanese-Canadians hold their Canadian passports Tuesday in Zahle city as Canadian nationals get ready for evacuation

**Load-Date:** July 19, 2006

## 40 dead in Lebanon strikes

Guardian.com

July 17, 2006

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theguardian

**Length:** 763 words

**Highlight:** More Hizbullah rockets hit Haifa Blair leads calls for UN peace force 40 British nationals evacuated

### Body

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More than 40 people were killed in Lebanon today as tit-for-tat strikes between Israeli forces and Hizbullah militia continued during the worst fighting the region has seen in nearly a quarter of a century.

In the deadliest attack, 10 civilians were killed and at least seven wounded when an Israeli air strike hit two cars travelling from south Lebanon towards the capital.

A building collapsed in Haifa, Israel's third largest city, after it was targeted in a Hizbullah rocket attack. Initial reports said two people were injured and there were fears people could be trapped in the rubble.

Hundreds of rockets have hit northern Israel in recent days, reaching as far as 33 miles south of the border. The fighting across the border has been the worst since Israel invaded Lebanon in 1982. Israeli attacks in Lebanon have killed 203 people, all but 13 of them civilians, while 24 Israelis have died, including 12 civilians hit in rocket attacks.

Tony Blair today called for an international peace keeping force after private talks with the United Nations secretary general, Kofi Annan, at the G8 summit in St Petersburg. "The only way we are going to have a cessation of violence is if we have an international force deployed into that area," the prime minister told reporters.

Israel said it was too early to talk about a new deployment of troops under UN or EU auspices. The Israeli prime minister, Ehud Olmert, tonight said he would agree to halt fighting if the two captured soldiers were returned and Hizbullah withdrew from the border region.

He told the Israeli parliament, the Knesset, that the country was "facing a moment of national truth".

"We are not looking for war or direct conflict, but if necessary we will not be frightened by it," he told MPs.

The Israeli army today announced it had made an overnight raid into southern Lebanon to attack Hizbullah bases. It was the first time Israeli ground troops had been used in six days of conflict.

The raid came after the Mr Olmert, vowed a "far-reaching" response to a rocket attack yesterday on Haifa that killed eight Israeli railway workers.

## 40 dead in Lebanon strikes

Some analysts believe a major ground invasion of southern Lebanon is being considered by Israel in order to wipe out Hizbullah's capacity to fire missiles over the border. One Israeli newspaper said today that the offensive had so far destroyed a quarter of Hizbullah's fighting capabilities.

As the conflict continued, thousands of foreign citizens were evacuated from Beirut. France, which has more than 20,000 citizens in Lebanon, chartered a Greek ferry to pick up 1,200 French citizens and other Europeans. About 850 of the 5,000 Swedes living in Lebanon have been evacuated, largely to the city of Aleppo in northern Syria. An Italian ship carrying nearly 400 evacuees was expected in the Cypriot port of Larnaca this evening.

US officials said a chartered ferry would arrive in Beirut tomorrow under naval escort to evacuate American citizens. About 40 British nationals, mainly women, children and those needing medical care, were evacuated from the city early this morning. Another 40 were expected to be airlifted out this evening.

Two Royal Navy ships are on their way to Lebanon and there are plans for a possible larger evacuation of British nationals. Some 4,000 British families are registered in Lebanon.

The French prime minister, Dominique de Villepin, today arrived in Beirut to show solidarity with his Lebanese counterpart and it is expected that the US secretary of state, Condoleezza Rice, will soon make a visit to the region. In a private conversation about the crisis with Mr Blair at the G8, the US president, George Bush, was overheard saying, "I think Condi is going to go pretty soon".

Yesterday, leaders at the G8 put the onus on Hizbullah, which is backed by Syria and Iran, to end the conflict by freeing the two Israeli troops and stopping the attacks on Israel with rockets. Fuad Saniora, the Lebanese prime minister, today described Israel's offensive as "terrorism" that would foster extremism in the region.

The Israeli offensive has forced hundreds of thousands of Lebanese to flee, with residents of southern Lebanon going to Beirut or the eastern Bekaa valley, while some of the capital's residents have moved to homes on the hills to the east.

Fighting in Lebanon last week opened a second front for Israel. Israeli jets were today also in action in Gaza, where Israel believes one of its soldiers is being held by Hamas-linked militants. Air raids largely destroyed the empty Palestinian foreign ministry and severely damaged about 50 flats nearby.

**Load-Date:** July 17, 2006

## Hezbollah and Israel

Aberdeen Press and Journal

July 21, 2006 Friday

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**Section:** Pg. 17

**Length:** 799 words

### **Body**

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Sir, - The Press and Journal reports the war between Israel and Hezbollah without sensationalism and as a matter of fact.

Prior to the beginning of the hostilities between the two factions, the P&J printed an article on a northern camp in Gaza where a teenager and two children were killed and eight others were wounded. The dead children were a five-year-old boy and a seven-year-old girl. A sixteen-year-old girl died later of her wounds. I didn't hear any reports or, indeed, see anything on TV regarding this "incident", other than reading about it in the P&J.

The Israeli military reported the car involved was carrying militants at the time. Now, the Israelis are attempting to bomb Hezbollah into submission and in doing so are wrecking the infrastructure of a democratic country which has sadly become the new war and killing grounds of the Middle East.

If anyone was to recall history, the bombing of Vietnam and the Blitz on Britain did little to quell the population and if anything strengthened their resolve.

Far too many innocent men, women and, sadly, children are now in the front firing line and hostilities between the two factions should cease immediately and dialogue begin, as both sides appear to have scant regard for loss of life on either side.

James Murray,

250 George Street,

Aberdeen.

Middle East conflict

SIR, - I find it difficult to believe that some of your readers still do not understand why Israel has had to take action against Hezbollah and Hamas terrorist groups.

Israel has ached for peace for decades, proven by the many agreements by which land has been given to its enemies in the forlorn hope that they would beat their swords into ploughshares.

The Arab and Moslem zealots want Israel destroyed; that is why there is a Middle East conflict. Everything else is commentary.

Why shouldn't Israel defend itself? It is surrounded by countries which have made no secret of their intentions.

## Hezbollah and Israel

Syria supports and shelters Hezbollah, while Iran, controlled by unholy clerics, supplies weapons and millions in funds.

Heaven help us all if they ever get an atomic weapon.

Like it or not, facts have to be faced: appeasement will never work when dealing with fanatics.

T. Barron,

65 Manse Road,

Nairn.

Occupation of lands

SIR, - It is somewhat concerning that our leaders seem not to realise that Israel is in illegal occupation of Palestinian land and has been for the best part of 40 years.

There are internationally recognised borders as recorded in United Nations resolutions of 1967.

Do our leaders not recognise that so long as Israel occupies these lands, Palestinians and other nations will fight their own version of war and that war will extend not only against Israel but against those friends of Israel who could do something effective about it but choose not to?

The question is, has Israel stoked up so much hate that nothing will stop their enemies using whatever means they can?

Bob Ross,

19 Blackpark Terrace,

Inverness.

Photographs of graves

SIR, - On holiday in Egypt some months ago, I spent a day at the museum and Commonwealth cemetery at El Alamein, site of the battle which was the turning point of the North African campaign in World War II.

The Gordon Highlanders played a major part in the fighting and many who died there are buried in the cemetery. I took photographs of several of the graves, including the following:

2889774 Private A. Atchison, died October 26, 1942, aged 27.

2885071 Private J. Bell, died October 29, aged 26.

2870791 Colour Sergeant W. Thomson, died November 4, aged 36.

If any members of the families of these soldiers would like to have the photographs, I can be contacted at the address below.

Dr Iain F.W.K. Davidson,

177 Spital,

Aberdeen AB24 3JB.

Sustainable water supplies

Hezbollah and Israel

SIR, - My family and I have lived in Aboyne since 1972 and in many of these 34 years there have been local water shortages.

In 2006, there has been no water in our home on two of the last three days.

Water shortages are now predictable in summer, and this year is no exception, with a "water warning" currently operating for the whole of Aboyne.

Do our councillors and Scottish Water consider that they have a locally co-ordinated and sustainable policy of water management in Aboyne, allowing the building of yet more large houses for incomers which will place further demands on our water supply?

Margaret W. Jenkins,

1 Barclay Park,

Aboyne.

Putting a date to Cullen skink

SIR, - Evelyn Hood (Letters, July 20) is correct in her assumption that the Oxford English Dictionary is wrong in its dating of the term Cullen skink.

I have a recipe for this tasty dish in a cookbook called The Scots Kitchen, printed in 1929, in which Cullen skink is described in the soup section as a cottage recipe from the Moray coast.

Anne Sinclair,

32 Henderson Drive,

Westhill,

Aberdeenshire.

**Load-Date:** July 22, 2006

## *Hezbollah reaping the whirlwind*

The Guardian (Charlottetown, Prince Edward Island)

July 21, 2006 Friday

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**Section:** EDITORIAL; Pg. A6

**Length:** 773 words

**Byline:** Jonas, George, National Post

### **Body**

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The Arab/Muslim side in the Middle East conflict follows what has become a three-step formula. One, sow the wind. Two, reap the whirlwind. Three, complain about the weather.

Amazingly, much of the world listens.

The facts in this latest round are straightforward. On Wednesday, July 12, Hezbollah, an Iranian- and Syrian-backed terrorist organization operating in southern Lebanon, unleashed a sudden and totally unprovoked attack into Israeli territory. Scores of Katyusha rockets rained down on such Israeli towns and villages as Nahariya, Zefat, Rosh Pina and the port city of Haifa. As Israel's UN ambassador, Dan Gillerman, reported to an emergency session of the Security Council, in a period of 48 hours more than 500 Katyushas and mortar shells were fired into the northern part of Israel. Initially they killed two civilians and wounded hundreds more, including many women and children. And while this barrage was going on, Hezbollah terrorists infiltrated Israel across the Lebanese border. They killed eight soldiers and captured two more, taking their captives deep into Lebanon.

I don't think that "sowing the wind" is too strong a term to describe such an action.

There's no country on Earth that wouldn't react to an assault of this kind with military measures if it had the capacity to do so.

React, that is, not necessarily in retaliation, but in defence. Whether a thrust like Hezbollah's should or shouldn't go unpunished may be debatable; what is beyond debate that it can't go unparried, and the only way to parry rocket and artillery thrusts is to destroy the batteries and launch pads from which they're fired.

In the words of Ambassador Gillerman: "Israel had no choice but to react, as would any other responsible democratic government. Having shown unparalleled restraint for six years while bearing the brunt of countless attacks, Israel had to respond to this absolutely unprovoked assault whose scale and depth was unprecedented in recent years."

Which brings us to the issue of proportionality. Granted that Israel "had to respond," as its ambassador put it, did it have to respond so strongly? Did it have to respond with a massive bombardment of Lebanon's infrastructure? Did it have to attack such seemingly non-military targets as roads, airports, apartment buildings, villages, inevitably causing civilian casualties?

There are long answers, but the short answer is: You bet.

## Hezbollah reaping the whirlwind

Proportionality is smuggled into the moral debate mainly by those who worry about the consequences of their misdeeds, and look for insurance that no matter what they do, even if it's to deliberately fire rockets at civilians, they'll only suffer so much punishment for it. Proportionality certainly isn't the biblical injunction against misdeeds. The Lord didn't say: Sow the wind and you'll reap a proportionate wind. He said: Sow the wind and you'll reap the whirlwind. Hezbollah, being ostensibly men of God, ought to know this.

God's injunction aside, proportionality is a bizarre demand in any but a sporting contest. If taken literally, it would call for modern armies to scrap their smart bombs and fight with nothing except weapons and tactics available to Saddam and Slobodan. Such rules of engagement would have the coalition forces still battling Iraq's Republican Guards with Soviet-era tanks. Even more importantly, such a requirement would reward the most cynical ruses and deceptions, putting the side that is trying to observe the Geneva conventions at a disadvantage.

If a party used ambulances to transport ammunition, and as a consequence the other party started firing at ambulances, which party would be in breach of the Geneva conventions? This isn't an abstract question. Hezbollah and **Hamas** routinely employ such deceptions, then cry crocodile tears if Israel refuses to fall for them. As Ambassador Gillerman put it at the UN: "Many of the long- range missiles that have hit Israeli towns were launched from private homes with families residing inside, where a special room was designated as a launching pad, with the family playing host to the missile."

Terrorists use Arab families as human shields to launch rockets from their homes at Israeli families. They regard it as a win-win proposition: If Israel worries about collateral damage, Hezbollah's launch pads are safe, and if Israel rejects this kind of moral blackmail, the terrorists create more "martyrs" and score more points in the propaganda war.

It worked in the past, but this time Israel seems willing to let Hezbollah win the propaganda war. What it won't let Hezbollah win is the war. Watch for the whirlwind.

George Jonas writes for the National Post.

**Load-Date:** July 21, 2006



**CULTURE CLASH Westerners see Muslims as: Intolerant and violent.  
Muslims see Westerners as: Greedy and selfish. Survey of people in 15  
nations shows deteriorating relations.**

St. Louis Post-Dispatch (Missouri)

June 23, 2006 Friday

THIRD EDITION

Copyright 2006 St. Louis Post-Dispatch, Inc.

**Section:** NEWS; Pg. A1

**Length:** 756 words

**Byline:** By Bill Lambrecht POST-DISPATCH WASHINGTON BUREAU CHIEF

**Dateline:** WASHINGTON

## **Body**

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Muslim attitudes toward the West have hardened in the past year amid global conflict, with people of the Muslim faith likely to view Americans and Europeans as selfish, immoral and greedy, a new global poll shows.

Similarly, people in the United States and other Western nations regard Muslims as arrogant, violent, intolerant and disrespectful of women.

Proof of the deep divide between Westerners and Muslims showed up in a massive poll of 14,000 people, the latest installment of the Pew Global Attitudes Project to take stock of opinions of the world and the big issues of the day.

Former Sen. John C. Danforth of St. Louis is co-chair of the project, along with former Secretary of State Madeleine Albright.

"It seems to me that where they (Muslims) really tilt against the West has to do with values or with lifestyle or with perceptions that the West is a place of selfishness and arrogance and violence," Danforth said at a meeting with reporters to announce the survey results. "Where do they get that idea? Maybe on television, I don't know."

While a solid majority of people in the 15 countries that were polled viewed relations between Muslims and Westerners as bad, there were a few bright spots in the results.

In several Muslim countries -- Jordan, Pakistan and Indonesia among them -- fewer believe now that suicide bombings and other violence against civilians can be justified to defend Islam against enemies.

Also, confidence in al-Qaida leader Osama bin Laden is dropping. In Jordan -- where terrorist attacks killed dozens in Amman last November -- confidence in bin Laden plummeted from 60 percent to 29 percent.

But there were troubling findings, too. In Pakistan, a country of 162 million people, 38 percent told pollsters that they had at least some confidence in bin Laden to do the right thing in world affairs. Bin Laden is believed to be hiding in the mountains between Pakistan and Afghanistan.

CULTURE CLASH Westerners see Muslims as: Intolerant and violent. Muslims see Westerners as: Greedy and selfish. Survey of people in 15 nations shows deteriorati....

In a finding pollsters found difficult to explain, confidence in bin Laden among Nigerian Muslims leapt from 44 percent to 61 percent. Also striking was that majorities in Indonesia, Turkey, Egypt and Jordan said they do not believe that Arabs carried out the attacks of Sept. 11, 2001, in the United States.

Among other findings:

- Anti-Jewish sentiments remain strong throughout the Muslim world. - Majorities of Muslims responded positively toward the victory by Hamas in the Palestinian legislative council elections in January. Western nations reject the radical party. - Majorities of Muslims believe that disrespect of their religion lay behind the controversial cartoons about the Islamic prophet Muhammad first published in a Danish newspaper last September. - In rare agreement, Muslims and Westerners said that Muslim nations need to become more prosperous.

The poll found that, in many respects, Muslims hold their anti-Western views more strongly than Westerners embrace anti-Muslim sentiments.

"Muslims are more discomforted with Westerners than Westerners are with Muslims," said Andrew Kohut, president of the Pew Research Center, the nonpartisan organization that is sponsoring the global surveys.

Kohut added that anti-Western sentiments are the strongest among younger Muslims "growing up on stories of Guantanamo and Abu Ghraib" -- U.S.-run prisons holding many Muslims.

Albright observed that extremists on each side of the divide feed the negative sentiments. She referred to unnamed radio commentators in the United States who have asserted that "Islam is a terrorist religion."

Albright, who now runs a business consulting firm in Washington, said the United States and other Western nations need to wage what she called "a battle of ideas. We have not explained ourselves well enough; we don't talk enough about who we are."

Danforth, an Episcopal priest as well as a lawyer, said religious leaders need to assume a more robust role in attempting to bridge a global gulf that is rooted

fundamentally in religion, not politics.

He said religious leaders often concern themselves intensely with their own internal issues but "have not been strong in any respect about how their religion relates to the world beyond them. We have not been sufficiently focused on the relationship of religion and the rest of the world.

". . . If it is religion that is the problem, then religion needs to address the problem."

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The poll

Read the full report from the Pew Center at [STLtoday.com/links](http://STLtoday.com/links)

What do you think? Is there a great divide between Muslims and Westerners? Discuss in the Talk of the Day blog at [STLtoday.com/talk](http://STLtoday.com/talk)

## Graphic

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PHOTO

CULTURE CLASH Westerners see Muslims as: Intolerant and violent. Muslims see Westerners as: Greedy and selfish. Survey of people in 15 nations shows deteriorati....

PHOTO - (MUSLIM DEMONSTRATION) PHOTO - (WALL STREET) GRAPHIC BY THE POST-DISPATCH - VIEWS ON SEPT. 11 GRAPHIC BY THE POST-DISPATCH - DEEP DIVIDE GRAPHICS BY THE POST-DISPATCH - U.S. VIEWS

**Load-Date:** June 23, 2006

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## *Is Annan Jumping the Gun?*

New York Sun (Archive)

June 12, 2006 Monday

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**Section:** FRONT PAGE; Pg. 1

**Length:** 856 words

**Byline:** Benny Avni

### **Body**

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The secretary-general of the United Nations, Kofi Annan, was "deeply disturbed," he said in an official statement on Friday, at the killing of women and children picnicking on a Gaza beach, committed "reportedly by Israeli forces."

Eyeless in Gaza, Mr. Annan carelessly relies on heart wrenching press photographs juxtaposing Israeli shelling with a child crying over her dead mother's body. Israel, meanwhile, fears inflaming the region where myths about the supposed Jewish thirst for innocent Arab blood quickly translates into a war cry for billions of Muslims around the world.

Back in September 2000, a Palestinian Arab schoolboy, Mohammed al-Dura, was killed while his father tried to shield him during a gunfire exchange in Gaza. A French television report that Israeli bullets killed the child became a significant catalyst for the so-called second intifada. Since then, however, most investigators have concluded that far from the Israelis being responsible, it was a bullet shot from the Arab side that most likely killed al-Dura.

Now the Israel Defense Forces, while quick to express regret over the death of seven members of the Ghalia family on the Gaza beach on Friday, vows to conduct a thorough investigation into the incident. "Our expression of sorrow does not imply taking responsibility for the incident," the IDF's chief of staff, Dan Halutz, stressed on Saturday.

Investigators have tracked all shells fired during the Friday Israeli raid against Gaza rocket launching sites. They have concluded that IDF air and naval firing did not land where the deaths occurred, while a single artillery shell has yet to be accounted for. The IDF, however, does not exclude the possibility that the deadly explosion's source was a land mine, put in by Palestinian Arabs fearing an Israeli invasion, or a locally made bomb.

The Palestinian Authority has refused to cooperate with the IDF's investigation. Telltale shrapnel hitting those among the 70 injured who were transferred to Israeli hospitals has been painstakingly removed by Gaza medics as key evidence. "Some in the Palestinian Authority would rather see this as a propaganda tool," said Israeli Foreign Ministry's spokesman, Mark Regev.

Prime Minister Olmert yesterday defended his left leaning daughter, Dana, who joined a demonstration in front of Mr. Halutz's home, where protesters denounced "war crimes." Aware that his upcoming visit to Britain is likely to be dominated by similar accusations, however, Mr. Olmert also noted that Kassam rockets were being fired from Gaza prior to the use of Friday's incident as an excuse by Hamas to call off a months' long truce.

### Is Annan Jumping the Gun?

Calling the bombing of Israel's southern border "an unending series of terrorist attacks designed to strike at civilians," Mr. Olmert told his cabinet, "The IDF is the most moral military in the world." For Israel, he stressed, "There has never been, and there isn't now, a policy of attacking civilians."

Morality aside, Israel has practical reasons to avoid civilian casualties: The IDF is also the world's most scrutinized military and, when it errs, the most roundly-condemned. Constant activity against terrorists who hide among civilians sharply increases its margin of error. At the same time, the local press, human rights activists, and independent Israeli courts - which do not exist on the other side - are vigilant and vocal, adding considerable backing to hypedup foreign accusations of atrocities.

While Israel expresses sorrow over civilian deaths, Palestinian Arab organizations stand in line to claim successful "martyrdom operations." Nevertheless, the world press, Europe, and the United Nations rush to condemn Israel when it is suspected of hitting innocents. Unconfirmed but widespread rumors, as in the so-called "Jenin massacre," add weight to the false symmetry that informs the approach of both sides to civilian casualties.

Mr. Annan's immediate repudiation, relying on "reported" Israeli culpability, was expressed just as a carefully written account of last year's Valentine's Day assassination of former Lebanese Prime Minister Hariri was released. Far from conclusive, the second special investigator of the case, Serge Brammertz, asked to extend the mandate of his team for another year.

Establishing facts is important. The Security Council realized that although the world was eager to free Lebanon of Syrian occupation, it could not rely on the assumption held by most Lebanese that Syria was behind the assassination. When the previous Hariri investigator, Detlev Mehlis, named Syrian officials as suspects, Mr. Annan quickly redacted their names from his report, fearing that the report would upset the regional balance of power.

If the IDF establishes that it did indeed kill the Ghalia family, it is sure to enact new procedures designed to further protect civilians in the future. Those, like Mr. Annan, who rashly rely on "reports" regarding Israel's actions, while at the same time advising caution when it comes to judging other cases, are profoundly unhelpful to the search for peace in the region and instead risk further inflaming already heightened passions.

**Load-Date:** June 12, 2006

## *Schoolgirl becomes an icon for Palestinians*

The International Herald Tribune

June 13, 2006 Tuesday

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**Section:** NEWS; Pg. 5

**Length:** 791 words

**Byline:** George Azar

**Dateline:** BEIT LAHIYA, Gaza Strip

### **Body**

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Huda Ghaliya, the sixth-grade student whose horrified screams as she knelt by her dead family on a Gaza beach were televised around the world, has quickly become an icon of the Palestinian struggle against Israeli might.

Eleven-year-old Huda unwittingly became a symbol of Palestinian pain and loss during an afternoon picnic with her family on a hot day when a cameraman captured her shrieking "Father, Father, Father!" as she hovered over the bloody bodies of 13 dead or wounded members of her family, hit by what was apparently an errant Israeli artillery shell.

Although Huda's mother, Hamdia, 42, survived the explosion, though badly wounded, Palestinians consider a fatherless child like Huda to be an orphan. Her father, Ali, 49, had another wife, Raisa, who died on the beach Friday, along with five of Huda's siblings.

On Saturday, the Palestinian Authority president, Mahmoud Abbas, and Prime Minister Ismail Haniya announced plans to adopt her.

A few kilometers south, at the graduation ceremony of Gaza's elite American School, the senior class president, Yasmine al-Khoudary, 17, evoked gasps from the audience, then roaring applause, when she interrupted her commencement speech to plead for the school to admit Huda Ghaliya and give her a full scholarship.

Moments after the ceremony, the school's board members announced that they would invite Huda to be the school's newest scholarship student.

From farmers to businessmen, Palestinians seemed to be rushing to embrace their latest orphan in the nearly 60-year conflict with Israel. Not since the terrified face of 12-year-old Muhammad al-Durra was filmed by a television cameraman moments before his death nearly six years ago in an Israeli-Palestinian clash in Gaza has a child captured the hearts and minds of the Palestinian public as has Huda Ghaliya.

In the case of Muhammad, Israel quickly assumed responsibility and apologized, though later there were some who contended that he might have been hit by a Palestinian bullet.

Friends and relatives say that Huda is a bright student who has been attending Shaima Elementary School for Girls in Beit Lahiya, a poor north Gazan town with a population of 35,000, best known for its magnificent strawberries, and more recently as a staging point for crude rocket attacks against Israel.

## Schoolgirl becomes an icon for Palestinians

Amal Ghaliya, 12, a cousin and classmate, said Huda loved reading, math and science and was among the top 10 students in her class. Her favorite books are the biography of the early scientist Hassan Ibn al-Haitham, considered the father of modern optics, and the Palestinian poet Mahmoud Darwish's famous work, "Identity Card."

Each day after school, Huda joined her father working their small plot of land, near the Israeli border. "She wanted to make her father proud," Amal said. "She adored her father."

June 7 was her last day of school, and she was anxiously awaiting the results of her exams when she went with her family on the beach outing.

Huda was one of 10 children of Ali with his wife Hamdia.

Huda returned to the village and is staying with an aunt, but on Sunday she was in Gaza, visiting her mother in the hospital.

In the village on Sunday, in the courtyard where the Ghaliya family held the wake, hundreds of women from across Gaza came to offer condolences.

"We will seek justice for your murderers," one woman sang, and others chanted, "We swear to God, to Muhammad, in the name of Hamas we will seek justice in your name, oh glorious martyrs."

The two dozen Ghaliya women welcomed the visitors and made no objections to their comments but looked at one another with silent unease, perhaps discomfited by the politicization of their family tragedy.

Kifah Ghaliya, 22, a cousin who spent Friday night with Huda, said Huda had been resting under a blanket on Friday when the shells hit the area where her family had set up their picnic.

Her oldest sister, Alia, 25, was still alive and told Huda to see if one of her two brothers was all right. He was, so Alia told her to check on her father. Huda found him dead, the moment captured on camera.

Alia died on the way to the hospital, along with three other sisters: Ilham, 15, Sabreen, 4, and Hanadi, 1. Raisa, 35, and her baby, 4-month-old Haitham, died on the beach.

Huda's siblings Amani, 22; Iham, 20; Ayham, 18; Adham, 9; and Latifa, 8, survived, as did a half-sister, Hadil, 8. Adham and Ayham are being treated in Israeli hospitals, and Amani, who is said to be in serious condition was expected to be moved to an Israeli hospital on Monday.

Mariam Ghaliya Ghaben, Huda's aunt, said at the wake that she was puzzled by all the attention poured on Huda.

"It is Hadil, my 8-year-old niece, who has lost both mother and father," she said. "They should be looking after her!"

**Load-Date:** June 13, 2006

## THE WEEK AHEAD

Financial Times (London, England)

May 22, 2006 Monday

London Edition 1

Copyright 2006 The Financial Times Limited

**Section:** FT PREVIEW; Pg. 38

**Length:** 825 words

### **Body**

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#### MONDAY 22

##### Ahold verdict

An Amsterdam court is expected to deliver its verdict in the case of four former directors of Ahold, the Dutch food retailer, charged in connection with a 2003 accounting scandal. The four are charged with falsifying documents, misleading the company's accountant and publishing incorrect financial reports. If found guilty they face between three and 14 months in prison.

##### Fishing in troubled waters

A delayed European fishing agreement with Morocco is set to be approved by European Union ministers, putting an end to an escalating internal dispute over its political implications for the long-standing conflict in the Western Sahara. However, a small group of EU countries led by Sweden and Finland remain opposed to the deal because it includes the coastal waters of the disputed Western Sahara.

##### Merkel in China

Angela Merkel (above right), German chancellor, makes her first official trip to China, where she will meet Hu Jintao, president. She will be accompanied by Michael Glos, economics minister, Wolfgang Tiefensee, transport minister, and a large industrial delegation, which is hoping to sign important contracts. She will raise the country's human rights problems, Iran's nuclear programme and the prospect of closer co-operation between China and Europe.

##### World Health gathering

The annual assembly of the 192-member World Health Organisation opens in Geneva (to May 27). The agenda includes bird flu, Aids, polio, intellectual property rights and drugs research, and destruction of remaining stocks of smallpox virus. The guest speaker tomorrow will be the Prince of Wales in his role as president of the Prince's Foundation for Integrated Health.

##### Biodiversity Day



## THE WEEK AHEAD

Today is International Biodiversity Day, whose theme of protecting biodiversity in drylands reflects the fact that 2006 is the United Nations international year for deserts and desertification. The UN says drylands - grasslands and arid regions - account for almost half the world's land and are home to almost 2bn people.

## FT Reports

Business Turnround: the time bomb ticking in your own workforce. An underfunded pension scheme can make a turnround more difficult.

Central and Eastern Europe: the diverse region is a magnet for investment.

## TUESDAY 23

## White House visit for Olmert

Ehud Olmert, Israeli prime minister, meets President George W. Bush at the White House, where they are expected to discuss Iran, the new Hamas-led government of the Palestinian Authority and bilateral issues.

## Human rights overview

Amnesty International, the human rights organisation, publishes its annual global human rights report. The overview covers 150 countries and documents human rights issues of concern during 2005. These include countries involved in the use of torture, detaining people without charge or trial and the disappearance of individuals.

## Shaking up warning systems

The World Meteorological Organisation in Geneva hosts a two-day symposium on multi-hazard warning systems. At present many countries have warning systems designed to cope with hazards such as cyclones or tsunamis. The symposium aims to prepare recommendations on how these systems can be combined or improved to cover more disasters at a low additional cost.

## WEDNESDAY 24

## FT Reports

Private Banking: wealth explosion attracts big players. Private money management is now seen as a growth business by the world's leading banks. (UK and Europe only)

Business of Sport: the power plays behind the World Cup kick-off. Fifa, along with Uefa, European football's governing body, is being forced to battle to retain control of the international game.

## THURSDAY 25

## Black Sea gathering

Vladimir Putin, Russian president, hosts a meeting with the European Union at the Black Sea resort of Sochi. Energy policy, Iran's nuclear programme and the Middle East peace process will be high on the agenda.

## Hay Festival

The Hay Festival (below) opens in the English-Welsh border town of Hay on Wye where writers, artists, actors, critics, philosophers and politicians gather (to June 4). Among this year's notables are Canadian writer Margaret Atwood and Seamus Heaney, Nobel Prize winner for literature.

## FRIDAY 26

## Nato spring session

## THE WEEK AHEAD

The Nato parliamentary assembly holds its spring session in Paris (to May 30). Guest speakers include Nicolas Sarkozy, French interior minister, Michele Alliot-Marie, French defence minister, Ilham Aliyev, Azerbaijan's president, and Mikheil Saakashvili, Georgian president.

## SATURDAY 27

## EU constitution

An informal meeting of European Union foreign ministers takes place in Klosterneuburg, Austria, to discuss the future of the EU constitution.

## SUNDAY 28

## French Open warms up

The grand slam tennis tournament gets under way on the clay of Roland Garros in Paris (to June 11). Spain's Rafael Nadal is the reigning men's champion, while Justine Henin-Hardenne of Belgium will be looking to retain her women's title.

Compiled by Ruth Sullivan

[ruth.sullivan@ft.com](mailto:ruth.sullivan@ft.com)

FT.com's guide to the week [www.ft.com/weekahead](http://www.ft.com/weekahead)

**Load-Date:** May 21, 2006

## READERS WRITE

The Atlanta Journal-Constitution

May 3, 2006 Wednesday

Main Edition

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### **The Atlanta Journal-Constitution**

**Section:** EDITORIAL; Pg. 14A

**Length:** 712 words

**Byline:** JULIE MISSROON, GREGORY G. GIRTMAN, PATRICK MALONE, JON SINTON, JERE DEVORE,  
SHAUL LAVAN

## **Body**

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Stone Mountain

Responses to "Carving out ideas for Stone Mountain," Metro, May 2

Not amused by proposal

I just read about Stone Mountain going "amusement theme park" on us. I grew up in Stone Mountain. I go now with my kids to the laser show just about every weekend that it is open. I take the kids once a week to climb the mountain.

The kids love it that they can see Atlanta and on a clear day see Kennesaw Mountain. This gets them out of the house, away from the television. But I will not continue to go if they turn this into an amusement park. Please do not turn this place of beauty into another attraction to make more money.

JULIE MISSROON, Snellville

Draw the line at the latest overdose of entertainment

For many years I took my family to Stone Mountain very often for a nice day of picnicking, bicycle riding, walking the trails and quiet relaxing. Now everyone has to be entertained, or worse, extremely entertained.

It was bad enough when the laser shows were started. Now we have to have another Disney or Six Flags-type invasion in a state park so the I-pod, computerized, cellphone and Playstation generation may have larger and larger visual entertainment.

Twenty years from now, Gen. Robert E. Lee will have a lighted blinking nose. Some time, somewhere, one of us has to put a foot down and say, "No more!"

## READERS WRITE

JERE DEVORE, Sandy Springs

Radio network offers balance

A recent letter writer attempted to forward the myth that liberals have had "the public discourse pretty much to themselves for decades" ("Threat makes liberals uncomfortable," @issue, April 27). Actually, the opposite is true.

The major broadcast networks and cable channels are owned by huge conservative corporations that were very slow to challenge the Bush administration on the rationale for the war in Iraq and runaway deficit spending.

In the 18 years since Rush Limbaugh took to the airwaves and lemming broadcasters everywhere followed suit with the now scores of conservative gabbers, talk radio has been the private domain of conservative and neo-conservative thinking and expression. Through their hateful speech, they have consistently branded liberals as un-American and most American women as "femiNazis" and practiced the politics of character assassination.

We started Air America Radio in 2004 to provide a little balance and a little light. Our hope is that we are long on facts and short on hate with a bent toward entertainment.

JON SINTON

Sinton is co-founder of Air America Radio Inc.

Illegal immigration

Take back our country, a little at a time

President Bush has said it is not logistically feasible to deport the millions of illegal immigrants who are here now. Why not? So it may take decades to achieve such a feat. It took decades for them to get here, so what is the difference?

Everyone in government makes it seem that deportation is something the people want to happen overnight or in a month or so. This is not the case.

GREGORY G. GIRTMAN, Sharpsburg

Smooth sailing Monday a welcome reprieve

Monday's illegal alien protest was very educational. My day was no different than any other, so I have concluded that I can live without illegal aliens.

The businesses that closed must depend on illegal aliens, so I will no longer patronize those establishments. I would like to thank all the illegals for their help Monday.

PATRICK MALONE, Snellville

Ignore Iran's worldwide threat at our peril

Rosa Brooks claimed that the next Middle East war will be between Iran and Israel ("Israel, Iran in war mode; U.S. tied up," @issue, May 2). She hypes prospects of a pre-emptive Israeli attack. However, Israel has shown a very low-key response to Iranian President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad's repeated calls to destroy Israel.

The real agenda of the Iranian regime is clear from a senior cleric's boast that one bomb would do the job, because of Israel's tiny size. That it would destroy all the holy sites in Jerusalem, and all the Palestinians too, is irrelevant to them.

## READERS WRITE

Iran is a threat not only to Israel, or even the United States. It threatens Saudi Arabia and the Gulf states. It has threatened Europe. It trains terror groups from Hezbollah to **Hamas** to Islamic Jihad. Ignoring its rhetoric may be as dangerous as ignoring Hitler's. The quandary is what to do about it.

SHAUL LAVAN, Atlanta

## Graphic

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Photo: "County Fair," a traditional theme park, is one of the concepts proposed for Stone Mountain Park. Officials for the company that oversees the attractions call the proposals only "market research."

**Load-Date:** May 3, 2006

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End of Document

## THE WEEK AHEAD

Financial Times (London, England)

May 8, 2006 Monday

London Edition 1

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**Section:** FT PREVIEW; Pg. 32

**Length:** 858 words

**Byline:** By MARTIN MULLIGAN

### **Body**

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#### MONDAY 8

##### Drugs law conference

The International Drug Enforcement Conference opens in Montreal, Canada. The conference brings together more than 300 drug law enforcement officials from 81 countries to discuss (to May 11) the global drug threat.

Iran nuclear gatheringForeign ministers from the permanent five members of the United Nations Security Council - including Margaret Beckett, Britain's new foreign secretary - meet in New York to discuss a resolution on Iran's nuclear programme. The US and the European Union want to set a deadline for a threat to impose sanctions if Iran fails to suspend sensitive nuclear activities. Russia opposes such a step.

Kenya parliamentary meetingThe Inter-Parliamentary Union begins its annual assembly in Nairobi, Kenya. More than 700 legislators from the union's 143 member parliaments are expected to attend the assembly, which will discuss (to May 12) the drought in east Africa, promotion of democracy, control of trafficking in small arms and light weapons, environmental degradation and violence against women.

#### TUESDAY 9

Quartet considers HamasThe dilemma facing the international community over Hamas's control of the Palestinian Authority will top the agenda of the meeting of the quartet of Middle East advisers at the United Nations in New York. The quartet comprises the US, Russia, the European Union and the UN. The EU wants to develop proposals for direct funding for doctors and teachers in the occupied territories but the US is more sceptical.

##### Towards multilingual internet

The International Telecommunication Union and the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation host a three-day international symposium in Geneva about promoting the multilingual internet. The symposium will look at ways of speeding up the introduction of multilingual internet addresses that use non-Latin characters, and of promoting multilingual web content.

##### Airbus complaint and WTO

## THE WEEK AHEAD

The dispute settlement body of the World Trade Organisation meets in Geneva to establish a second panel to investigate a US complaint about alleged illegal subsidies to Airbus, the European consortium. The European Union has agreed in principle to form a second panel for its cross-complaint against Boeing.

Human rights reformedThe United Nations general assembly in New York elects the 47 members of the new human rights council to replace the disbanded and discredited human rights commission. Human rights groups fear some countries with poor human rights records, such as Russia, China and Cuba, are likely to win seats in spite of hopes that the election process will keep out abusive governments.

## WEDNESDAY 10

Putin speaks to DumaVladimir Putin, the Russian president, is to present his seventh annual state of the nation address to the Duma at the Kremlin. While previous addresses have focused mainly on domestic policy, media leaks have suggested this year's will centre on Russia's place in the world. That theme could take on more resonance after the criticisms of Russia's policies and democratic record by Dick Cheney, the US vice-president, last week.

Corruption is bad for health

Transparency International, the corruption watchdog, publishes its report on global corruption with a focus on the detrimental effect of corruption on healthcare worldwide. The report recommends ways to prevent huge losses through embezzlement, corruption in the purchase of medicines and equipment, and payment fraud.

Iran's president to Indonesia

Mahmoud Ahmadinejad, Iran's president, is to visit Indonesia. He will have talks with senior leaders before attending a summit of Muslim countries in Bali. He will meet Susilo Bambang Yudhoyono, his Indonesian counterpart, and they are expected to sign agreements on tourism and energy co-operation.

FT ReportsDigital Business - will it make or break the bank?Copper - price rise prompts fear of a bubble.Madeira - tuning in to the new spirit of the age.

## THURSDAY 11

US report on terrorismThe subcommittee on terrorism and non-proliferation, which is part of the US House of Representatives committee on international relations, meets in Washington to discuss reviewing the State Department's annual report on terrorism.

FT Reports

City Recruitment - the perfect time for a job in the City (UK only).

## FRIDAY 12

Ukraine's president in Poland

Viktor Yuschenko, Ukraine's president, meets his counterpart Lech Kaczynski in Warsaw for further talks about Polish support for Ukraine's eventual membership of the European Union and Nato. They are also likely to discuss events in Belarus and relations with Russia. The meeting follows a conference of heads of state from central and eastern Europe in Vilnius in April.

## SATURDAY 13

World farmers' congress

The International Federation of Agricultural Producers, which groups farmers' organisations in 83 countries, holds its world congress in Seoul, South Korea. More than 300 participants are expected to attend the congress, which

## THE WEEK AHEAD

will discuss food security, environmental issues, food safety and farm trade negotiations in the World Trade Organisation.

Compiled by Martin Mulligan

[martin.mulligan@ft.com](mailto:martin.mulligan@ft.com) FT.com's guide to the week [www.ft.com/weekahead](http://www.ft.com/weekahead)

**Load-Date:** May 7, 2006

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## *What Roosevelt can teach the DAB*

South China Morning Post

March 8, 2006 Wednesday

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**Section:** NEWS; Letters; Pg. 18

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### **Body**

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For the sake of communal harmony, let me share a story with the public, and in particular with the Democratic Alliance for the Betterment and Progress of Hong Kong. When he was president of the United States, Franklin D. Roosevelt had a rebellious cabinet member who often went public with their disagreements. Asked why the man was not sacked, Roosevelt, a master of political infighting, offered this sage advice: better he defecate (though he used a less-decorous word) from the inside out than from the outside in.

Our chief executive is no less foxy in this game when considering appointing democrat Lau Sai-leung, now a full-time member of the Central Policy Unit. Why shouldn't Mr Lau be recruited to serve the government when he has talent to burn, with the added advantage for the chief executive that, in time, he will be "tamed" in the process? Being so intellectually cocooned, the DAB exposes its paucity of political savvy by instantly labelling Mr Lau "unpatriotic", a description that is already passé, if not obsolete, on the mainland. As well, hasn't the central government invited many Taiwanese leaders to Beijing to discuss mutual understanding? It is called the united front, a policy long practised by the Communist Party.

If the DAB had acted more judiciously, it would have avoided the embarrassment of an unseemly political backflip that would have done any Olympic gymnast proud.

CHAN SUI-WAN, Western

HSBC's 'local' charges

Now that the global net profits of HSBC have rocketed 17 per cent to a staggering \$15US billion, surely it's time again for our beloved bank to review its scale of charges. Might I suggest it start by dropping the \$20 charge for account holders to withdraw money at its ATMs outside Hong Kong - especially as this is the organisation that proudly claims to be "the world's local bank"?

Isn't it about time that local "there" became the same as local "here"?

NEIL CHASE, Ma On Shan

Denying young refugees

I address this letter to Social Welfare Director Paul Tang Kwok-wai. I am a ninth-grade student at the Hong Kong International School, and on behalf of my classmates I'd like to voice our deep concern for the children of refugee families in Hong Kong.

## What Roosevelt can teach the DAB

I speak with urgency and seriousness: refugee children are in need of your help. The government does not provide protection, shelter or basic needs for these children. Their parents aren't permitted to apply for government housing, or take up paid work. Consequentially, the refugee children suffer from the families' financial instabilities. Neither can the child attend school without requiring the parents to sacrifice money, which most likely should be spent on food.

I plead with Mr Tang to spare a little money to pay for the extras for the children, such as their school stationary, uniforms, textbooks and transport. Hong Kong has about 50 refugee children. The tiny sum would mean a lot to them. Refugees don't only seek charity, but also justice: a right to their livelihood.

OLIVIA CHIN, Tai Tam

A right to incite hatred?

I refer to Michael Chugani's article "Who is 'glorifying' terrorism?", (March 1). Only in the left-wing media would someone find a small, plastic replica of Osama bin Laden, a billionaire sheik and the modern face of terrorism, "funny". I would wager my last dollar that if one of Chugani's colleagues had a Japanese soldier in Nanking-Massacre guise on display, the columnist would be leading the rightful charge to have it removed, on the basis that it was inappropriate.

Along with the Che Guevara T-shirt worn by "Long Hair" Leung Kwok-hung, the replica desensitises and attempts to morally equate antisocial behaviour with "an alternative point of view". And regarding whether Palestinians choosing Hamas glorifies terrorism: any primary school student would conclude that when a majority chooses a party whose mission is to destroy an entire nation, then that group, by definition, glorifies terrorism. Strangely, Chugani's piece contains no condemnation of the protesters who riot, destroy and incite violence when they feel insulted. Nor are there calls for these groups to exhibit the same tolerance they expect and enjoy in the free societies where they reside.

GARY HUNT, Mid-Levels

Cross-border deliveries

There is a simple solution to stopping mainland women from visiting Hong Kong solely to give birth in our hospitals: deny entry to any mainland woman who is over 8 months' pregnant. This is the universal rule applied to immigration-control points around the world, and it gets tougher in such countries as the United States and Britain. Why can't the authorities enforce this? Are they afraid of political pressure from the north? Taxpayers' money is wasted, because the hospital charges can never be recovered. Alternatively, apply the mainland rule: if you cannot produce a valid medical-insurance certificate, there will be no treatment.

JOSEPH LEE, South Horizons

**Load-Date:** March 8, 2006

## ARTICLE: A dream deferred

The Nation (AsiaNet)

March 2, 2006 Thursday

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**Section:** NATIONWIDE INTERNATIONAL NEWS

**Length:** 833 words

### **Body**

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By BENAZIR BHUTTO - Listening to President Bush's Inaugural Address on January 20th, 2005, people around the world who aspire to democracy, social change, political reform, and human rights heard a remarkable statement of foreign policy for the world's oldest democracy and sole superpower: "We will persistently clarify the choice before every ruler and every nation: The moral choice between oppression, which is always wrong, and freedom which is eternally right. America will not pretend that jailed dissidents prefer their chains, or that women welcome humiliation and servitude, or that any human being aspires to live at the mercy of bullies." Yet, since then, the Bush Doctrine has been selectively applied. The Bush Doctrine, making democracy and human rights the centerpiece of US foreign policy, is waved at countries like Burma and Syria, but hardly applied to political and religious repression amongst US allies. And to me - most personally and painfully - democracy has been deferred in Pakistan by the United States in the face of the military dictatorship of General Pervez Musharraf.

There, the President could be making the same mistake as his predecessors did. The question is: Will America pay the same price in Pakistan that it's now paying in those other hotspots? Historically, the United States often chose to ally with authoritarian regimes out of a perceived "strategic interest." The result, though, was often myopia. America supported the Shah of Iran's regime without pressing for the fundamental reforms that could have legitimized his rule. That gave the United States cheap oil in the short-term; in the long-term, it gave the US the Ayatollah Khomeini, whose followers are still at loggerheads with Washington. Similarly, in my country, the "mops" of the 1980s embraced the brutal dictatorship of General Ziaul Haq, indifferent to or ignorant of the consequences. The "mops" also failed to nurture moderation and democratic values within the Afghan coalition fighting the Soviets, choosing instead to arm, train, empower, and enrich the most anti-democratic elements of the Mujahideen - ostensibly because they were the most accomplished fighters. This tragic miscalculation in the 1980s led directly to the Taliban in the 1990s and, eventually, to Al Qaeda on September 11, 2001.

Now, Washington could be making the same mistake in Pakistan. The "war" has changed, but the modus operandi remains the same. An authoritarian ruler plays the trump card of short-term cooperation in exchange for Western acquiescence to his brutal junta. The consequences may be just as tragic. US support for Musharraf could foment distrust and anger among the nation's masses, from intellectuals in the cities to the illiterate and desperate rural villagers in Sindh, Punjab, the Frontier, and Balochistan.

The price is unconscionably high for the dictator's minimalist, sham public support for the war on terror - especially since Musharraf allows Al Qaeda and the Taliban to roam unencumbered in critical areas of the Pakistani frontier.

During my tenure as Prime Minister, my government partly succeeded in reforming the political madrassas by introducing a modern curriculum of maths, science and computers. The Musharraf regime by neglecting the social and educational sector has created conditions that make the political madrassas expand and prosper. These

## ARTICLE: A dream deferred

unreformed madrassas are the breeding grounds for young people's rejection of political moderation and could be the direct consequences of the sustained repression of the popular democratic will - the destruction of democratic parties, the repression of the press, the choking of NGOs and labour unions, and the denial of basic human rights - that is the signature of the Musharraf dictatorship.

While Pakistan's recent riots seem to revolve around controversial cartoons that depict the Prophet Mohammed (pbuh) in a negative light, Washington should not ignore an important subtext at work. Musharraf bans all political demonstrations except for anti-American and anti-Western demonstrations. Thus, Pakistan's people and political parties used the cartoon incident to vent a broader anger; their protests are an explosion of frustration as much as religious piety. A nation that marginalized extremists in democratic elections from 1987 to Musharraf's military coup in 1999 is being radicalized by dictatorship. The religious parties never received more than 13 percent of the vote in national elections, but their support may be growing dramatically today. Just as the Palestinian vote for **Hamas** was fundamentally a vote against the status quo, the potential spread of support for religious parties in Pakistan may be a parallel "no vote" - a parallel cry for change.

What will happen to the Pakistani people's deferred dream of democracy? It is unlikely that it will disappear. The danger is that it could explode into violence and a clerical takeover - because political moderates were not allowed to function in the system.

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## *High-schoolers want the First Amendment to be the first to go*

University Wire

March 14, 2006 Tuesday

Copyright 2006 The Justice via U-Wire

**Section:** COLUMN

**Length:** 794 words

**Byline:** By Ken Goff, The Justice; **SOURCE:** Brandeis U.

**Dateline:** WALTHAM, Mass.

### **Body**

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On Jan. 31, a two-year, \$1 million research project conducted by the University of Connecticut concluded, yielding some terrifying results. This survey of over 100,000 high school students, 8,000 teachers and 500 administrators across the United States was called "The Future of the First Amendment."

As the United States continues to fight wars for freedom in foreign countries and as the Bush administration constantly reminds us how much the terrorists hate freedom, high school students across the country are unaware and unappreciative of the amendment guaranteeing us freedom of speech, assembly, the press and religion. According to the survey, nearly 75 percent of high school students either do not know about the First Amendment or claim they take it for granted. And that isn't even the scary part.

More than a third of students surveyed said they believe our freedom of speech goes "too far," and 17 percent said that people should not be allowed to express unpopular views. Half of the students believed the media should have to have stories pre-approved by the government. According to the teachers and principals surveyed, these beliefs stem from shortfalls in our educational system. Students who have taken classes dealing with journalism are much more likely to appreciate their First Amendment rights, but sparse budgets prevent schools from providing such classes. But insufficient education is not the only cause. Was our educational system really that much better 50 years ago?

Of course, people say that the future is doomed because of the younger generations' ignorance and apathy, but what generation hasn't had that said about them? I'm not willing to dismiss the dot-com generation so quickly; we are no more stupid than any other. There must be a reason, however, that today's youth is so unconcerned with the most basic pillars of freedom in American society. The way politicians toss around the word "freedom" doesn't help.

The Bush administration's main strength is its ability to sell its agenda to the public, and freedom is the buzzword of the new millennium. If the surveyed students had been asked the importance of freedom, their responses likely would have been overwhelmingly positive. The First Amendment, however, has been packaged as obsolete obstruction to the war against terror. But that isn't the main reason. High school students may suffer from an overabundance of freedom.

While our age group reached maturity on the cusp of the Internet revolution, current high-schoolers have had Instant Messenger screen names since they were able to read. These kids have had immediate access to pretty much every piece of information (and misinformation) out there, and have been able to say absolutely anything in

High-schoolers want the First Amendment to be the first to go

chat rooms and blogs without any repercussions. Maybe today's high school students are so inundated with freedoms that they've had enough. This generation can't understand the implications of oppressed thought, and instead of worrying about protecting everybody's freedom of speech, it seems most youths would rather somebody narrow down information for them. That they believe the government should be the one to do this is disconcerting. But even if there was somebody who could narrow what information is true and what is false, is it possible that we have taken our freedom of speech too far?

Yes, of course, women deserve rights, and the feminist movement helped women gain freedom. And because of their struggle, women are now completely free to shake their breasts in front of a Girls Gone Wild camera. The most violent video game we used to play was Duck Hunt (and that's only violent if you're playing with the vice president). Now, Grand Theft Auto is one of my favorite video games-but could glorifying the murder of police officers put real cops in danger? And as we fight for freedom and democracy abroad, terrorists in Hamas and the anti-American Venezuelan President Hugo Chavez have gained political power in legitimate, democratic elections. The kids make a point when they say some things would be better off if we limited free speech.

I would love to have an unbiased, all-knowing fact-checker to censor false information. But such a person does not exist, and giving the power to limit our freedoms to any individual or institution is begging for tyranny and oppression. That's why the First Amendment exists. As a liberal, it's no surprise that I stand fully in favor of full protection of our First Amendment rights. But at the same time, I believe that there should be limitations on the Second Amendment; the right to bear arms doesn't mean that everyone should own an Uzi. Maybe today's high schoolers are trying to tell us the same thing about our First Amendment.

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## ARTICLE: A dream deferred

The Nation (AsiaNet)

March 2, 2006 Thursday

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**Section:** NATIONWIDE INTERNATIONAL NEWS

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### **Body**

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## ARTICLE: A dream deferred

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**Load-Date:** March 3, 2006

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