

Date and Time: Saturday, May 4, 2024 2:28:00AM EEST

Job Number: 223498527

Documents (100)

1. Boxer Keeps Watch On a Fight for Life

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: "Hizbullah" OR "Hezbollah"
Search Type: Terms and Connectors

Narrowed by:

Content Type Narrowed by

News Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Jan 01, 2005 to

Jul 31, 2006

2. Israel targets Hezbollah in Lebanon

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: "Hizbullah" OR "Hezbollah" **Search Type:** Terms and Connectors

Narrowed by:

Content Type Narrowed by

News Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Jan 01, 2005 to

Jul 31, 2006

3. <u>Middle East conflict puts 'Rapture Index' up high: Websites anticipating Second Coming of Christ say events</u> in Israel are proof the Bible's prophecy is being fulfilled

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: "Hizbullah" OR "Hezbollah" **Search Type:** Terms and Connectors

Narrowed by:

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News Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Jan 01, 2005 to

Jul 31, 2006

4. Wait goes on for 10,000 Brits trapped in Lebanon

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: "Hizbullah" OR "Hezbollah" Search Type: Terms and Connectors

Narrowed by:

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News Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Jan 01, 2005 to

Jul 31, 2006

5. At Ground Zero in Beirut, baby waits to be born

Client/Matter: -None-



Search Terms: "Hizbullah" OR "Hezbollah" **Search Type:** Terms and Connectors

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News Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Jan 01, 2005 to

Jul 31, 2006

6. Exodus ends as thousands join protest

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: "Hizbullah" OR "Hezbollah" **Search Type:** Terms and Connectors

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News Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Jan 01, 2005 to

Jul 31, 2006

7. Anti- Syrian demonstration the biggest yet in Lebanon

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: "Hizbullah" OR "Hezbollah" Search Type: Terms and Connectors

Narrowed by:

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News Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Jan 01, 2005 to

Jul 31, 2006

8. Cry, the beloved city

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: "Hizbullah" OR "Hezbollah" **Search Type:** Terms and Connectors

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News Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Jan 01, 2005 to

Jul 31, 2006

9. Syria a haven for fleeing Lebanese

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: "Hizbullah" OR "Hezbollah" **Search Type:** Terms and Connectors

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News Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Jan 01, 2005 to

Jul 31, 2006

10. In Mideast, new forces are driving the politics

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: "Hizbullah" OR "Hezbollah" **Search Type:** Terms and Connectors

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News Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Jan 01, 2005 to

Jul 31, 2006

11. The Dig in Hosh

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: "Hizbullah" OR "Hezbollah" **Search Type:** Terms and Connectors

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News Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Jan 01, 2005 to

Jul 31, 2006

12. Biggest suicide wave in a bloody 2,000-year history

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: "Hizbullah" OR "Hezbollah" **Search Type:** Terms and Connectors

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Content Type Narrowed by

News Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Jan 01, 2005 to

Jul 31, 2006

13. Much too much LETTERS

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: "Hizbullah" OR "Hezbollah" **Search Type:** Terms and Connectors

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News Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Jan 01, 2005 to

Jul 31, 2006

14. Time to pension off the IRA: Ballots have replaced bullets. The hard men of the Irish republican movement

<u>have been left behind</u>

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: "Hizbullah" OR "Hezbollah" Search Type: Terms and Connectors

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News Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Jan 01, 2005 to

Jul 31, 2006

15. Israelis okay PM's gambit: Ariel Sharon forms a new centrist party to try to hold onto power

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: "Hizbullah" OR "Hezbollah" **Search Type:** Terms and Connectors

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Jul 31, 2006

16. Hezbollah bombed after Israeli bulldozer attacked

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: "Hizbullah" OR "Hezbollah" Search Type: Terms and Connectors

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News Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Jan 01, 2005 to

Jul 31, 2006

17. Long tragedy in the Mideast can't continue

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: "Hizbullah" OR "Hezbollah" **Search Type:** Terms and Connectors

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News Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Jan 01, 2005 to

Jul 31, 2006

18. Unexpected Whiff of Freedom Proves Bracing for the Mideast

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: "Hizbullah" OR "Hezbollah" **Search Type:** Terms and Connectors

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Jul 31, 2006

19. Attacks leave one in five Lebanese citizens without a home

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: "Hizbullah" OR "Hezbollah" **Search Type:** Terms and Connectors

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News Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Jan 01, 2005 to

Jul 31, 2006

20. Muslim shoots six in the US and blames Israel

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: "Hizbullah" OR "Hezbollah" **Search Type:** Terms and Connectors

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News Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Jan 01, 2005 to

21. Straight to the Point

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: "Hizbullah" OR "Hezbollah" **Search Type:** Terms and Connectors

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News Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Jan 01, 2005 to

Jul 31, 2006

22. Rice in London for Iran talks;

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: "Hizbullah" OR "Hezbollah" Search Type: Terms and Connectors

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Jul 31, 2006

23. Woman shot dead at Jewish centre: Gunman declared his anger toward Israel, then opened fire

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: "Hizbullah" OR "Hezbollah"

Search Type: Terms and Connectors

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News Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Jan 01, 2005 to

Jul 31, 2006

24. Israeli jets attack before hiatus: Outrage over Qana 'massacre' prompts Israel to suspend bombings

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: "Hizbullah" OR "Hezbollah" **Search Type:** Terms and Connectors

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News Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Jan 01, 2005 to

Jul 31, 2006

25. IRA: Give up the guns, go straight

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: "Hizbullah" OR "Hezbollah" Search Type: Terms and Connectors

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News Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Jan 01, 2005 to

26. <u>Bombs force Israeli families to flee: For some, finding shelter has meant separating children from their parents, writes Jonathan Finer.</u>

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: "Hizbullah" OR "Hezbollah" **Search Type:** Terms and Connectors

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News Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Jan 01, 2005 to

Jul 31, 2006

27. Good news from Gaza

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: "Hizbullah" OR "Hezbollah" Search Type: Terms and Connectors

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News Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Jan 01, 2005 to

Jul 31, 2006

28. <u>'They told them to evacuate the village then bombed their cars' HOSPITAL WORKER IN TYRE YESTERDAY</u>

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: "Hizbullah" OR "Hezbollah" Search Type: Terms and Connectors

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News Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Jan 01, 2005 to

Jul 31, 2006

29. How many more must they kill? But Blair and Bush still refuse to act

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: "Hizbullah" OR "Hezbollah" **Search Type:** Terms and Connectors

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News Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Jan 01, 2005 to

Jul 31, 2006

30. Palestinian Leader Orders Force to Find Seized Israeli

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: "Hizbullah" OR "Hezbollah" **Search Type:** Terms and Connectors

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News Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Jan 01, 2005 to

31. Labouring for dignity of dead as bombs fall nearby

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: "Hizbullah" OR "Hezbollah" **Search Type:** Terms and Connectors

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News Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Jan 01, 2005 to

Jul 31, 2006

32. LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: "Hizbullah" OR "Hezbollah" Search Type: Terms and Connectors

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News Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Jan 01, 2005 to

Jul 31, 2006

33. 'Jewish people are used to it - to suffer, to fight for our existence'

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: "Hizbullah" OR "Hezbollah" **Search Type:** Terms and Connectors

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News Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Jan 01, 2005 to

Jul 31, 2006

34. AIRLIFT BRITS FLEE LEBANON Biggest evacuation since Dunkirk

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: "Hizbullah" OR "Hezbollah"

Search Type: Terms and Connectors

Narrowed by:

Content Type Narrowed by

News Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Jan 01, 2005 to

Jul 31, 2006

35. Jewish security tightens: SEATTLE SHOOTING: Cautious, even if 'isolated incident'

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: "Hizbullah" OR "Hezbollah" **Search Type:** Terms and Connectors

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News Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Jan 01, 2005 to

Jul 31, 2006

36. Fifth of Lebanese made homeless

Client/Matter: -None-



Search Terms: "Hizbullah" OR "Hezbollah" **Search Type:** Terms and Connectors

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News Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Jan 01, 2005 to

Jul 31, 2006

37. Beauties and the peace

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: "Hizbullah" OR "Hezbollah" **Search Type:** Terms and Connectors

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News Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Jan 01, 2005 to

Jul 31, 2006

38. World in crisis LETTERS

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: "Hizbullah" OR "Hezbollah" Search Type: Terms and Connectors

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News Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Jan 01, 2005 to

Jul 31, 2006

39. GET US OUT! Biggest evacuation since Dunkirk

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: "Hizbullah" OR "Hezbollah" Search Type: Terms and Connectors

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News Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Jan 01, 2005 to

Jul 31, 2006

40. 'Pothole theory' may get a test in Mideast politics

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: "Hizbullah" OR "Hezbollah" **Search Type:** Terms and Connectors

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News Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Jan 01, 2005 to

Jul 31, 2006

41. 7 Canadians killed in Lebanon attack: Four Montreal children among the dead

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: "Hizbullah" OR "Hezbollah" Search Type: Terms and Connectors

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News Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Jan 01, 2005 to

Jul 31, 2006

42. Doomsday was right: world's ripe for disaster DIARY OF A DAY TRADER

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: "Hizbullah" OR "Hezbollah" Search Type: Terms and Connectors

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News Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Jan 01, 2005 to

Jul 31, 2006

43. Palestinians turn out to vote for president;

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: "Hizbullah" OR "Hezbollah" **Search Type:** Terms and Connectors

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News Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Jan 01, 2005 to

Jul 31, 2006

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

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: "Hizbullah" OR "Hezbollah" **Search Type:** Terms and Connectors

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News Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Jan 01, 2005 to

Jul 31, 2006

45. A Week in Books

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: "Hizbullah" OR "Hezbollah" **Search Type:** Terms and Connectors

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News Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Jan 01, 2005 to

Jul 31, 2006

46. Suspicion defines Syria 's international relationships

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: "Hizbullah" OR "Hezbollah" **Search Type:** Terms and Connectors

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News Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Jan 01, 2005 to

Jul 31, 2006

47. Blaming the extremists

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: "Hizbullah" OR "Hezbollah"

Search Type: Terms and Connectors

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News Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Jan 01, 2005 to

Jul 31, 2006

48. Smiles have faded in a magic land

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: "Hizbullah" OR "Hezbollah" Search Type: Terms and Connectors

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News Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Jan 01, 2005 to

Jul 31, 2006

49. Toasting friendships across the divide Taste of Lebanon

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: "Hizbullah" OR "Hezbollah" **Search Type:** Terms and Connectors

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News Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Jan 01, 2005 to

Jul 31, 2006

50. Soldiers hope stranded Canadians reach ship: Evacuation efforts are winding down

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: "Hizbullah" OR "Hezbollah" **Search Type:** Terms and Connectors

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News Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Jan 01, 2005 to

Jul 31, 2006

51. Is black-market baby formula financing terror?

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: "Hizbullah" OR "Hezbollah"

Search Type: Terms and Connectors **Narrowed by:**

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News Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Jan 01, 2005 to

52. Conflict likely to top G-8 talks

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: "Hizbullah" OR "Hezbollah" **Search Type:** Terms and Connectors

Narrowed by:

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News Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Jan 01, 2005 to

Jul 31, 2006

53. U.S. policy singles out Syria

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: "Hizbullah" OR "Hezbollah" Search Type: Terms and Connectors

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News Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Jan 01, 2005 to

Jul 31, 2006

54. As democracy advances, Islamic parties gain ground President Bush's call for free elections in the Mideast has produced surprises.

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: "Hizbullah" OR "Hezbollah" **Search Type:** Terms and Connectors

Narrowed by:

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News Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Jan 01, 2005 to

Jul 31, 2006

55. Middle East crisis: Air strikes: No hiding place for those caught up in bombing

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: "Hizbullah" OR "Hezbollah" **Search Type:** Terms and Connectors

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News Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Jan 01, 2005 to

Jul 31, 2006

56. Never mind Hillary - it's 'Laura for president' now

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: "Hizbullah" OR "Hezbollah" **Search Type:** Terms and Connectors

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News Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Jan 01, 2005 to

Jul 31, 2006

57. In Beirut, Cultural Life Is Another War Casualty



Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: "Hizbullah" OR "Hezbollah" Search Type: Terms and Connectors

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News Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Jan 01, 2005 to

Jul 31, 2006

58. MIDDLE EAST CRISIS: We are so glad to get out safely Mother tells of exhausting time

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: "Hizbullah" OR "Hezbollah" Search Type: Terms and Connectors

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News Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Jan 01, 2005 to

Jul 31, 2006

59. Britons back in the UK

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: "Hizbullah" OR "Hezbollah" **Search Type:** Terms and Connectors

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News Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Jan 01, 2005 to

Jul 31, 2006

60. Britons back in the UK

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: "Hizbullah" OR "Hezbollah" **Search Type:** Terms and Connectors

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News Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Jan 01, 2005 to

Jul 31, 2006

61. Britons back in the UK

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: "Hizbullah" OR "Hezbollah" **Search Type:** Terms and Connectors

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News Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Jan 01, 2005 to

Jul 31, 2006

62. JOURNALS

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: "Hizbullah" OR "Hezbollah"

Search Type: Terms and Connectors

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News Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Jan 01, 2005 to

Jul 31, 2006

63. Anti-war protestors march on Israeli, U.S. consulates

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: "Hizbullah" OR "Hezbollah" **Search Type:** Terms and Connectors

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News Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Jan 01, 2005 to

Jul 31, 2006

64. <u>Protesters keep pressure on Syria Lebanese opposition supporters pour into Beirut; Syrian agents evacuate</u> more offices

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: "Hizbullah" OR "Hezbollah" **Search Type:** Terms and Connectors

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News Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Jan 01, 2005 to

Jul 31, 2006

65. <u>Middle East crisis: They put the 86 corpses into plain wood caskets. Many were just big enough to fit a small child: Dozens of dead buried in temporary mass grave until fighting ends</u>

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: "Hizbullah" OR "Hezbollah" Search Type: Terms and Connectors

Narrowed by:

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News Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Jan 01, 2005 to

Jul 31, 2006

66. <u>Middle East crisis: Israelis take cover as rockets rain down on north: Barrage reminiscent of height of war in</u> 1980s: One dead, dozens hurt as residents flock to bunkers

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: "Hizbullah" OR "Hezbollah"
Search Type: Terms and Connectors

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Jul 31, 2006

67. Israel suspends air strikes after carnage

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: "Hizbullah" OR "Hezbollah" **Search Type:** Terms and Connectors

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News Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Jan 01, 2005 to

Jul 31, 2006

68. Medals ban is an absolute disgrace

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: "Hizbullah" OR "Hezbollah" **Search Type:** Terms and Connectors

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Jul 31, 2006

69. Fighting and death toll escalate in Gaza

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: "Hizbullah" OR "Hezbollah" **Search Type:** Terms and Connectors

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News Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Jan 01, 2005 to

Jul 31, 2006

70. Northern Israel: unpeopled: The feeling is like gambling, says a kibbutz farmer who has stayed

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: "Hizbullah" OR "Hezbollah" Search Type: Terms and Connectors

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News Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Jan 01, 2005 to

Jul 31, 2006

71. A harrowing escape, thoughts of gratitude and concern

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: "Hizbullah" OR "Hezbollah" **Search Type:** Terms and Connectors

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News Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Jan 01, 2005 to

Jul 31, 2006

72. MANMOHAN RAISES TOAST TO ONGOING EFFORT IN CRISIS-LADEN LEBANON

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: "Hizbullah" OR "Hezbollah" **Search Type:** Terms and Connectors

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News Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Jan 01, 2005 to

Jul 31, 2006

73. Prescott in charge is no joke

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: "Hizbullah" OR "Hezbollah" Search Type: Terms and Connectors

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News Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Jan 01, 2005 to

Jul 31, 2006

74. Surge of Violence in Mideast Forces Some Young Jews to Rethink a Rite of Passage

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: "Hizbullah" OR "Hezbollah" **Search Type:** Terms and Connectors

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News Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Jan 01, 2005 to

Jul 31, 2006

75. Reply: Letters and emails: Little space left for Israels critical friends

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: "Hizbullah" OR "Hezbollah" **Search Type:** Terms and Connectors

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News Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Jan 01, 2005 to

Jul 31, 2006

76. Opinion - Leadership and dialogue needed

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: "Hizbullah" OR "Hezbollah" **Search Type:** Terms and Connectors

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News Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Jan 01, 2005 to

Jul 31, 2006

77. No room for PC in combat

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: "Hizbullah" OR "Hezbollah" **Search Type:** Terms and Connectors

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News Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Jan 01, 2005 to

Jul 31, 2006

78. Huge Beirut demo tells Syria to quit; Damascus continues military withdrawal

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: "Hizbullah" OR "Hezbollah" **Search Type:** Terms and Connectors

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News Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Jan 01, 2005 to

Jul 31, 2006

79. Seattle ups security: Murder charges laid. Police on alert after Jewish centre shooting

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: "Hizbullah" OR "Hezbollah" Search Type: Terms and Connectors

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News Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Jan 01, 2005 to

Jul 31, 2006

80. Middle East Crisis - 'What we are witnessing is a war crime by Israel'

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: "Hizbullah" OR "Hezbollah" **Search Type:** Terms and Connectors

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News Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Jan 01, 2005 to

Jul 31, 2006

81. Anti- Syrian opposition dominates Lebanese assembly

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: "Hizbullah" OR "Hezbollah" **Search Type:** Terms and Connectors

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News Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Jan 01, 2005 to

Jul 31, 2006

82. Killings rock fragile peace

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: "Hizbullah" OR "Hezbollah" Search Type: Terms and Connectors

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News Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Jan 01, 2005 to

83. Egypt 's top cleric slams terror tactics: Fierce sermon condemns attacks

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: "Hizbullah" OR "Hezbollah" **Search Type:** Terms and Connectors

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News Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Jan 01, 2005 to

Jul 31, 2006

84. TV for kids: Militancy and games in Gaza Hamas to broadcast show for children

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: "Hizbullah" OR "Hezbollah" **Search Type:** Terms and Connectors

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News Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Jan 01, 2005 to

Jul 31, 2006

85. An absolute blast with the sunny girls from the past

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: "Hizbullah" OR "Hezbollah" **Search Type:** Terms and Connectors

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News Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Jan 01, 2005 to

Jul 31, 2006

86. Watching out for Islamic women; Democracy may set back Arab women

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: "Hizbullah" OR "Hezbollah"

Search Type: Terms and Connectors

Narrowed by:

Content Type Narrowed by

News Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Jan 01, 2005 to

Jul 31, 2006

87. FORGET DEBT, AND BAG THAT POLKA DOT DRESS

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: "Hizbullah" OR "Hezbollah" **Search Type:** Terms and Connectors

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News Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Jan 01, 2005 to

Jul 31, 2006

88. TV recipe: Militance and egg races Hamas seeks a new image with programming for children

Client/Matter: -None-



Search Terms: "Hizbullah" OR "Hezbollah" **Search Type:** Terms and Connectors

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Jul 31, 2006

89. Of racism, tyranny, and oppression

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: "Hizbullah" OR "Hezbollah" **Search Type:** Terms and Connectors

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News Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Jan 01, 2005 to

Jul 31, 2006

90. Shock and awe in Gaza

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: "Hizbullah" OR "Hezbollah" Search Type: Terms and Connectors

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News Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Jan 01, 2005 to

Jul 31, 2006

91. Ephraim Hardcastle

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: "Hizbullah" OR "Hezbollah" Search Type: Terms and Connectors

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News Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Jan 01, 2005 to

Jul 31, 2006

92. Agony of waiting ends for former Socceroos striker

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: "Hizbullah" OR "Hezbollah" **Search Type:** Terms and Connectors

Narrowed by:

Content Type Narrowed by

News Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Jan 01, 2005 to

Jul 31, 2006

93. Rice insists Syria end support for terrorists; Terrorist group believed responsible for recent attacks in Israel

thought to be based in Syria

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: "Hizbullah" OR "Hezbollah"

Search Type: Terms and Connectors

Narrowed by:

Content Type Narrowed by

News Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Jan 01, 2005 to

Jul 31, 2006

94. Arab masses generating own power

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: "Hizbullah" OR "Hezbollah" **Search Type:** Terms and Connectors

Narrowed by:

Content Type Narrowed by

News Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Jan 01, 2005 to

Jul 31, 2006

95. Extremism is not the way to assure safety

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: "Hizbullah" OR "Hezbollah" **Search Type:** Terms and Connectors

Narrowed by:

Content Type Narrowed by

News Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Jan 01, 2005 to

Jul 31, 2006

96. BREAST CHECKS SAVE LIVES.. SO WHY DO 1 IN 4 OF US NOT BOTHER?

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: "Hizbullah" OR "Hezbollah" **Search Type:** Terms and Connectors

Narrowed by:

Content Type Narrowed by

News Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Jan 01, 2005 to

Jul 31, 2006

97. Last-minute rush hits evacuation effort

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: "Hizbullah" OR "Hezbollah" **Search Type:** Terms and Connectors

Narrowed by:

Content Type Narrowed by

News Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Jan 01, 2005 to

Jul 31, 2006

98. Israel halts air attacks for 48 hours Suspension occurs after a strike kills 56 Lebanese

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: "Hizbullah" OR "Hezbollah" **Search Type:** Terms and Connectors

Narrowed by:

Content Type Narrowed by

News Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Jan 01, 2005 to

Jul 31, 2006

99. Thousands protest at journalist's funeral

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: "Hizbullah" OR "Hezbollah"

Search Type: Terms and Connectors

Narrowed by:

Content Type Narrowed by

News Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Jan 01, 2005 to

Jul 31, 2006

100. UN appeals for \$150M in cash; U.S. set to deliver aid in Lebanon

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: "Hizbullah" OR "Hezbollah" **Search Type:** Terms and Connectors

Narrowed by:

Content Type Narrowed by

News Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Jan 01, 2005 to



Boxer Keeps Watch On a Fight for Life

The New York Times
July 25, 2006 Tuesday
Late Edition - Final

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Section: Section D; Column 1; Sports Desk; Pg. 6; BOXING

Length: 807 words

Byline: By MITCH ABRAMSON

Body

The noise of an incoming missile sounds like "Whoomp!" according to Andrey Foreman of Haifa, Israel. He salutes the rocket's red glare with a shot of vodka from his fifth-floor balcony.

In Brooklyn, the sound of CNN and that of laughter, mostly at the expense of the correspondent Anderson Cooper, who wore a bulletproof vest during a telecast from Haifa, reverberates from the home of Andrey's son, Yuri Foreman.

"How is that vest going to save him from a missile?" Yuri joked.

Since two Israeli soldiers were abducted by the Shiite militant group <u>Hezbollah</u> on July 12, Yuri, an undefeated junior-middleweight boxer who was born in Belarus and reared in Haifa, has been watching from his home in Cobble Hill as a war unfolds.

Haifa, a port city in northern Israel of about 267,000, has received a torrent of rocket attacks from <u>Hezbollah</u> in Lebanon. Air-raid sirens and plumes of smoke are plentiful.

Seven years ago, Yuri, who will turn 26 on Aug. 5, left Haifa to pursue a professional boxing career in the United States and to escape scenes like that. His initial steps after he moved were awkward ones -- from a low-paying job in the garment district in Manhattan to problems with boxing promoters -- but he has gained his footing.

At 21-0 with eight knockouts, he is on the verge of stardom, but he would give almost anything to be back in Israel with his father, who turned 46 last Tuesday.

"I would rather be there," said Yuri, who won three Israeli national championships as an amateur. "I'm here doing my boxing career, and my dad is back in Israel. Every day is difficult. All I can do is sit here and watch the news and speak to him on the phone and speak to my friends. I told him I wanted to join the army to do some fighting. I want to help."

His father told him the army did not need a boxer to lead the charge.

"Your war is in the boxing ring," Andrey told Yuri during one of their daily conversations. "When you are in the ring, it's like you are fighting for Israel."

Those words put Yuri at ease, but another conversation they had did not.

Boxer Keeps Watch On a Fight for Life

"My father refuses to be intimidated by what is happening," Yuri said in his living room as scenes of the chaos splashed across the television. "He doesn't want to stay in the bunkers under his apartment where it is hot and boring to him. So he had a few friends over to his house, and they drink vodka on the balcony whenever a siren goes off warning of an incoming missile. They actually cheer and drink vodka when the siren goes off. It drives me crazy. I said, 'Dad, can you please be careful and go in the bunker?' He stayed on the balcony and watched a missile fall into the ocean."

When <u>Hezbollah</u> bombed a railway facility in Haifa on July 16, killing eight people, Andrey was some 500 yards away, working at a factory. He was given the rest of the day off.

Andrey told his son that he wished some of the news stations would focus on those in Israel who are making the best of the situation instead of only showing images of people running scared.

The streets of Haifa are empty, but the boxing gymnasium there is not. Yuri often calls the owner of the gym, Ilya Mesichef, to check on his safety. One recent conversation he had with Mesichef's mother revealed the bizarre nature of war in the Middle East.

"This idiot is in the gym training kids while everyone is in the bunker," she said. Somewhat alarmed, Yuri called Mesichef to see if it was true. Sure enough, while sirens were going off warning of another attack, the gym was teeming with boxers, mostly kids who rode their bikes from their homes to train.

"There's no point in having fear," Mesichef said, according to Yuri, in a telephone conversation. "If you're in a bunker or if you're in a boxing gym, if someone is meant to be killed, they will be killed. A few kids are getting ready for the world championships; they have to be ready. You just have to do your job and prepare and move on.

"I wish they would show on TV that people are not afraid instead of people who are scared. The bigger the rocket is that falls, the bigger our will is to win this battle."

But sometimes, discretion is the better part of valor. Yuri's father told of a Haifa resident who emerged from his bunker to take a drag on a cigarette, only to find a missile coming his way.

Yuri tore ligaments in his left hand when he defeated Jesus Felipe Valverde on June 3. So he has been away from the gym with not much to do but watch and listen to war stories.

"He sits around all day watching CNN," said his wife, Leyla Leidecker, a former fashion model from Hungary who fought in the New York Golden Gloves and is working on a documentary on <u>female</u> boxers. "But I believe that, somehow, this war has made him closer to his father. They talk every day now when before, maybe they did not."

http://www.nytimes.com

Graphic

Photo: Yuri Foreman is an unbeaten professional boxer living in Brooklyn, but his parents are in Haifa, Israel, a target of rocket attacks from Lebanon. (Photo by Robert Caplin for The New York Times)

Load-Date: July 25, 2006



Israel targets Hezbollah in Lebanon

Ottawa Citizen

January 18, 2005 Tuesday

Final Edition

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Section: NEWS; Pg. A7

Length: 144 words

Byline: The Associated Press

Dateline: BEIRUT

Body

BEIRUT - Israeli warplanes twice bombed suspected <u>Hezbollah</u> targets along the border in southern Lebanon yesterday, wounding two <u>women</u>, after guerrillas blew up an Israeli bulldozer in a disputed area near the frontier, Lebanese officials said.

Israeli artillery pounded positions in the disputed Chebaa Farms area, where the bulldozer attack took place, before fighter jets raided two other Lebanese border regions.

The Lebanese security officials, speaking on condition of anonymity, said two Lebanese <u>women</u> were injured after Israeli planes fired two missiles at targets in Qsair, an area about six kilometres from the Israeli border.

Hours later, another jet fired a missile at Wadi Izziyeh, an area where <u>Hezbollah</u> maintains positions between the southern port city of Tyre and the border town of Naqoura on the Mediterranean coast. There was no word on casualties.

Load-Date: January 18, 2005

End of Document



<u>Middle East conflict puts 'Rapture Index' up high: Websites anticipating</u> <u>Second Coming of Christ say events in Israel are proof the Bible's prophecy</u> <u>is being fulfilled</u>

The Vancouver Sun (British Columbia)

July 19, 2006 Wednesday

Final Edition

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Section: NEWS; Pg. A8

Length: 548 words

Byline: Charles Enman, CanWest News Service

Dateline: OTTAWA

Body

OTTAWA -- Rapture watchers, those who believe in a moment when Jesus Christ will take true Christians into heaven prior to his Second Coming, see great portent in what is now happening in the Middle East.

The website raptureready.com says it is time to "fasten your seatbelt." Its Rapture Index is now at 157 -- and those seatbelts needed fastening when the 145 threshold was passed.

The index has been higher. Following the Sept. 11, 2001, terrorist attacks on the United States, the index hit 182.

Raptureready.com looks at plagues, volcanoes, crime rates, and even globalism as precursors of the end times. It does not claim infallibility, but it does call the Rapture Index "a Dow Jones Industrial Average of end time activity." The higher the index, "the faster we're moving towards the occurrence of pre-tribulation rapture."

For some observers, the current hostilities between Israel, Hamas and <u>Hezbollah</u> are eerily reminiscent of images from the 14th chapter of the Book of Zechariah. One blogger, who calls himself Dr. Dominguez, M.D., points out on his blog biblia.com that the chapter "is about the horrible struggle between Israel, particularly Jerusalem, and the surrounding countries with the Second Coming of Christ."

The second verse of the chapter says nations will fight against Jerusalem: "The city will be captured, the houses ransacked, and the *women* raped. Half of the city will go into exile."

But the Lord will come and save Jerusalem: "Never again will it be destroyed," the 11th verse says. "Jerusalem will be secure."

The nations that fought Jerusalem will suffer terrible punishment: "Their flesh will rot while they are still standing on their feet, their eyes will rot in their sockets, and their tongues will rot in their mouths," the 12th verse predicts.

Dominguez cites <u>Hezbollah</u>'s declaration of war on Israel, the rumours of Iranian involvement, the attack on an Israeli warship and the pounding Israeli counter-attack as apparent signs that the prophecy of Zechariah may be in the process of being realized.

Middle East conflict puts 'Rapture Index' up high: Websites anticipating Second Coming of Christ say events in Israel are proof the Bible's prophecy is being fu....

Gerald Flurry, editor of thetrumpet.com, an online publication of the Philadelphia Church of God, also says the world is stumbling unwittingly toward the fulfilment of the prophecies of Zechariah. He points out that the United Nations, many individual nations and even many Israeli Jews are saying Israel must give up East Jerusalem if it is to live peacefully with its Palestinian neighbours. This means, he writes, that "the prophecy in Zechariah is now in the early stages of being fulfilled, even though the world doesn't know it!"

Even American politicians are touching on the matter. Paul Schmelzer, editor of eyeteeth.blogspot.com, points out that Newt Gingrich, former Republican speaker of the House of Representatives, believes the Third World War is now in process.

"We're in a war!" Gingrich told a Fox News interviewer. Moreover, "it's clearly worldwide."

The former speaker referred not only to violence in the Middle East, but also to the recent train bombings in Mumbai, India, ongoing problems in Iraq and Afghanistan, and even to recent arrests of 17 alleged terrorists in Toronto.

"You have Canadians plotting to blow up the Canadian Parliament and behead the prime minister," he said.

A measured response is not appropriate, Gingrich said.

Graphic

Colour Photo: Ariel Schait, Associated Press; An Israeli soldier runs to reload a heavy artillery piece. Rapture watchers are being told to fasten your seatbelt for the return of Christ.

Load-Date: July 19, 2006

End of Document



Wait goes on for 10,000 Brits trapped in Lebanon

Birmingham Post
July 17, 2006, Monday
First Edition

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Section: NEWS; Pg. 10

Length: 609 words

Byline: John Bingham

Body

The agony of waiting continued for thousands of British people caught up in the Lebanon crisis last night as preparations for a mass evacuation continued behind closed doors.

No formal announcement has been made on whether plans to pull out more than 10,000 British citizens are to be activated but two Royal Navy ships, aircraft carrier HMS Illustrious and assault ship HMS Bulwark, were heading across the Mediterranean ready to play a part.

Meanwhile EU foreign affairs supremo Javier Solana joined a team of UK diplomats and consular staff on a flight into Beirut from Cyprus onboard an RAF helicopter.

Last night one British charity worker told of the "absolutely horrific" sight of bombers passing overhead and the feeling of pow-erlessness to stop the killing.

Fierce fighting between Israel and <u>Hezbollah</u> raged for the fifth day since the kidnap of two Israeli soldiers by <u>Hezbollah</u> plunged the Middle East into crisis.

While Mr Solana was due to meet Lebanese Prime Minister Fuad Siniora, his British co-passengers were continuing preparations for a joint international evacuation by land, air or sea.

It is understood that preparations include talks calling on Israel to hold fire to prevent western vessels or aeroplanes coming under attack as they try to remove foreign nationals.

But officials stressed that the parties were being urged to call a complete ceasefire beyond the scope of any evacuation.

Addiction counsellor Clair Vainola, 31, from Newcastle upon Tyne, was spending last night in the refuge of a small yacht moored in a marina close to the US embassy in the hope that the site would be safe from Israeli bombing.

She told how other foreigners, including Australians, had also gathered at the same spot.

Describing her experiences, she said: "The worst moment for me was that look of terror on people's faces, mothers and **women** crying, trying to escape where the Israelis are bombing.

Wait goes on for 10,000 Brits trapped in Lebanon

"For me the worst moment is when I hear planes going over my head carrying missiles, when I see buildings going up in smoke knowing that people are being killed and that I am powerless to do anything."

She added: "What keeps me going is my faith in God - not Tony Blair - because I ultimately believe that whatever happens I will be OK either way . . . I have just got to have that faith that ultimately I will reach back home."

Describing her position, she added: "I could make a run for it up to Syria but unfortunately I am a woman on my own, it is very dangerous state of affairs if I could do that. I'm stuck as a sitting duck."

Sitting on a moored boat, organised by her anti-addiction group, Ms Vainola, was able to watch helicopters carrying US security teams land at the embassy where an evacuation of more than 20,000 Americans is being planned.

But despite the news of the British ships heading for the area she was pessimistic.

"I haven't heard a dicky bird from the British Embassy...what comfort is that to me when we are being bombed?"

With Beirut airport out of action, a naval blockade of Lebanese ports in place and the main Damascus highway closed, Britons were again urged not to try to flee by themselves but to be poised to travel at short notice.

Officials said that they were collecting details of all those who called the British Embassy.

As the British ships set off for the Middle East - the Illustrious from Gibraltar and the Bulwark from Barcelona - families of one of the crews left home disappointed.

Partners and children of personnel on the Illustrious had traveled to Gibraltar to meet the ship in port and sail back to Portsmouth on board.

As the carrier readied to head to the Middle East, they were put up in hotels and flown home.

Load-Date: July 17, 2006

End of Document



At Ground Zero in Beirut, baby waits to be born

Hindustan Times

July 31, 2006 Monday 11:47 AM EST

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Length: 522 words

Byline: Hindustan Times

Dateline: NEW DELHI, India

Body

NEW DELHI, India, July 31 -- FADIYA AL Ahmar will deliver her first baby in war-ravaged Beirut on Tuesday. Mercifully, Israel has announced its air strikes would stop for 48 hours, after its pounding snuffed out 54 civilian lives on Sunday.

"But you can never trust the Israelis," wails the 30-year-old, unsure of her safety at the Lebanese Red Cross shelter. "Whenever I hear Israeli jets fly, I run from the second to the ground floor. I am also taking pills to calm myself, knowing they could be dangerous in my present state. I am so frightened; my milk will be poison for my baby."Fadiya had left home in southern Beirut on July 12, hoping to be safe with her mother in Bourjel Brajni. On her way, the dreaded Israeli jets and aircrafts darkened the sky. And before she knew it, she was in war zone.

"Bombs were falling everywhere and I somehow managed to reach my mother." But Bourjel Brajni was nowhere as safe as she thought because the <u>Hezbollah</u> launches its attacks from there. She and her mother managed to survive in a makeshift shelter for seven days. "The Red Cross people said they couldn't come because our area was too unsafe."But none of this makes the Shiite woman blame the <u>Hezbollah</u> for her troubles. For her, "the cancer of Israel, spreading through the entire Arab world, is responsible for mine and all my countrymen's troubles."

Fatima's carpenter husband has left her for a day to check if anything remains of their house in southern Beirut."For nine months this baby was our dream. We were making a beautiful room for him but now everything is lost."With some regret, she continues, "I was born and raised in war and now my child is being born into it. I pray to Allah that Hasan Nasrallah wins this war and that Israel and America leave us in peace. If that doesn't happen, I will be forced to leave all I have and take my baby to somewhere safe, even outside Lebanon."

But Fatima feels the crisis has unified her country. Her doctor, Dr William Mouwad, and most of the Lebanese Red Cross volunteers are Christians.

Fatima says they have proved you don't need to be of the "same blood to stand by someone. I hope there is never any discrimination in this country and we all continue to be as patriotic as we are now." Dr. Mouwad has conducted four abortions in the last two weeks, "because of the mental and physical state of these <u>women</u>." But it's not just the arrival of Fatima's baby that is worrying him.

Most shelters have 20-25 people sleeping in the same room without bathrooms. "And if one child gets diarrhoea, everyone could get it," he says. Moreover there are few medicines, and the incalculable psychological damage. "Just yesterday there was this girl in my clinic who broke down while watching the news on TV. She said the girl on

At Ground Zero in Beirut, baby waits to be born

the screen was her sister. It's too early to see the results of this war, but I can tell you it is one of the biggest disasters I have ever seen."

Meanwhile, all national flags flew at half-mast in Beirut and banks and governmental institutions remained shut to mourn the deaths in Qana.

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Load-Date: August 7, 2006

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Exodus ends as thousands join protest

Yorkshire Post July 24, 2006

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Length: 603 words

Body

Final chance today for Britons to leave Lebanon as protesters appeal for peace in Middle East Paul Whitehouse Brian Dooks and Alexandra Wood THOUSANDS of anti-war protesters called for an end to the violence in the Middle East as refugees continue to flee the region. Specially chartered flights brought hundreds of British citizens to Britain over the weekend, after the deadline for the British maritime evacuation from southern Lebanon passed on Saturday. British passport holders who were left behind have another chance to leave today following an agreement with the German government which is carrying out an evacuation of its citizens from Tyre today. They must contact the British Embassy in Beirut or the Foreign and Commonwealth Office for further details.

In total, about 5,000 Britons have so far been evacuated to Cyprus, which in total has accommodated some 25,000 refugees with another 10,000 expected. Report from Israel yesterday suggested around half of all residents in north- ern towns and cities were fleeing south to escape the rocket bombardment by *Hezbollah*. British nationals have been advised to register with the British Embassy in Tel Aviv. Last night Israel's ambassador told a rally of British Jews his country had the support of the international community in its "struggle" against Hezbollah. Zvi Heifetz told the pro-Israeli gathering in north London that the "leaders of the civilised world" were not "blind to the facts" of the continuing crisis in Lebanon. Chief Rabbi Sir Jonathan Sacks told the rally at a school in Kenton that "every gesture of goodwill" by Israel had been seized on as "a sign of weakness" by its enemies. "Israel is fighting today in Lebanon because six years ago it withdrew from Lebanon," he said. "Israel is fighting today in Gaza because one year ago it withdrew from Gaza. And Israel discovered the terrible truth spoken by the late Mother Theresa - that no good deed goes unpunished." He said that after Israel withdrew from Lebanon, it accepted a "commitment" from the United Nations that it would not have to take further military action. "It is only acting today because the international community has failed to honour its obligations, when Israel met hers," he said. The rally followed a series of protests around Britain expressing anger at the Israeli bombing of Lebanon. In Yorkshire, a demonstration outside Sheffield's Town Hall was attended by some 100 people, including members of the Lebanese and Palestinian communities. Ali Reda, 32, from Rotherham, said he had family in the Lebanon who were trying to flee to Syria but were having difficulties in crossing the border. "They are at the border but the Syrians don't want them to enter. "Innocent people are getting killed, woman and kids. Blair and Bush rule the war, if they wanted to stop it they could do so immediately but they are encouraging the war against Lebanon." In York, more than 200 gathered at a demonstration in St Sampson's Square, organised by the Palestine Solidarity Campaign and York Against the War. Holding a photograph of a little girl critically injured on the streets of Beirut, University of York Professor Mohamed El Gomati said: "She had nothing to do with all of this, why is it that she has to die in such a brutal way? Mr Kim Howells has to answer for that." "Today we are calling on men, women and children not to shrug their shoulders and forget about the Palestinians, but to stand by the Palestinians and the Lebanese and say: 'This is wrong. Not in my name'." London organisers said more than 20,000 people attended a march from Whitehall to Hyde Park.

Exodus ends as thousands join protest

Load-Date: July 25, 2006

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Anti-Syrian demonstration the biggest yet in Lebanon

The Guardian (Charlottetown, Prince Edward Island)

March 15, 2005 Tuesday

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Section: WORLD; Pg. B6

Length: 224 words

Byline: AP

Body

Hundreds of thousands of opposition demonstrators chanted "Freedom, sovereignty, independence" and unfurled a huge Lebanese flag in Beirut Monday, the biggest protest yet in the opposition's duel of street rallies with supporters of the Damascus-backed government.

Crowds of men, <u>women</u> and children flooded Martyrs Square, spilling over into nearby streets, while more from across the country packed the roads into Beirut, responding to an opposition call to demonstrate for removal of Syrian troops from Lebanon.

"We are coming to liberate our country. We are coming to demand the truth," said Fatma Trad, a veiled Sunni Muslim woman who travelled from the remote region of Dinniyeh in northern Lebanon.

The assassination of former prime minister Rafik Hariri one month ago sparked the string of protests against Syria, the dominant power in Lebanon.

The throngs fell silent at 12:55 p.m. - the exact time Hariri was killed four weeks ago by a huge bomb in Beirut. The silence was broken only by church bells tolling and the flutter of flags.

Monday's protest easily topped a pro-government rally of hundreds of thousands of people last week by the Shiite Muslim guerrilla group *Hezbollah*. That show of strength forced the opposition to try to regain its momentum.

Syria's military withdrawal continued Monday, as intelligence agents closed two offices.

Load-Date: March 15, 2005

End of Document



Cry, the beloved city

Canberra Times (Australia)

July 22, 2006 Saturday

Final Edition

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Section: A; Pg. B01 Length: 1465 words

Byline: The Canberra Times

Body

IN THE year 551, the magnificent, wealthy city of Berytus - headquarters of the imperial East Mediterranean Roman fleet - was struck by a massive earthquake. In its aftermath, the sea withdrew several miles and the survivors - ancestors of the present-day Lebanese - walked out on the sands to loot the sunken merchant ships revealed in front of them.

That was when a vast tsunami returned to swamp the city and kill them all. So savagely was the old Beirut damaged that the Emperor Justinian sent gold from Constantinople as compensation to every family left alive.

Some cities seem forever doomed. When the Crusaders arrived at Beirut on their way to Jerusalem in the 11th century, they slaughtered every man, woman and child in the city. In World War I, Ottoman Beirut suffered a terrible famine; the Turkish army had commandeered all the grain and the Allied powers blockaded the coast. I still have some old postcards I bought here 30 years ago, of stick-like children standing in an orphanage, naked and abandoned.

An American woman living in Beirut in 1916 described how she "passed <u>women</u> and children lying by the roadside with closed eyes and ghastly, pale faces. It was a common thing to find people searching the garbage heaps for orange peel, old bones or other refuse, and eating them greedily when found. Everywhere <u>women</u> could be seen seeking eatable weeds among the grass along the roads ..."

How does this happen to Beirut? For 30 years, I've watched this place die and then rise from the grave and then die again, its apartment blocks pitted with so many bullets they looked like Irish lace, its people massacring each other.

I lived here through 15 years of civil war that took 150,000 lives, and two Israeli invasions and years of Israeli bombardments that cost the lives of a further 20,000 of its people. I have seen them armless, legless, headless, knifed, bombed and splashed across the walls of houses. Yet they are a fine, educated, moral people whose generosity amazes every foreigner, whose gentleness puts any Westerner to shame, and whose suffering we almost always ignore.

They look like us, the people of Beirut.

They have light-coloured skin and speak beautiful English and French. They travel the world. Their <u>women</u> are gorgeous and their food exquisite. But what are we saying of their fate today as the Israelis - in some of their cruellest attacks on this city and the surrounding countryside - tear them from their homes, bomb them on river

Cry, the beloved city

bridges, cut them off from food and water and electricity? We say that they started this latest war, and we compare their appalling casualties - 330 in all of Lebanon by yesterday - with Israel's at least 33 dead, as if the figures are the same.

And then, most disgraceful of all, we leave the Lebanese to their fate like a diseased people and spend our time evacuating our precious foreigners while tut-tutting about Israel's "disproportionate" response to the capture of its soldiers by *Hezbollah*.

I walked through the deserted city centre of Beirut this week and it reminded me more than ever of a film lot, a place of dreams too beautiful to last, a phoenix from the ashes of civil war whose plumage was so brightly coloured that it blinded its own people. This part of the city - once a Dresden of ruins - was rebuilt by Rafiq Hariri, the prime minister who was murdered scarcely a mile away on February 14 last year. The wreckage of that bomb blast, an awful precursor to the present war in which his inheritance is being vandalised by the Israelis, still stands beside the Mediterranean, waiting for the last UN investigator to look for clues to the assassination - an investigator who has long ago abandoned this besieged city for the safety of Cyprus.

At the empty Etoile restaurant - best snails and cappuccino in Beirut, where Hariri once dined Jacques Chirac - I sat on the pavement and watched the parliamentary guard still patrolling the facade of the French-built emporium that houses what is left of Lebanon's democracy.

So many of these streets were built by Parisians under the French mandate and they have been exquisitely restored, their mock Arabian doorways bejewelled with marble Roman columns dug from the ancient Via Maxima a few metres away.

Hariri loved this place and, taking Chirac for a beer one day, he caught sight of me sitting at a table. "Ah Robert, come over here," he roared and then turned to Chirac like a cat that was about to eat a canary. "I want to introduce you, Jacques, to the reporter who said I couldn't rebuild Beirut!"

And now it is being unbuilt. The Martyr Rafiq Hariri International Airport has been attacked three times by the Israelis, its glistening halls and shopping malls vibrating to the missiles that thunder into the runways and fuel depots. Hariri's wonderful transnational highway viaduct has been broken by Israeli bombers. Most of his motorway bridges have been destroyed.

The Roman-style lighthouse has been smashed by a missile from an Apache helicopter. Only this small jewel of a restaurant in the centre of Beirut has been spared. So far.

It is the slums of Haret Hreik and Ghobeiri and Shiyah that have been levelled and "rubble-ised" and pounded to dust, sending a quarter of a million Shia Muslims to seek sanctuary in schools and abandoned parks across the city. Here, indeed, was the headquarters of Hezbollah, another of those "centres of world terror" which the West keeps discovering in Muslim lands. Here lived Sayed Hassan Nasrallah, the Party of God's leader, a ruthless, caustic, calculating man; and Sayad Mohamed Fadlallah, among the wisest and most eloquent of clerics; and many of Hezbollah's top military planners - including, no doubt, the men who planned over many months the capture of the two Israeli soldiers last Wednesday. But did the tens of thousands of poor who live here deserve this act of mass punishment? For a country that boasts of its pinpoint accuracy - a doubtful notion in any case, but that's not the issue - what does this act of destruction tell us about Israel? Or about ourselves?

In a modern building in an undamaged part of Beirut, I come, quite by chance, across a well-known and prominent <u>Hezbollah</u> figure, open-neck white shirt, dark suit, clean shoes. "We will go on if we have to for days or weeks or months or ..."

And he counts these awful statistics off on the fingers of his left hand. "Believe me, we have bigger surprises still to come for the Israelis - much bigger, you will see. Then we will get our prisoners and it will take just a few small concessions." I walk outside, feeling as if I have been beaten over the head. Over the wall opposite there is purple bougainvillaea and white jasmine and a swamp of gardenias. The Lebanese love flowers, their colour and scent, and Beirut is draped in trees and bushes that smell like paradise.

Cry, the beloved city

As for the huddled masses from the powder of the bombed-out southern slums of Haret Hreik, I found hundreds of them on one day alone this week, sitting under trees and lying on the parched grass beside an ancient fountain donated to the city of Beirut by the Ottoman Sultan Abdul-Hamid.

How empires fall.

Far away, across the Mediterranean, two American helicopters from the USS Iwo Jima could be seen, heading through the mist and smoke towards the US embassy bunker complex at Awkar to evacuate more citizens of the American Empire. There was not a word from that same empire to help the people lying in the park, to offer them food or medical aid. And across them all has spread a dark grey smoke that works its way through the entire city, the fires of oil terminals and burning buildings turning into a cocktail of sulphurous air that moves below our doors and through our windows.

I smell it when I wake in the morning. Half the people of Beirut are coughing in this filth, breathing their own destruction as they contemplate their dead.

The anger that any human soul should feel at such suffering and loss was expressed so well by Lebanon's greatest poet, the mystic Khalil Gibran, when he wrote of the half million Lebanese who died in the 1916 famine, most of them residents of Beirut: My people died of hunger, and he who Did not perish from starvation was Butchered with the sword; They perished from hunger In a land rich with milk and honey.

They died because the vipers and Sons of vipers spat out poison into The space where the Holy Cedars and The roses and the jasmine breathe Their fragrance.

And the sword continues to cut its way through Beirut. When part of an aircraft - perhaps the wing-tip of an F-16 hit by a missile, although the Israelis deny this - came streaking out of the sky over the eastern suburbs last weekend, I raced to the scene to find a partly decapitated driver in his car and three Lebanese soldiers from the army's logistics unit.

Load-Date: July 21, 2006

End of Document



Syria a haven for fleeing Lebanese

St. Petersburg Times (Florida)

July 26, 2006 Wednesday

0 Edition

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Section: NATIONAL; Pg. 1A

Length: 1326 words

Byline: SUSAN TAYLOR MARTIN

Dateline: DAMASCUS, Syria

Body

By 1:30 p.m. on Day 12 of the Israeli offensive, Nabila Moussarah had had enough.

It wasn't just the deafening noise from Israeli bombs falling near her south Lebanon village. Or the anxiety of wondering if a missile might hit the bridge a few hundred feet from her home.

It was not even fear for herself. But could her 18-month-old son, Hussein, survive much longer without electricity for the machine that keeps him alive?

"All the time I was crying for my child," Moussarah says. "Me, I prefer to die in my country. But what is the reason for any kids to be killed? They haven't seen anything or done anything in their lives yet."

So at 2:30 p.m. Sunday, Moussarah, her husband, their four children and five other relatives piled into a van. Then they set out for neighboring Syria.

As fighting rages between Israel and the radical Lebanese group <u>Hezbollah</u>, Syria has become a safe haven for at least 120,000 people who have fled the violence in Lebanon. The influx has slowed, but hundreds still stream across the border every day.

Critics say Syria itself helped create the refugee crisis because it is a transit point for weapons that <u>Hezbollah</u> gets from its backer, Iran. Among them are the Katyusha rockets that have rained down on towns and cities in northern Israel, prompting the massive retaliation that has killed at least 400 Lebanese and sent others fleeing in terror.

But while Syria is considered a "rogue" nation by the United States and Israel, it has shown a softer side to generations of refugees: Palestinians who left Israel after it became a state in 1948; Lebanese who escaped their country during its 15-year civil war; 1-million Iraqis who have fled the mayhem that erupted after the 2003 U.S.-led invasion.

Syria, alone among Arab nations, lets all Arabs enter without a visa. Thus, this last bastion of pan-Arabism is now hosting yet another major wave of refugees.

Syria a haven for fleeing Lebanese

The Syrian Red Crescent Society - which so far is handling the influx with no outside help - meets refugees at the border and gives them food, water and medical care. The poorest are then registered and bused to temporary shelters in schools and government-owned summer youth camps.

For thousands of others, the temporary home away from home is the kind of modest hotel - bug zapper in the lobby and no air conditioning - where Nabila Moussarah and her family landed.

The Hotel Musalan Ibn Akeel is on the southern outskirts of Damascus - a largely Shiite Muslim area were most **women** are swathed in black. Some stores display posters of **Hezbollah** leader Hassan Nasrallah brandishing a Kalashnikov as Jerusalem's Dome of the Rock shrine gleams behind him.

This is Syria's peak season for religious tourism, when busloads of pilgrims come from Iran to visit the shrine of Zeinab, granddaughter of the prophet Mohammed. The hotel's owner says he could make a lot of money if he weren't giving a 50 percent discount to the Lebanese refugees. That cuts the cost of a small, two-bedroom efficiency to about \$60 a night.

Moussarah hasn't visited Zeinab's shrine; she spends all her time tending to her baby.

Because of an accident when he was 7 months old, Hussein breathes through a blue tracheotomy tube in his throat that must be frequently cleared. That can be done with a machine, but soon after Israel started bombing near the family's village of Zaharani, the power went out and the machine was useless.

Moussarah, a nurse, had to clear Hussein's airway herself. "I was nervous all the time."

As Israeli bombs and missiles hit ever closer to the bridge near their home, the family decided to leave. Once Hussein's medical equipment was loaded in the van, there was just enough room for each family member to take two changes of clothing.

They set out across the Bekaa Valley, the swath of rich farmland in eastern Lebanon. The main road had been bombed, forcing them into a gully so steep and rocky the van almost overturned.

Moussarah prayed the entire way. Her older children - 13, 7 and 5 - sang Itsy Bitsy Spider to distract Hussein's attention from the booms and thuds in the distance.

At last, 3½ hours later, they reached the border. "It was perfect," Moussarah says of Syrian immigration officials. "I told them I had a sick baby and they finished with me in five minutes."

Their driver recommended the hotel, where dozens of other Lebanese had already moved in.

There's Ahmed Kougok, who mourns his Canadian-Lebanese cousins. They recently built a house in south Lebanon as a vacation retreat and were staying in it for the first time. A bomb fell, killing everyone inside.

There's Eman Salehy, who just graduated from Bir Zeit University in the West Bank. She and her family had gone to Beirut to spend what they thought would be a relaxed few weeks away from the escalating Israeli-Palestinian conflict. Then Israeli bombs began falling a few hundred yards from her uncle's apartment building.

And Hadi Al Horschi, who works for a Lebanese utility company. A week ago Friday, he was walking toward his car in Beirut when shrapnel from an Israeli missile smashed the driver-side door. Several people were injured and other cars were destroyed.

Although he had to climb through the window, Horschi drove his damaged Toyota to Damascus with seven relatives crammed inside. Was there any room for luggage?

"This," he says, pointing to the jeans and sandals he has been wearing for days.

Syria a haven for fleeing Lebanese

Some of the refugees in Syria will quickly move on. Horschi is running out of money, so he will return to Beirut this week. Moussarah's husband has been working in the United Arab Emirates, and the family will stay in his apartment there for the time being.

But thousands of other refugees wonder where they will go from here.

Antonios Georges decided to take his daughter and pregnant wife to Syria after a bombing near their Beirut apartment killed several Lebanese soldiers.

But Georges, who occasionally works as a laborer, doesn't have a car, and taxi drivers wanted \$500 a person for the trip. The Georgeses had to sell every piece of jewelry they owned to raise the \$1,500.

Almost broke when they reached Damascus, Georges caught up with an acquaintance. He suggested they go to the Convent of Our Lady of Sednaya high in the mountains outside the city. After Jerusalem, it is the holiest site for Orthodox Christians: legend has it that the transfiguration of the Virgin Mary took place there.

At the height of the refugee influx, the convent sheltered nearly 300 Lebanese, including several relatives of one of the nuns. The number has dropped to about 100, including Georges and his family. A neighbor called to tell them that almost everything in their apartment has been stolen since they left.

The convent is in a beautiful, tranquil setting. But 3-year-old Habiba misses her home and cries much of the time. There is little to do but watch the tourists, many of them wealthy Lebanese Christians who also fled Beirut but can afford to go on to New York or Dubai.

But for Georges, a Christian himself, "what happens now is up the mercy of God, my God," he says. "This is the new life for me."

Susan Martin can be contacted at <u>susan@sptimes.com</u>.

THE LATEST

A MONTH OF FIGHTING: Tuesday marked a month since the start of what is now a two-front war between Israel and Islamic militants. At least 422 people have been killed in Lebanon and 42 in Israel.

U.N. OUTPOST HIT: At least two U.N. peacekeepers were killed in what U.N. Secretary-General Kofi Annan said he feared was a deliberate Israeli strike.

PASSAGE FOR A

MONEY FOR AMERICANS: The U.S. House voted to add money to a federal repatriation program and ensure that 8,000 to 15,000 Americans fleeing Lebanon have lodging, medical care and transportation.

LIMITED OFFENSIVE: Israeli army commanders said ground troops would not push deep into Lebanon, but instead aim to kill as many *Hezbollah* fighters as possible and push others away from the border.

ON THE WEB

Read Susan Taylor Martin's blog from the Mideast at www.sptimes.com/blogs/hotspots.

Graphic

Load-Date: July 26, 2006



In Mideast, new forces are driving the politics

The International Herald Tribune

March 7, 2005 Monday

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Section: NEWS; Pg. 1 Length: 1493 words

Byline: Neil Macfarquhar

Dateline: CAIRO:

Body

The leaders of about half of Egypt's rickety opposition parties sat down for one of their regular meetings under completely irregular circumstances. In the previous few days, President Hosni Mubarak had opened presidential elections to more than one candidate, and street demonstrators had helped topple Lebanon's government.

The mood around the table in a battered downtown Cairo office last week veered between humor and trepidation, participants said, as they faced the daunting prospect of fielding presidential candidates in just 75 days. "This is all totally new, and nobody is ready," said Mahmoud Abaza, the deputy leader of the Wafd Party, one of Egypt's few viable opposition groups. "Sometimes, even if you don't know how to swim, you just have to dive into the water and manage. Political life will change fundamentally."

The entire Middle East seems to be entering uncharted political and social territory with a similar mixture of anticipation and dread.

The New York Times

Events in Lebanon and Egypt, following closely on a limited vote for municipal councils in Saudi Arabia and landmark elections in Iraq and the Palestinian territories, have all combined to give the sense, however tentative, that twilight might be descending on authoritarian Arab government.

A combination of outside pressure and internal shifts has merged to create this moment. Arabs of a younger, more savvy generation appear more willing to take their dissatisfaction directly to the front stoop of repressive leaders.

They have been spurred by the rise of new technology, especially uncensored satellite television, which prevents Arab governments from hiding what is happening on their own streets. The Internet and mobile phones have also been deployed to erode government censorship and help activists mobilize in ways previous generations never could.

Another important factor, pressure from the Bush administration, emboldens demonstrators, who believe that their governments will be more hesitant to act against them with Washington linking its security to greater freedom after the Sept. 11 attacks. Washington says it will no longer support repressive governments, and young Arabs, while hardly enamored of U.S. policy in the region, want to test that promise.

Egypt's tiny opposition movement called Kifaya, or "Enough" in Arabic, in reference to Mubarak's 24-year tenure has drawn attention across the region, even if the police easily outnumber the few hundred demonstrators who

In Mideast, new forces are driving the politics

gather periodically outside courthouses or syndicate offices to bellow their trademark slogan. Before, protesters used to exploit solidarity demonstrations with the Palestinians to shout a few abusive slogans against Mubarak.

Suddenly, they are beaming their frustration right at him.

"Everything happening is taking place in one context, the bankruptcy of the authoritarian regimes and their rejection by the Arab people," said Michel Kilo, a political activist in Damascus.

"Democracy is being born, and the current authoritarianism is dying."

Even so, the changes wrought in each individual country thus far appear minor and as yet tentative, even if the idea of challenging authoritarian rule more directly is remarkably new.

In Egypt, everyone expects Mubarak to win another six-year term this fall. Old rules against basic freedoms like the right to assemble remain unaltered.

The Saud clan in Saudi Arabia has not ceded any real power in letting men, but not <u>women</u>, vote for only half the members of the country's nearly 200 councils. "Congratulations and More Power," reads a computer printout that staff members hung on the wall of the office of Tarek al-Kasabi, the chairman of a prominent Riyadh hospital, after he won one of seven City Council seats.

"People want to enlarge the decision-making process, which is a good and healthy thing," said Kasabi, a civil engineer by training, noting that he would rather move slowly than see the country destabilized. "We know how to reform better than anyone else. It is our life; nobody from outside can dictate how we live."

In Lebanon, young demonstrators with gelled hair or bare midriffs serve as an unlikely model for popular uprisings across the Arab world, especially since their goals do not quite apply elsewhere.

They seek to rid themselves of an outside power, Syria. They also were galvanized into collective action by a horrific one-time event.

The assassination on Feb. 14 of a former prime minister, Rafik Hariri, removed a real estate tycoon turned politician who embodied all the country's hopes for rebuilding after the civil war, which lasted from 1975 to 1990.

"If someone like Hariri can be assassinated, it means anyone in the country can be killed," Doreen Khoury, a 26-year-old student getting her master's degree in political science, said as she sat at the entrance to a small green pup tent downtown. The voice of Fayrouz, the country's most famous diva, boomed over a loudspeaker in the background, singing an ode to Lebanon.

Khoury and a colleague, Noura Mourad, have been camping for two weeks in the carnival-like tent city that sprang up spontaneously on Martyrs' Square, once the throbbing heart of this city and now largely sandy lots. Most demonstrators were not even born when the war destroyed it, but they know they want something different.

"This is something unknown for the Arab world it is pacifist, it is democratic and it is spontaneous," said Mourad, 24. The <u>women</u>, drawn by Hariri's funeral, said they were tired of the problems brought by Syria's appointing everyone in the country, from every building concierge to the president.

Taken together, events in Cairo, Riyadh, Beirut and beyond are the first taste of something new, and the participants are bound to thirst for more.

"The general atmosphere awaits big political and social change," said Dawood al-Shirian, a Saudi commentator with his own talk show on Dubai television. "There will have to be some sort of dialogue between the regimes and the people, or there will be confrontation, but things will not remain as they are."

Arabs differ on the degree to which U.S. influence helped foster the changed mood, but there is no doubt that pressure from the Bush administration played some role.

In Mideast, new forces are driving the politics

Iraq, however, serves more as a threat than a model. Although many Arabs were impressed by the zeal with which Iraqis turned out to vote on Jan. 30, the country remains a synonym for frightening, violent chaos.

"When you are a Syrian, or an Egyptian or a Saudi and you see what happened to Iraqi society over the past two years, you wonder if democracy deserves such instability and such a sacrifice of people," said Ghassan Salame, a former Lebanese cabinet minister.

The changes started long before the American military overthrew Saddam Hussein, even if the 1990s were marked by many false starts.

Parliamentary elections in Jordan, Yemen and Morocco, for example, did not dilute the power of their authoritarian rulers. As a result, many soured on the idea of democracy.

New technology has driven the steps toward greater freedoms. Satellite stations like Al Jazeera and Al Arabiya brought news of demonstrations to a widening audience. Indeed, the crowds in Beirut swelled in part because potential demonstrators could see that government troops had not opened fire. Months earlier, Arabs watched similar events unfold in Ukraine, and some wondered why the Arab world should stand apart.

But undoubtedly the most important new element is the spontaneous involvement of people themselves.

"You need democrats to produce democracy, you can't produce it through institutions," Salame said. "You need people to fight for it to make it real. Neither American tanks or domestic institutions can do it. You need democrats. In Beirut, you have a hard core of 10,000 to 15,000 youngsters who are democrats and who are imposing the tempo."

Support for them or what they have achieved is far from universal, either at home or abroad, however, and may yet limit what the demonstrators achieve.

Inside Lebanon, important domestic forces like the Syrian-backed <u>Hezbollah</u>, the most powerful Shiite organization, have yet to commit to the goal of ending Syrian dominance.

"Shiites are not comfortable with joining the opposition because they would be indirectly supporting U.S. policy in the region," said Amal Saad-Ghorayeb, an expert on *Hezbollah* at the Lebanese American University.

UN Security Council Resolution 1559, which the United States and France pushed through to make the demand for a Syrian withdrawal an international one, also stipulates disarming <u>Hezbollah</u>. The group is faced with an intense problem. <u>Hezbollah</u> remains popular among all Lebanese for ending the Israeli occupation of the south, but that popularity might fade if it backs Syria's continued presence.

The U.S. campaign for democracy in the Middle East is viewed by many nationalists and Islamists as a conspiracy to weaken the Arabs.

Mona el-Naggar contributed reporting for this article.

Load-Date: March 7, 2005



The Dig in Hosh

The New York Times
July 30, 2006 Sunday
Late Edition - Final

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Section: Section 4; Column 6; Week in Review Desk; Pg. 14; THE WORLD

Length: 218 words

Byline: By Tyler Hicks

Body

ON July 18, Israeli warplanes leveled a multifamily villa in Hosh, a Lebanese village a mile southeast of the coastal city of Tyre. Soon after, rescue workers arrived. They could hear voices from under the rubble. But the continuing bombardment made it impossible to conduct the rescue effort, says a Lebanese Army soldier who was at the scene. Other buildings and targets in the area were also hit by Israeli aircraft seeking <u>Hezbollah</u> leaders thought to be in the area.

Returning last week, Chinese United Nations workers, top, finally began to dig through the rubble, searching for the bodies of a Nigerian United Nations worker and five members of a Lebanese family. The body of one family member, middle, was carried out on Wednesday. A photo album, bottom, was found among the belongings. The excavation was supervised by the Lebanese Army.

Because of the number of strikes against the roads by Israeli aircraft, it is extremely difficult to move south or east of Tyre. Two Lebanese Red Cross vehicles were recently attacked east of Tyre. Three civilians were killed and six Red Cross volunteers were wounded. A United Nations post in Khiam was hit, killing four United Nations workers, and the hospitals and morgues are filled with men, **women** and children also killed while trying to flee the offensive.

http://www.nytimes.com

Graphic

Photos (Photographs and text by Tyler Hicks/The New York Times)

Load-Date: July 30, 2006



Biggest suicide wave in a bloody 2,000-year history

Sunday Times (London) July 31, 2005, Sunday

Copyright 2005 Times Newspapers Limited

Section: Features; News; 16

Length: 1021 words

Byline: Yuba Bessaoud

Body

The deadly tactic has been used for a long time but has never been more effective than today, writes Yuba Bessaoud

The use of suicide attacks in conflict dates back to at least 2,000 years ago but the savage wave of bombings that has hit the Middle East, America and much of Europe in the past five years is the worst that the world has known.

Since the twin towers of the World Trade Center were brought down by Al-Qaeda on September 11, 2001, scores of suicide attacks across the globe have killed more than 4,400 people.

According to a study by Robert Pape, associate professor of political science at the University of Chicago, the monthly toll of attacks has been steadily escalating and shows no sign of abating.

In his book, Dying to Win: the Strategic Logic of Suicide Terrorism, Pape challenges the assumption that there is a finite pool of terrorists willing to sacrifice themselves in suicide bombings. Such attacks, he argues, are an efficient means for small terrorist organisations to deliver a large and well targeted punch and have proved successful in meeting such groups' strategic aims.

"Suicide attacks have risen from an average of three per year in the 1980s to about 10 per year in the 1990s to nearly 50 in 2003," he said.

"Worse, suicide terrorism has become the most deadly form of terrorism. Suicide attacks amounted to just 3% of all terrorist incidents from 1980 through to 2003 but accounted for 48% of all fatalities -even if the losses of 9/11 (in which nearly 3,000 people died) are not counted."

The history of suicide assaults dates back to Judaea in the 1st century when Jewish Zealots, an extreme resistance sect, would sacrifice themselves by mounting individual attacks on Roman soldiers with knives. Although documentation is scarce, the Zealots were hundreds strong and committed "numerous daily murders".

Their actions culminated in the Jewish war of AD66 which ultimately brought about the exodus of the Jews from the region.

One thousand years later in northern Iran, the Hashshashin, or Assassins, used suicide attacks to deter neighbouring sultans in Persia and Iraq from invading.

The strategy continued until the mid-13th century when the Hashshashin were wiped out by the Mongols.

Biggest suicide wave in a bloody 2,000-year history

The next big wave of suicide attacks came during the second world war when the Japanese, forced on to the defensive by the Americans in 1944, sent the first kamikaze planes against the US navy. More than 30 ships were sunk and thousands of US military personnel were killed or wounded.

Sporadic suicide attacks were launched by the communists in the Vietnam war but, according to Pape, no significant sect of suicide attackers developed after the kamikaze until the early 1980s.

"In June 1982, Israel invaded Lebanon with 17,000 men, tanks and heavy artillery," said Pape. "A month later <u>Hezbollah</u> was born and in November of the same year it began to experiment with suicide bombings. The truck bombing of a US marine barracks in Beirut killed 241 Americans. From <u>Hezbollah</u>'s perspective it forced Ronald Reagan to withdraw all military forces from Lebanon."

The perceived strategic success of <u>Hezbollah</u>'s attack made other terrorist organisations take note. The Marxist-Hindu Tamil Tigers in Sri Lanka became the most prolific suicide bombers in the 1980s and 1990s, launching more than 143 individual attacks which killed 900 people, including Rajiv Gandhi, the Indian prime minister.

In recent years it has been Islamic terrorist organisations that have led the suicide charge. There have been more than 160 attacks launched in Israel, a further 21 that Pape says can be directly linked to Al-Qaeda and, since 2003 according to different sources -between 150 and 400 in Iraq.

With history showing that suicide killing has been adopted by a diverse range of secular and religious groups, the question of what drives suicide sects is being studied by psychologists.

Sharon Attia, of the London School of Economics, says that while individual suicide bombers may come from all walks of life they do exhibit some common traits.

"At first (in the Middle East) it was single, uneducated men, then educated men.

Then <u>women</u> and children," she said. "The common thing is that there is an issue of low self-esteem. It could be a family respect issue, it could be that people feel deprived or their self-esteem is very low for personal reasons."

Attia says the cultures from which suicide bombers are drawn also show similarities. "It usually occurs in collectivistic societies; societies where the interests of the group are seen as much more important than the individuals."

Others argue that terrorist organisations which launch suicide attacks are best understood by analysing them in the same way that experts tackle cults. Secular or religious, all display similar peculiarities.

Ian Howarth, of the Cult Information Centre, said that Al-Qaeda showed some parallels with organisations such as the Branch Davidians, who had sparked the Waco massacre in Texas in 1993: "A messianic and self-appointed leader; the use of psychological coercion; the creation of an insular and elitist environment; the idea that ends justify means; and a tendency to gather wealth at the top are common to all."

Howarth noted that non- terrorist cults can also be suicidal. In the Jonestown massacre of 1978, more than 900 members of the People's Temple cult killed themselves with poison on the demand of their leader.

Howarth added that it was possible to talk cult members out of their mindset. Most experts would seek to isolate individuals from the cult leader and other members and reason with them over a prolonged period. "You have to bring out what is happening behind the scenes and make it clear to them," he said.

"For example, they might believe the leader is full of peace and love and not making a penny out of it, but if you can expose the Swiss bank accounts and the limousines you may be able to turn them. It's a long process."

SUICIDE ATTACKS

British civilian fatalities since 2001

| New York 67 |
|--------------------------------------|
| London 45 (and 11 foreign nationals) |
| Turkey 4 |
| Iraq 5 |
| Egypt 3 (confirmed) |
| Qatar 1 |
| Saudi Arabia 1 |
| Total: 126 |
| |
| Graphic |
| |
| Focus |

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Load-Date: August 1, 2005



Much too much; LETTERS

Daily Mail (London) July 31, 2006 Monday

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Section: ED IRE; Pg. 57

Length: 245 words

Body

WITHOUT warning, the Harrier jets streak in low along the River Foyle, banking sharply over the Brandywell before unleashing their missiles at the sprawling Creggan estate.

The shock of the explosions is followed, for a few seconds, by an unearthly silence and then by the rumble of raining masonry and the screams of the wounded. Terrified men, <u>women</u> and children run in every direction but, as the jets turn for another attack, there is nowhere to hide.

A pall of black smoke indicates that a similar fate has befallen the Bogside and the air is heavy with the nauseating smell of roasting human flesh.

A suave RAF spokesman is already on the radio telling the world that only legitimate military targets were hit.

Preposterous, of course! At no time during Britain's dirty war against the IRA did the thought of bombing nationalist Derry ever cross even the most hawkish military mind, not even for a fraction of a second.

But this is precisely what is happening in southern Lebanon even as I write.

No one questions the Israelis' genuine fear of the indiscriminate <u>Hezbollah</u> rockets, nor challenges their right to take proportionate action.

What horrifies the world is the utter disproportionality of the Israelis' actions destroying entire villages, slaughtering children, cutting thousands off from the basic necessities of human life.

That, and the inherently racist assumption that every Israeli life is worth at least 10 Lebanese lives.

FERGUS MCGRATH, Drumcondra, Dublin 9

Load-Date: July 31, 2006



<u>Time to pension off the IRA: Ballots have replaced bullets. The hard men of</u> the Irish republican movement have been left behind

The Gazette (Montreal)

March 17, 2005 Thursday

Final Edition

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Section: EDITORIAL / OP-ED; Pg. A23

Length: 655 words

Byline: TRUDY RUBIN, Knight Ridder Newspapers

Body

Today is St. Patrick's Day. But Sinn Fein - the political wing of the Irish Republican Army - is being snubbed by the White House. Even a Boston Irishman like Senator Ted Kennedy is turning up his nose.

For the first time since 1995, Sinn Fein leaders won't be at the White House for shamrock celebrations. The reason: The IRA has turned from fighting for a political cause to barroom brawls and bank heists. And Sinn Fein, whose leaders have been "outed" as IRA leaders, can't escape responsibility for IRA crimes.

IRA hard men are still reluctant to give up their arms in a verifiable fashion, despite the 1998 Good Friday peace accord between Catholics and Protestants in Northern Ireland. The IRA stands accused of robbing a bank in the Irish Republic of \$50 million in December. Other IRA members used knives to slit the throat of Catholic Robert McCartney in a Belfast bar on Jan. 30.

Time was when residents of Belfast's Catholic slums were grateful to the IRA, which fought for Catholic rights and defended them against vicious attacks by Protestant militias. But times have changed.

The Good Friday accords are temporarily frozen, but sectarian violence in Northern Ireland has halted. The economy is booming, and unemployment has dropped to 4.7 per cent, as investment rises. There are excellent prospects for stronger economic and political ties between Northern Ireland and the prosperous Irish Republic. People don't want to live in the past.

So when the five sisters of the murdered Robert McCartney decided to break the code of silence Catholics normally observe about IRA activities, they got support in their community. The sisters called on the IRA to stop protecting the killers. The White House invited the McCartneys to the St. Paddy's Day party instead of Northern Irish political leaders. Even Sinn Fein leader Gerry Adams has praised the **women**.

But none of the 70 witnesses to the murder - including two Sinn Fein political candidates - has gone to the police.

The IRA did ask the McCartneys whether they wanted the organization to handle the matter. It offered to shoot the offenders. The sisters angrily declined. The fact such an offer could be made, in this day and age, in Europe, shows how out of touch the IRA has become.

Time to pension off the IRA: Ballots have replaced bullets. The hard men of the Irish republican movement have been left behind

Despite a bitter history of British repression, of discrimination by Protestants against Catholics in Northern Ireland, despite the anti-Catholic bigotry of Protestant leader Ian Paisley, the age of bullets has been replaced by the time of ballots.

Catholics now have a legitimate way to address grievances and seek power. Sinn Fein has gained strength as a political party in Northern Ireland and in the republic. In the words of Mitchell Reiss, President George W. Bush's special envoy on Northern Ireland: "There's no place in 2005 in Europe for a private army associated with a political party."

Reiss called for the IRA to disband. But what is most important is whether the IRA gives up its guns.

"It doesn't matter (if the IRA is disbanded) if it doesn't carry out criminal activity," says Paul Murphy, British secretary of state for Northern Ireland. "Those days are gone. Sinn Fein must go down an exclusively political road."

Thousands of kilometres away, the militant Lebanese group <u>Hezbollah</u> is facing a similar choice. As it showed by turning out 500,000 demonstrators, <u>Hezbollah</u> is a major political force in Lebanon - on the streets and in parliament. But the group, which has carried out terrorist operations in the past, insists on keeping its armed militia, despite U.S. and United Nations calls for it to disarm.

Surely, Northern Ireland is more politically advanced than Lebanon. Even Gerry Adams has said he hopes the IRA will disband, but "in a dignified way."

Surely, old republican fighters can find other employ than becoming a new mafia. It's time for Sinn Fein and its supporters to demand that the IRA become the Old Comrades Association and to pension its members off.

Graphic

Photo: REUTERS; Gerry Adams won't be at the White House today.

Load-Date: March 17, 2005



<u>Israelis okay PM's gambit: Ariel Sharon forms a new centrist party to try to</u> hold onto power

The Vancouver Sun (British Columbia)

November 23, 2005 Wednesday

Final Edition

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Section: NEWS; Pg. A13

Length: 596 words

Byline: Matthew Fisher, CanWest News Service

Dateline: JERUSALEM

Body

JERUSALEM -- A rush of fresh opinion polls suggest Prime Minister Ariel Sharon's bold gambit to stay in power by creating a new, centrist party has been welcomed by Israelis.

Three separate newspaper polls published Tuesday showed Sharon's new party would gain 33 Knesset seats and, with the support of the Labour Party and other centre-left parties, could easily form a new coalition after elections that are to be held on March 28, according to a statement released by the Knesset speaker late Tuesday.

At the same time, the right-wing Likud Party, which Sharon quit two days ago, may suffer a crushing blow. Its seats in the Knesset could be reduced from 40 to 15.

"What Sharon has done has changed the whole political scene," said Amnon Rubenstein, a prominent law professor and founder of the liberal Shinui Party. "There will be a strong two-party majority [Sharon's new party and Labour] which will form a national-unity government. They will be for a two-state solution and territorial compromise and against the settlements and the outposts in the West Bank. And Likud will become a marginal opposition party."

Although famous for having been for so long the settler movement's greatest champion, it was not that odd that Sharon had shifted to the political centre, according to Yoram Peri, a political communications professor at Tel Aviv University.

"Sharon has always been a very pragmatic man without much love for institutions or organizational frameworks," Peri said. "He took Israel out of Sinai, destroyed a city he had built and then withdrew from the West Bank because he believed that this was in the national interest. But he has always been like this. I remember when I was a journalist covering the Yom Kippur War he stole jeeps and tanks from another unit. He did it because he thought his task was so important. He believed the future of Israeli defense force and the state of Israel were at stake."

What Sharon recognized, Peri said, was the Israeli public had formed a strong political centre for the past few years, that this centre wanted to give back part of the territories, but not all of them, and that it was prepared to act unilaterally.

But the official political map, which still tilted well to the right, did not represent the new Israeli reality, he said.

Israelis okay PM's gambit: Ariel Sharon forms a new centrist party to try to hold onto power

The 77-year old prime minister's new party got its second name in as many days on Tuesday. Already banished are the words National Responsibility, which Sharon used several times during a campaign-style speech and news conference Monday. The new, tentative name for the group, according to Israeli radio, is to be Kadima, which means "forward" in Hebrew. But "Kadima" has yet to be approved by Sharon.

A total of 14 Likud deputies in the Knesset have joined whatever the new group is to be called. Sharon may have also scored a breakthrough by convincing at least one Labour Party deputy to defect, according to Israeli media reports.

Fourteen was a magic number of sorts because in Israel's complicated political system it means Sharon's new party will get additional free time political broadcasts on television and radio and will be eligible for millions of shekels of government funding to help pay for its election campaign.

Likud, meanwhile, put a brave face on a bleak situation Tuesday. At least seven of its remaining 26 deputies declared their intention to seek the leadership in primaries that begin December 18. They include the favourite, former prime minister Benjamin Netanyahu, defence minister Shaul Mofaz, foreign minister Silvan Shalom and hardline right-winger Moshe Feiglin.

Graphic

Colour Photo: Mohammed Zaatari, Associated Press; Lebanese <u>women</u> throw rose petals and rice at the ambulance carrying the coffin of <u>Hezbollah</u> fighter Youssef Barakat, who was killed by Israeli forces on Monday, during his funeral procession at the village of Zibbeqine near the southern port city of Tyre, Lebanon, Tuesday. <u>Hezbollah</u> rockets had blasted Israeli army outposts along the border.

Load-Date: November 23, 2005



Hezbollah bombed after Israeli bulldozer attacked

Guelph Mercury (Ontario, Canada)

January 18, 2005 Tuesday Final Edition

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Section: NEWS; Pg. A10; NEWS

Length: 97 words **Dateline:** BEIRUT

Body

Israeli warplanes twice bombed suspected <u>Hezbollah</u> targets along the border in southern Lebanon on Monday, wounding two <u>women</u>, after guerrillas blew up an Israeli bulldozer in a disputed area near the frontier, Lebanese officials said.

Israeli artillery pounded positions in the disputed Chebaa Farms area, where the bulldozer attack took place, before fighter jets raided two other Lebanese border regions.

The flare-up near Israel's northern border comes as the Palestinian Authority tries to rein in Palestinian militants responsible for attacks in southern Israel.

Associated Press

Load-Date: January 18, 2005



Long tragedy in the Mideast can't continue

St. Petersburg Times (Florida)

July 22, 2006 Saturday

1 Edition

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Section: NATIONAL; Pg. 15A

Length: 2965 words

Body

Re: Israel must strike at terrorist leadership, July 17.

Twenty-four years ago, in my letter to the editor, I agonized over the suffering of the Lebanese children during Israel's then-siege of Beirut. Once again, Beirut and Lebanon's innocent citizens suffer destruction and death, and the clock is ticking ominously.

Michael Oren doesn't mince words in this column when he points at Iran and Syria as the countries responsible for the bloodshed in the region. Their proxies - Hamas and <u>Hezbollah</u> - infect the Arab masses, and the spread of the disease is frightening. No longer can the world allow appearements and cease-fires to lull it into a false sense of security, giving the aggressors time to regroup and strike again - and more forcefully.

Israel had never threatened its neighbors with annihilation. Far from being expansionist, Israel had ceded land to its implacable adversaries in exchange for peace. Arabs, as citizens of Israel, share the same fruits of their labor and freedoms as all law-abiding citizens. It is tragic that Arabs in their pathological hatred chose the paths of intransigence, obstructionism and armed conflicts rather than accommodation, and pooled all their assets for destruction of Israel. In contrast, Israelis rolled up their sleeves and, out of a barren desert, built a country with industries, commerce, arts, medicine and sciences that are the envy of the world.

Let's face it: There can be no more niceties or double talk. Whenever attacked, Israel is sure to defend itself with all the means at its disposal, and in the game of quantifying the degree of response or retaliation, long-range ballistic missiles are sure to be factored in. Because of such a scary scenario, I will end this letter as I ended the one you published on Aug. 15, 1982, under the heading Prayer for peace: I hope that the bloodshed in Lebanon will give way to an era where the Palestinians, Arabs and the Israelis will live as they must, as friendly neighbors within their respective borders in lasting peace.

Jerry Rawicki, Seminole

A response too broad

Yes, Israel needed to respond to Islamic kidnapping of its soldiers, but why in such devastating, general assaults as its attacks on Lebanon, and why not more localized?

Perhaps Prime Minister Ehud Olmert was trying to live up to Ariel Sharon's crushing legacy to show he was not weak. Or perhaps Israel is attempting to bring on a regional war that will involve Syria and even Iran and, therefore, very likely America as well.

W.H. Riddell, Tampa

Israel is doing what it must

To those who feel that Israel is overreacting to <u>Hezbollah</u> and Hamas attacks, let me recall the world's reaction to Hitler's Holocaust. The world expressed regrets but did not interfere until Hitler started to step on their toes when he bombarded London and sank American ships.

The surviving Jews in Israel learned their lesson. They are not waiting for the powers of the world to come to their rescue. The leaders of the G-8 countries recognized the right of Israel to defend itself against those who conspire to destroy it. Overreaction would have been a full-scale attack on land, air and sea against Lebanon, Syria and Iran. So we can see that the Israeli government heeded the warning not to overreact.

Those who would like to see an immediate cease-fire are the supporters of Israel's enemies, and there are many of them. They argue that Israel is creating animosity among friends. Well, true friends of Israel realize that Israel has to defend itself and not stop until Hamas and <u>Hezbollah</u> satisfy the conditions Israel demands.

Many of those who decry the innocent civilians who die in this war were laughing when more than 2,000 people died when the World Trade Center towers were demolished by like-minded terrorists

Francis N. Dukes-Dobos, Clearwater

Where is concern for civilians?

Re: Mideast on the brink.

Your July 15 editorial states, "Israel did not start this fight and it is justified in striking back. Sadly, Palestinian and Lebanese civilians are being punished for the crimes of terrorists."

I don't agree with your statement that Israel is justified in striking back because it didn't start the fight. Israelis claim the kidnaping of their soldiers is the reason they are fighting back. If that is true then why are they picking their fight with everyone living in Palestine and Lebanon? When a powerful nation like Israel targets airports, water plants, electricity and the food supply of a country, it is going after all of the people. It seems to me by Israel's actions that it cares nothing about the civilians.

I am just one voice and I know I can't really make a difference, but just the same I have called the offices of Sens. Bill Nelson and Mel Martinez and I have written to your newspaper to voice my opinion. I haven't contacted President Bush's office, but after hearing him blaming Iran and Syria for what Israel has chosen to do, I won't even waste my time.

Carol Pinson, Tampa

Diplomacy gains nothing

For all my adult life, more than 50 years, I have watched U.S. presidents and secretaries of state trotting around the Middle East playing the "diplomatic card." For 50 years they gained what?

The only time anything was accomplished was after Israel crushed Arab armies. Egypt, crushed, signed a peace treaty and got the Sinai back. Jordan was crushed and is quiet. Syria, crushed, now hides behind <u>Hezbollah</u>. Israel offered almost all the West Bank and was refused. The Israelis give up Gaza and get rockets fired into their towns. They pull out of south Lebanon and get shelled.

Now some want more diplomacy, and the United Nations talks about "peace keepers." The United Nations has had "peace keepers" in south Lebanon for years. A lot of good they do.

The only way of dealing with people whose only desire is to destroy Israel and kill "the Jews" is to destroy them. Peace will come when these terrorists are wiped out.

William Culpepper, Seminole

A clear picture of Israel's plight

Re: Rockets drown out life at kibbutz, July 19.

Thanks to Times senior correspondent Susan Taylor Martin for once again demonstrating responsibility in her analysis of the current Middle East crisis. Martin is one of very few to present the Israeli perspective in her description of life in Israel, which is being hit daily by terrorist *Hezbollah* Katyusha rockets.

On my own recent trip to Israel I heard a Kassam rocket fired near the northern kibbutz at which I was staying. Today more powerful Katyushas are being fired. These rockets frequently originate from Lebanese apartments sold to <u>Hezbollah</u> terrorists. Consequently Lebanese civilians paid the price.

Martin's description of Israel's suffering at the hands of terrorists reminds me of Shakespeare's Merchant of Venice where Shylock laments, "Don't Jews bleed?" We must understand that our reliable ally Israel is standing up to *Hezbollah* terrorists who have just called for the killing of Americans wherever they can find us.

Norman N. Gross, Ph.D., president, PRIMER (Promoting Responsibility in Middle East Reporting), Palm Harbor

Complainers need to reconsider

Re: Evacuation from Lebanon.

It is frustrating to see, hear and read in the media the complaints of some very naive Americans waiting to be evacuated from Beirut.

I spent 41/2 months as a hostage in Kuwait in 1990. My daughter, our son-in-law and two teenage grandsons are currently awaiting evacuation from a small village above Beirut where they were teaching in an English-speaking school for the summer.

It is natural, in a stressful situation, to complain about apparent slowness and impersonal treatment by those officials attempting to facilitate the evacuation. However, those who are quick to complain should understand that the world does not revolve around their little axis.

While in Kuwait, I learned that the U.S. State Department does, in fact, care about its citizens. Their delicate handling of questions and the cares of families here in the United States was exceptional. During that long isolation, the embassy personnel in Kuwait did all within their means to advise and counsel hostages.

It is time for all of us to understand that this country is, indeed, in a serious situation. We are all at risk even within our cities. Yes, things are scary. Yes, we all care about our lives and our loved ones. But we perhaps have become a little self-centered and shallow in our larger picture of this world. It is a time for some personal introspection. Real peace begins with inner peace.

Ralph E. Montgomery, Indian Rocks Beach

Let peaceful people practice their faith

Re: Mosque should be opposed, letter, July 19.

I was greatly disturbed by the overt discrimination displayed by the letter writer, who wrote in opposition to opening a mosque in Pompano Beach. He mentions that Islam calls for the death of all nonbelievers, but does he know for a fact that all 1.3-million Muslims believe in that? After all, there are passages in the Judeo-Christian Bible that support slavery and public stonings.

I believe that the majority of Christians, Jews and Muslims are capable of independent thought to aid them in their path to enlightenment. Individual members of these religions who want to harm others for any reason can be

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prosecuted, allowing peaceable members to do what they wish within the law. There's no need to prevent peaceable people from practicing their faith.

The letter writer also fails to understand that being ostracized by a society often results in individuals turning to violence to make their views known. And if we preach freedom - especially freedom of religion -- as a reason why others should follow American democracy, then why shouldn't we practice it? Let's ensure that members of all religions can peaceably practice their faith.

Sorcha Sills, Clearwater

Support offshore energy production

As a resident of Florida and vice president of CF Industries Inc., one of the largest manufacturers and distributors of nitrogen and phosphate fertilizer products in North America, I applaud House passage of the Deep Ocean Energy Resources (DOER) Act of 2006 and encourage our senators to vote in support of responsible legislation to develop our nation's natural resources. The DOER Act is projobs and proconsumer, helping to bring down Floridians' skyrocketing energy bills.

Equally important, the legislation gives Floridians new protection and control over energy development off their coast. Without this legislation, Florida's control ends at 3 miles from shore; with this legislation, Florida controls out to 100 miles. This legislation is good for Floridians, as well as sound energy policy.

For the nitrogen fertilizer industry, there is no substitute for increasing natural gas supply. That's because nitrogen fertilizers are used on virtually every crop grown in this country. Natural gas is essential for the production of nitrogen fertilizer, so there is a direct connection between natural gas supply, America's food supply and our food security. Strategies for reducing energy demand, such as conservation and incentives for fuel-switching, are certainly important, and we support them. But increasing access to natural gas is vital.

Florida is already the nation's third largest energy consumer, and forecasts show that in the next decade, its growing electricity needs will cause a 92 percent increase in our state's demand for natural gas. It is clear to me that not only our industry but also jobs, businesses, farmers, consumers and communities will all benefit from the energy available in the Outer Continental Shelf.

Please take a stand for the American farmer and your food supply and food security by encouraging our senators to vote for responsible legislation to provide offshore energy production in the Outer Continental Shelf.

Herschel Morris, vice president of phosphate operations, CF Industries, Inc., Plant City

No deal on offshore drilling

The deal Sen. Mel Martinez made on offshore drilling is bad for Florida. Why? Because House leaders have made clear that they have every intention of turning the deal into something more closely resembling the bill they passed last month, which includes a lot more drilling a lot closer to Florida's coast. Sen. Martinez should declare now that he is unwilling to let House leadership get their way. He should shelve his deal.

If Sen. Martinez refuses to advance his deal to a vote, this Congress will close with Florida's current, strong protections in place. If he moves forward with it, it will be decimated by House leadership. The choice is his, but sometimes the most strategic move is no move at all.

I encourage Sen. Martinez to stop his dealmaking on offshore drilling. His heart may be in the right place, but bad actors in the House have made clear their goal of drilling just 50 miles off of Florida's coast. It's just not worth the risk.

Patricia Kiesylis, Defenders of Wildlife, St. Petersburg

Honoring a generous spirit

Re: Philanthropist of grace and style, July 20.

Thank you for the wonderful article about Ruth Eckerd in Thursday's Times. Losing a very committed and generous member of the community is always poignant. However, times like this give us the perfect opportunity to hold up a shining example like Ruth Eckerd and say, "We need more people like this," not because of money but because of a realistic sincerity in their spirit of philanthropy.

Religious Community Services and most especially the RCS Food Bank are most grateful for the generous spirit of people like Ruth and Jack Eckerd. Over the years, the RCS Food Bank has been the recipient of the Eckerds' kindness and concern for community issues. We here at RCS are profoundly touched beneficiaries of their generosity.

Saddened as we may be that our community has lost such a generous patron, we must be humbled by her example, thankful for her generosity, and honor her spirit with the same vigorous commitment to building a better community.

Duggan Cooley, director of development, Religious Community Services, Inc., Clearwater

Don't jeopardize women's sports

Re: Colleges: Give men a sporting chance, by John Tierney, July 12.

Tierney's position in this column is outrageous. He focuses on the wrong issue and attempts to leave the impression that male college students have somehow been disadvantaged since Title IX was implemented. Misinterpreting the reasons behind Title IX demeans the good intentions that made it necessary in the first place.

It is true that <u>women</u> have benefited, since prior to Title IX, college scholarships for <u>women</u> were almost nonexistent, which, in turn, meant <u>women</u> had limited access to a college education. And now, according to Tierney, because <u>women</u> are doing academically better than some men Title IX should be removed. But the core intent of Title IX was to promote equality among male and <u>female</u> athletes in high school and college, which in no way supports Tierney's position to put <u>women</u> in the choir and men on the football field because that's where they excel.

Jocelyn Samuels of the National <u>Women</u>'s Law Center writes in a brief that a study by the General Accounting Office shows that the number of male athletes has increased by about 5 percent since 1981-82, with men's baseball and soccer teams, among others, registering big gains. In addition, spending for men's sports still vastly outstrips spending for <u>women</u>'s teams, with <u>women</u> receiving less than one-third of the dollars spent by schools to recruit new athletes and only slightly more than one-third of athletic operating budgets.

So, Mr. Tierney, men are still advantaged despite the passage of Title IX. And if these men choose to not take advantage of the academic opportunities offered to them because of their athletics and athletic scholarships, then shame on them. Financial equality for *women*'s sports should not be jeopardized to make up for it.

Diane McSpiritt, St. Petersburg

Why be biased against braids?

Re: A dreadful drive against dreadlocks, July 15.

I am not naive but I was shocked to read about the various entities (schools, corporations, etc.) that ban individuals who choose to wear their hair in braids. What is wrong with braids? White people braid their hair, too, and they also have bad hair years.

I'm white and I will admit I have seen some pretty skanky dreadlocks, but rewrite the rules or something to accommodate the majority of neat braids. I am really stymied and angry for black people who are being discriminated against with such a silly, prejudicial, "keep 'em down" bias such as this. How would you feel if, among

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all the other prejudices you faced as a black person, your job or educational opportunities depended on your hairstyle? What next?

Elizabeth Keeley, St. Petersburg

Better hair care on the air

Re: A dreadful drive against dreadlocks.

Thank you for publishing this article. Now, let us address the current hairstyles (and I use the term loosely) of all races of *female* journalists, anchors, etc., who appear before the camera looking as though they just haven't had time to do anything with their hair. Along with proper attire, which most of them follow well, they need to be schooled on proper hair care. If their current "style" is loose, long and lanky, they should have it off their faces when the camera is on The constant swishing and/or throwing of their heads to keep said hair out of their faces is not dignified at all. That leads to more unsuitable body language, which leads me to suggest that if they want to appear sexy, then keep all that in the bedroom - not before the public on TV.

I, for one, will be happy when the pendulum swings back to the shorter, neater hairstyles. The messy hairdos I currently am forced to endure do absolutely nothing, even if these people have perfect makeup and a pretty face. Please, please, gals, do something about your image stemming from your sloppy hair!

Graphic

PHOTO, ASSOCIATED PRESS

Load-Date: July 22, 2006



Unexpected Whiff of Freedom Proves Bracing for the Mideast

The New York Times

March 6, 2005 Sunday

Late Edition - Final

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Section: Section 1; Column 1; Foreign Desk; Pg. 1

Length: 1649 words

Byline: By NEIL MacFARQUHAR; Mona el-Naggar contributed reporting for this article.

Dateline: CAIRO, March 5

Body

The leaders of about half of Egypt's rickety opposition parties sat down for one of their regular meetings this week under completely irregular circumstances. In the previous few days, President Hosni Mubarak opened presidential elections to more than one candidate, and street demonstrators helped topple Lebanon's government.

The mood around the table in a battered downtown Cairo office veered between humor and trepidation, participants said, as they faced the prospect of fielding presidential candidates in just 75 days. "This is all totally new, and nobody is ready," said Mahmoud Abaza, deputy leader of the Wafd Party, one of Egypt's few viable opposition groups. "Sometimes even if you don't know how to swim you just have to dive into the water and manage. Political life will change fundamentally."

The entire Middle East seems to be entering uncharted political and social territory with a similar mixture of anticipation and dread. Events in Lebanon and Egypt, following a limited vote for municipal councils in Saudi Arabia and landmark elections in Iraq, as well as the Palestinian territories, combined to give the sense, however tentative, that twilight might be descending on authoritarian Arab governments.

A mix of outside pressure and internal shifts has created this moment. Arabs of a younger, more savvy generation appear more willing to take their dissatisfaction directly to the front stoop of repressive leaders.

In Beirut on Saturday, a crowd of mostly young demonstrators hooted through a speech by the Syrian president, Bashar al-Assad, as he repeated too-familiar arguments for pan-Arab solidarity, without committing to a timetable for withdrawing Syrian soldiers from Lebanon.

Young protesters have been spurred by the rise of new technology, especially uncensored satellite television, which prevents Arab governments from hiding what is happening on their own streets. The Internet and cellphones have also been deployed to erode censorship and help activists mobilize in ways previous generations never could.

Another factor, pressure from the Bush administration, has emboldened demonstrators, who believe that their governments will be more hesitant to act against them with Washington linking its security to greater freedom after the Sept. 11 attacks. The United States says it will no longer support repressive governments, and young Arabs, while hardly enamored of American policy in the region, want to test that promise.

Unexpected Whiff of Freedom Proves Bracing for the Mideast

Egypt's tiny opposition movement -- called Kifaya, or Enough in English, in reference to Mr. Mubarak's 24-year tenure -- has drawn attention across the region, even if the police easily outnumber the few hundred demonstrators who gather periodically outside courthouses or syndicate offices to bellow their trademark slogan. Protesters used to exploit solidarity demonstrations with the Palestinians to shout a few abusive slogans against Mr. Mubarak. Suddenly, they are beaming their frustration right at him.

"Everything happening is taking place in one context, the bankruptcy of the authoritarian regimes and their rejection by the Arab people," said Michel Kilo, a rare political activist in Damascus. "Democracy is being born and the current authoritarianism is dying."

Even so, the changes wrought in each country thus far appear minor and preliminary, though the idea of challenging authoritarian rule more directly is remarkably new. In Egypt, nobody expects anyone but Mr. Mubarak to win this fall. Old rules against basic freedoms like the right to assemble, essential for a campaign, remain unaltered.

The al-Saud clan in Saudi Arabia has not ceded any real power in letting men, but not <u>women</u>, vote for only half the members of the country's nearly 200 councils.

"Congratulations and More Power," read a computer printout staffers hung on the wall of the office of Tarek O. al-Kasabi, the chairman of a Riyadh hospital, after he won one of seven city council seats.

"People want to enlarge the decision-making process, which is a good and healthy thing," said Mr. Kasabi, noting that he would rather move slowly than see the country destabilized. "We know how to reform better than anyone else. It is our life; nobody from outside can dictate how we live."

In Lebanon, young demonstrators with gelled hair or bare midriffs serve as an unlikely model for popular uprisings across the Arab world, especially since their goals do not quite apply elsewhere.

They seek to rid themselves of an outside power, Syria, and their movement, the region's first modern mass democratic one, was galvanized by a horrific one-time event: the Feb. 14 assassination of former Prime Minister Rafik Hariri removed a real estate tycoon turned politician who embodied all the country's hopes to rebuild after the civil war from 1975 to 1990.

"If someone like Hariri can be assassinated it means anyone in the country can be killed," said Doreen Khoury, a 26-year-old getting her master's degree in political science, sitting at the entrance to a small green pup tent downtown.

Ms. Khoury and a colleague, Noura Mourad, have been camping for two weeks in the carnival-like tent city that sprang up spontaneously on Martyrs' Square, once the throbbing heart of this city and now largely sandy lots. Most demonstrators were not even born when the war destroyed it, but they know they want something different.

"This is something unknown for the Arab world -- it is pacifist, it is democratic and it is spontaneous," Ms. Mourad, 24, said.

Ahmed Beydoun, a sociology professor at the Lebanese University, noting a crucial difference from the rest of the Arab world, said: "The Lebanese want their institutions to work normally, which is prevented by Syrian influence. It is not a problem with the political system itself."

Taken together, events in Cairo, Riyadh, Saudi Arabia, Beirut and beyond are the first taste of something new, and the participants are bound to thirst for more.

"The general atmosphere awaits big political and social change," said Dawood al-Shirian, a Saudi commentator on Dubai television. "There will have to be some sort of dialogue between the regimes and the people, or there will be confrontation, but things will not remain as they are."

Arabs differ on the degree to which American influence helped foster the changed mood, but there is no doubt that pressure from the Bush administration played some role.

Unexpected Whiff of Freedom Proves Bracing for the Mideast

Iraq, however, serves more as a threat than a model. Although many Arabs were impressed by the zeal with which Iraqis turned out to vote on Jan. 30, Iraq remains a synonym for frightening, violent chaos.

"When you are a Syrian, or an Egyptian or a Saudi and you see what happened to Iraqi society over the past two years, you wonder if democracy deserves such instability and such a sacrifice of people," said Ghassan Salame, a former Lebanese cabinet minister.

The changes started long before the American military overthrew Saddam Hussein, but there were false starts. Parliamentary elections in Jordan, Yemen and Morocco, for example, did not dilute the power of their authoritarian rulers.

New technology has driven the steps toward greater freedoms. Satellite stations brought news of demonstrations to a widening audience. Indeed, the crowds in Beirut swelled in part because potential demonstrators could see that government troops had not opened fire. Months earlier, Arabs watched similar events unfold in Ukraine.

But undoubtedly the most important new element is the spontaneous involvement of people themselves.

"You need democrats to produce democracy, you can't produce it through institutions," Mr. Salame said. "You need people to fight for it to make it real. Neither American tanks or domestic institutions can do it, you need democrats. In Beirut, you have a hard core of 10,000 to 15,000 youngsters who are democrats and who are imposing the tempo."

Support for them is far from universal, either at home or abroad, however, and may yet limit what the demonstrators achieve.

Inside Lebanon, important domestic forces like the Syrian-backed <u>Hezbollah</u>, the most powerful Shiite organization, have yet to commit to the goal of ending Syrian dominance.

"Shiites are not comfortable with joining the opposition because they would be indirectly supporting U.S. policy in the region," said Amal Saad-Ghorayeb, an expert on <u>Hezbollah</u> at the Lebanese American University.

United Nations Security Council Resolution 1559, which the United States and France pushed through to make the demand for a Syrian withdrawal an international one, also stipulates disarming *Hezbollah*. The group is faced with an intense problem. *Hezbollah* remains popular among all Lebanese for ending the Israeli occupation of the south, but that popularity might fade if it backs Syria's continued presence.

The American campaign for democracy in the Middle East is viewed by nationalists and many Islamists as a conspiracy to weaken the Arabs. The violence in Iraq helps sustain the idea here that the invasion was not about helping the Iraqis, but rather was part of an American thrust for dominance in the region.

Over all, though, many Arabs sense that small cracks are finally appearing in the brick walls they have faced for decades, even if it will take months or even years to determine just how significant those cracks become.

Some activists wonder, for example, if Syria's governing Baath Party is forced to retreat from Lebanon, how long it will take for demonstrations to emerge in Damascus.

"There is such a high percentage of young people who see the future as something totally black," said Mr. Abaza of the Egyptian Wafd Party. "If you open even a small window for them to see the sky, it will be a tremendous force for change. But they have to be able to see the sky."

http://www.nytimes.com

Load-Date: March 6, 2005



Attacks leave one in five Lebanese citizens without a home

Birmingham Post
July 29, 2006, Saturday
First Edition

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Section: NEWS; Pg. 4

Length: 266 words

Body

One in five Lebanese has been made homeless by the ongoing violence between <u>Hezbollah</u> and Israel, the UN's World Food Programme said yesterday.

Food shortages and the shelling of residential areas has turned the conflict into a major humanitarian situation. An estimated 800,000 people have been displaced in Lebanon - 95,000 in and around the capital Beirut.

Yesterday, the WFP sent emergency relief convoys to the cities of Sidon and Jezzine in the south of the country.

Eight convoy trucks loaded with 90 tonnes of wheat flour, 15 tonnes of canned meat, blankets and shelter materials provided by Medicins Sans Frontier were bound for Jezzine.

Ten trucks laden with 18 tons of food and shelter supplies were also heading towards Sidon.

Amer Daoudi, the WFP's emergency co-ordinator in Lebanon, said: "There are <u>women</u> and children who face a daily threat not only of shelling and injury, but of having less and less food and water to sustain them.

"We have no time to waste in reaching them. A greater catastrophe is in the making if we don't assist people soon."

The WFP, which has called for pounds 26 million to help to fund the logistics and supplies for the humanitarian operation, is also sending in aid.

Twenty temporary warehouses and five generators will be flown into Latakkia, in Syria and then transported into Lebanon by UN convoy trucks.

The British Red Cross said it had only raised pounds 68,000 of the pounds 10 million it was trying to collect for the troubled region.

It urged the public to donate to help provide humanitarian assistance in the form of food, water and medical supplies.

Load-Date: July 29, 2006



Muslim shoots six in the US and blames Israel

The Sunday Telegraph (LONDON)

July 30, 2006 Sunday

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Section: NEWS; Pg. 2

Length: 276 words

Byline: TOBY HARNDEN in Washington

Body

JEWISH groups across the United States urged members to step up security yesterday after a Muslim man burst into a Jewish Federation building and shot six *women*, killing one of them.

Naveed Afzal Haq, 31, of Pakistani origin, forced his way into the Seattle headquarters of the federation and opened fire after shouting: "I'm a Muslim American. I'm angry at Israel."

One woman died and three, one pregnant, were injured. Another jumped from a first-floor window, escaping with only scrapes and bruises, as others hid behind desks. Three victims were not Jewish.

"I worked very closely with these people," Carol Gown, the organisation's Seattle vice-president told The Sunday Telegraph. "They were wonderful **women**. I love them. It is a horrific act and a terrible loss. We did have security on the building. Now, Jewish organisations have urged everyone to be very vigilant and to revise their procedures."

It was not thought that he had deliberately targeted <u>women</u>. Greg Nickels, the Seattle mayor, said the shootings were "a crime of hate". Last weekend, the federation led a rally in support of Israel's campaign against <u>Hezbollah</u> in Lebanon.

Hag, from Pasco, Washington state, 220 miles east of Seattle, telephoned police to tell them what he had done.

He has been charged with one count of murder and five of attempted murder. Detectives said he had been receiving medication for a bipolar disorder and had charge of lewd conduct pending after he allegedly exposed himself in a shopping mall.

"This event came out of the blue," said Mrs Gown. "We pay attention to security but we had no way of knowing a crazy man would come and do something like this."

Load-Date: July 30, 2006



Straight to the Point

South Wales Echo July 28, 2006, Friday News Extra Edition

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Section: FEATURES; Pg. 22

Length: 274 words

Body

There was a Benham & Sons, cooking utensils at Charles Street, Cardiff, throughout the 1950s. I wonder if this is the same company Ms Fenwick was inquiring about in Viewpoints last Monday?

John Wilson Cardiff

ISRAEL'S insistence to bomb Lebanon back to the Middle Ages and kill thousands of innocent <u>women</u> and children will do nothing towards the peace process.

Don't they realise that by killing a family member, the surviving member is more likely to become a terrorist?

This seems a war of proxy. Israel is fighting on behalf of America using USA weapons and bombs, while <u>Hezbollah</u> are fighting for Syria and Iran.

I say call a cease-fire and let's get these educated people round a table, stop fighting and start talking.

Andrew Thomas Nutt Heolddu Rd, Bargoed

I WRITE concerning Val Harvey's letter of July 19, regarding proposed landfill sites.

My family and I and neighbouring properties have endured years of dust, noise, smell, and worst of all flies, from the Lamby Way landfill site.

Myself and my neighbours have had very little co-operation from the tip management.

Hopefully in two years our anguish will be over, but I feel for you as yours is just about to begin.

C V Bradshaw Mardy Farm, Mardy Road, Rumney, Cardiff

HAVING read again the article 'Miners Against Fascism' (Echo, July 15), a less interesting title than Miners For Communism, I would like to know how many of the Welsh volunteers fought for Britain when World War II came fascism again. I have no ulterior motive, just a curiosity on not seeing a mention of it whenever a look back on the Spanish Civil War and Wales appears in print.

E Cooper Ty Draw Road, Penylan, Cardiff

Straight to the Point

Load-Date: July 31, 2006



Rice in London for Iran talks;

Irish News
October 17, 2005

Copyright 2005 The Irish News Limited

Section: Pg. 27

Length: 279 words

Body

US secretary of state Condoleezza Rice will today hold talks in London with Prime Minister Tony Blair and Foreign Secretary Jack Straw.

They will discuss Iran's withdrawal from international negotiations about its nuclear activities.

The visit is part of a European tour to press for a diplomatic solution to the Iranian nuclear issue. The security situation in Iraq amid the country's constitution vote will also be on the agenda.

British defence sources believe that Iran is providing weapons technology and training to Iraqi insurgents. They said sophisticated bombs that killed eight British soldiers had been supplied by <u>Hezbollah</u> via the Iranian Revolutionary Guard.

In an interview with the BBC, Ms Rice called on Iran to become "good neighbours" with Iraq.

"I trust the British on this issue because the British are operating in the south. They know the situation there," she said.

Ms Rice said the constitutional vote was an "important milestone" and that the insurgents attempting to wreck the creation of a permanent government would fail.

"The insurgency can't ultimately survive without a political base.

"Even though there a few violent men who can always wreak havoc, who can always grab the headlines, who can always kill innocent men, <u>women</u> and schoolchildren, the Iraqi political process goes on and the Iraqis are taking advantage of it."

She said she did not know how long the insurgency would last but said it was fair for British and American people to be patient and support the Iraqis "so that we can finish this job".

Yesterday, the UK's Iranian ambassador, Dr Seyed Mohammed Hossein Adeli, publicly denied links with bomb attacks on British forces.

Load-Date: October 17, 2005



Woman shot dead at Jewish centre: Gunman declared his anger toward Israel, then opened fire

Ottawa Citizen

July 29, 2006 Saturday

Final Edition

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Section: NEWS; Pg. A2

Length: 250 words

Byline: Daisuke Wakabayashi, Reuters

Dateline: SEATTLE

Body

SEATTLE - A woman was killed and five others were wounded yesterday when a gunman opened fire at a Jewish organization in downtown Seattle that last weekend organized a rally in support of Israel.

Authorities said the gunman, who was thought to be acting alone, had been arrested without a struggle inside the Jewish Federation of Greater Seattle, where the shooting took place, and was being questioned by police.

Amy Wasser-Simpson, the federation's vice-president, told the Seattle Times in a story on the paper's website that the man got past security at the building and shouted, "I'm a Muslim American; I'm angry at Israel," before he began shooting.

Police said they found a car belonging to the man, who was not immediately identified, and were searching it for explosives and evidence. A handgun was found at the scene and was taken into evidence.

"We think this is a lone individual acting out with antagonism toward the organization," said David Gomez, assistant special agent in charge of counterterrorism for the FBI's office in Seattle.

Authorities did not offer a motive for the incident and it was not immediately clear if the shooter was targeting **women**.

Police said there were about 10 people in the federation's offices at the time of the shooting.

A hospital spokeswoman said at least three of the victims had been taken into surgery for their wounds.

The federation organized a large rally last weekend to demonstrate support for Israel in its fight against <u>Hezbollah</u> in southern Lebanon.

Load-Date: July 29, 2006



Israeli jets attack before hiatus: Outrage over Qana 'massacre' prompts Israel to suspend bombings

The Vancouver Province (British Columbia)

July 31, 2006 Monday

FINAL CC Edition

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Section: NEWS; Pg. A6

Length: 674 words

Byline: Associated Press

Dateline: BEIRUT

Body

BEIRUT -- Israeli planes struck suspected guerrilla positions in eastern Lebanon near the border with Syria early today, despite a 48-hour suspension announced a few hours earlier, security officials said.

Israeli jets carried out two raids at about 1:30 a.m. near the village of Yanta, about five kilometres from the Syrian border, the officials said.

Israel announced a 48-hour halt in aerial attacks yesterday around midnight that was believed to be effective immediately. But early today an Israeli army spokesman said the pause in overflights began at 2 a.m. local time.

Israeli officials earlier left open the possibility that Israel might hit targets to stop imminent attacks on Israel, and that the suspension could last less than 48 hours if the military completes its inquiry into yesterday's incident in Qana before then.

It was not known what was hit in the Yanta area, where radical Syrian-backed Palestinian factions maintain bases in the mountains abutting the Syrian border.

The Israeli aerial suspension came hours after an Israeli air strike killed at least 56 civilians, most of them <u>women</u> and children, in the southern Lebanese town of Qana, sparking an international uproar and fuelling demands for a ceasefire.

Shortly before the suspension, Israeli planes attacked for the second time in the last few days a road between Lebanon and Syria just outside the Lebanese border post at Masnaa, severing the main artery between the two capitals.

The Israeli military confirmed a highway attack near Syria, but said it knew of no others.

The army said that the temporary cessation of aerial activity would allow the opening of corridors for 24 hours for Lebanese civilians who want to leave south Lebanon for the north and would maintain land, sea and air corridors for humanitarian assistance.

Israeli jets attack before hiatus: Outrage over Qana 'massacre' prompts Israel to suspend bombings

The attack on Qana brought Lebanon's death toll to more than 510 and pushed American peace efforts to a crucial juncture, as fury at the U.S. flared in Lebanon. The Beirut government said it would no longer negotiate over a U.S. peace package without an unconditional ceasefire.

At the UN, the Security Council approved a statement expressing "extreme shock and distress" at the bloodshed and calling for an end to violence, stopping short of a demand for an immediate ceasefire.

In Qana, workers pulled dirt-covered bodies of young boys and girls -- dressed in the shorts and T-shirts they'd been sleeping in -- out of the mangled wreckage of the three-storey building. Bodies were carried in blankets and sheets, one decorated with Raggedy Ann and Andy drawings.

Two extended families, the Shalhoubs and the Hashems, had gathered together in the house for shelter from another night of Israeli bombardment in the border area when the 1 a.m. strike brought the building down.

"I was so afraid. There was dirt and rocks and I couldn't see. Everything was black," said 13-year-old Noor Hashem, who survived, although her five siblings did not. She was pulled out of the ruins by her uncle, whose wife and five children also died.

Israel apologized for the deaths but blamed <u>Hezbollah</u> guerrillas, saying they had fired rockets into northern Israel from near the building.

The UN Security Council held an emergency meeting to debate a resolution demanding an immediate ceasefire -- a step Washington has stood nearly alone at the council in refusing until the disarmament of *Hezbollah* is assured.

In a jab at the U.S., UN chief Kofi Annan told the council in unusually frank terms that he was "deeply dismayed" his previous calls for a halt were ignored. "Action is needed now before many more children, <u>women</u> and men become casualties of a conflict over which they have no control," he said.

After news of the deaths emerged, U.S. Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice phoned Lebanese Prime Minister Fuad Saniora and said she would stay in Jerusalem to continue work on a peace package, rather than make a planned visit yesterday to Beirut. Saniora said he told her not to come. Rice decided to cut her Mideast trip short and return to Washington this morning.

Graphic

Colour Photo: The Associated Press; A Lebanese Red Cross volunteer offers comfort to Jeinab Shalhoub, 66, who lost many members of her extended family in a building, in background, that was bombed by Israelis yesterday at the village of Qana, southern Lebanon.;

Colour Photo: The Associated Press; An Israeli soldier takes a position yesterday behind a cement wall along the border between Lebanon and northern Israel.

Load-Date: July 31, 2006



IRA: Give up the guns, go straight

The Philadelphia Inquirer

MARCH 16, 2005 Wednesday CITY-D EDITIONCorrection Appended

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The Philadelphia Inquirer

Found on Philly . com

Section: EDITORIAL; Pg. A19

Length: 703 words **Byline:** Trudy Rubin

Body

St. Patrick's Day is here. But Sinn Fein - the political wing of the Irish Republican Army - is being snubbed this week by the White House. Even a Boston Irishman like Sen. Ted Kennedy is turning up his nose.

For the first time since 1995, Sinn Fein leaders won't be invited to the White House for shamrock celebrations. The reason: The IRA has turned from fighting for a political cause to barroom brawls and bank heists. And Sinn Fein, whose leaders have been "outed" as IRA leaders, can't escape responsibility for IRA crimes.

IRA "hard men" are still reluctant to give up their arms in a verifiable fashion, despite the 1998 Good Friday peace accord between Catholics and Protestants in Northern Ireland. The IRA stands accused of robbing a bank in the Irish Republic of \$50 million in December. Other IRA members used knives to slit the throat of Catholic Robert McCartney in a Belfast bar on Jan. 30.

To paraphrase U.S. Rep. Richard Neal (D., Mass.), a longtime Sinn Fein supporter, the Irish republican movement seems to have "morphed into the mob."

Time was when residents of Belfast's Catholic slums were grateful to the IRA, which fought for Catholic rights and defended them against vicious attacks by Protestant militias. But times have changed.

The Good Friday accords are temporarily frozen, but sectarian violence in Northern Ireland has halted. The economy is booming, and unemployment has dropped to 4.7 percent, as investment rises. There are excellent prospects for stronger economic and political ties between Northern Ireland and the prosperous Irish Republic. People don't want to live in the past.

So when the five sisters of the murdered Robert McCartney decided to break the code of silence Catholics normally observe about IRA activities, they got support in their community. The sisters called on the IRA to stop protecting the killers. The White House invited the McCartneys to the St. Paddy's Day party instead of Northern Irish political leaders. Even Sinn Fein leader Gerry Adams has praised the <u>women</u>.

But none of the 70 witnesses to the murder - including two Sinn Fein political candidates - has gone to the police.

IRA: Give up the guns, go straight

The IRA did ask the McCartneys whether they wanted the organization to handle the matter. It offered to shoot the offenders. The sisters angrily declined. The fact that such an offer could be made, in this day and age, in Europe, shows how out of touch the IRA has become.

Despite a bitter history of British repression, of discrimination by Protestants against Catholics in Northern Ireland, despite the anti-Catholic bigotry of Protestant leader Ian Paisley, the age of bullets has been replaced by the time of ballots.

Catholics now have a legitimate way to address grievances and seek power. Sinn Fein has gained strength as a political party in Northern Ireland and in the republic. In the words of Mitchell Reiss, President Bush's special envoy on Northern Ireland: "There's no place in 2005 in Europe for a private army associated with a political party."

Reiss called for the IRA to disband. But what is most important is whether the IRA gives up its guns.

"It doesn't matter [if the IRA is disbanded] if it doesn't carry out criminal activity," says Paul Murphy, British secretary of state for Northern Ireland. "Those days are gone. Sinn Fein must go down an exclusively political road."

Several thousand miles away, the militant Lebanese group <u>Hezbollah</u> is facing a similar choice. As it showed by turning out 500,000 demonstrators, <u>Hezbollah</u> is a major political force in Lebanon - on the streets and in parliament. But the group, which has carried out terrorist operations in the past, insists on keeping its armed militia, despite U.S. and United Nations calls for it to disarm.

Surely, Northern Ireland is more politically advanced than Lebanon. Even Gerry Adams has said he hopes the IRA will disband, but "in a dignified way."

Surely old republican fighters can find other employ than becoming a new mafia. It's time for Sinn Fein and its supporters to demand that the IRA become the Old Comrades Association and to pension its members off.

Contact columnist Trudy Rubin at 215-854-5823 or <u>trubin@phillynews.com</u>. Read her recent work at <u>http://go.philly.com/trudyrubin</u>.

Notes

Worldview

Load-Date: September 8, 2005



Bombs force Israeli families to flee: For some, finding shelter has meant separating children from their parents, writes Jonathan Finer.

Ottawa Citizen July 19, 2006 Wednesday Final Edition

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Section: NEWS; Pg. A3

Length: 651 words

Byline: Jonathan Finer., The Washington Post

Dateline: MARGALIYOT, Israel

Body

MARGALIYOT, Israel - Living in the shadow of an Israeli artillery battery, whose volleys have rattled their windows day and night for nearly a week, almost all 300 residents have fled the farming village of Margaliyot that clings to a rocky ridge on the Lebanese border.

Pinchas Aplaton and his son, Gal, a soldier home on leave, were among a handful remaining behind, forced by economic necessity, they said, to tend their tidy rows of tomato and eggplant crops during the summer harvest.

Mr. Aplaton's wife, Irit, his daughter and two other sons left a day earlier on a bus bound for Netanya, a city 130 kilometres to the south and, until now, beyond the reach of rockets that have rained on northern Israel for nearly a week.

"Once we saw this was heating up, there was no choice but for the <u>women</u> and children to go," Mr. Aplaton said, puffing his cheeks and shaking his head as yet another outgoing round resounded from a nearby hill. "So, for now, we live apart."

Later that afternoon, at the sprawling boarding school in Netanya where she and her children are waiting out the crisis, Irit Aplaton said she was "worried half to death" about her husband. In a period of less than 24 hours, they had spoken at least a dozen times, with most conversations lasting about as long as it takes him to say, "I'm still OK."

The snapshot of the Aplatons' life is a window on the experience of thousands of Israelis living under bombardment across the country's north.

According to military sources, about 50 per cent of residents in the region, which includes Haifa, the country's third-largest city, have fled since cross-border clashes between Israel and <u>Hezbollah</u> militants in Lebanon began last week.

Hundreds of business are shuttered, leaving downtowns eerily empty.

Bombs force Israeli families to flee: For some, finding shelter has meant separating children from their parents, writes Jonathan Finer.

That departure rate is even higher in the string of tiny border towns that for decades have weathered periodic conflict.

To shelter themselves from the rocket fire, Mr. Aplaton and his son now sleep in their basement, on the stone floor of a room that, until last week, they rented as part of a small bed-and-breakfast. They said they take comfort in the fact that unlike many of the tens of thousands of Lebanese forced from their homes by the violence in recent days, his wife and family are so far living comfortably, after climbing aboard a regional government bus on Monday and heading south.

The Israeli government is funding a broad range of programs for displaced Israelis, and private citizens in safer regions are advertising widely on the radio and Internet, offering shelter for those in need.

One website established last Friday has already received more than 650 postings from those offering to house people who want to leave the north.

As the violence began to escalate, Zvi Marun, a school administrator born in the north, invited residents of Margaliyot and several nearby villages to stay in dormitories in Netanya on the Mediterranean coast, left vacant during the summer recess. About 140 families took him up on the offer to come to Neveh Hadassah school, a leafy campus that feels more like summer camp than a refugee camp.

His staff has served the displaced Israelis three meals a day and organized activities for their children, such as use of an on-campus swimming pool and trips to an amusement park.

"They received us with open arms. I was so grateful I was speechless," said Mrs. Aplaton, in the white-tiled dormitory room she shares with her children. "Some people didn't like the accommodation, so they went to hotels, but we are happy here."

"Of course, I would rather be home. I can't stop thinking about my husband working out in the open all day," she said.

"This is not new for us," she was quick to point out. "We have been through it before."

Most of Margaliyot was evacuated during an Israeli offensive on Lebanon in 1996. That time, residents left their homes for three weeks.

"I hope it is shorter this time," she said.

Graphic

Photo: Gali Tibbon, Agence France-Presse, Getty Images; Thousands of Israelis have fled northern Israel to escape the rocket barrage from <u>Hezbollah</u> guerrillas in Lebanon. Some are in tent cities on the beach, others in dormitories. Still others have chosen to stay in their towns, despite the threat of more bombs. Above, an Israeli family gets on with daily life in a bomb shelter in the northern coastal town of Nahariya.

Load-Date: July 19, 2006



Good news from Gaza

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

June 22, 2005 Wednesday

National Edition

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Section: EDITORIALS; Pg. A20

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

Body

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

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

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

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

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

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

Good news from Gaza

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

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

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

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

Load-Date: June 22, 2005



'They told them to evacuate the village then bombed their cars'; HOSPITAL WORKER IN TYRE YESTERDAY

Daily Mail (London)

July 24, 2006 Monday

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Section: ED 1ST; Pg. 22

Length: 1081 words

Byline: RICHARD PENDLEBURY

Body

DADDY, DADDY!' eight-year-old Nadia Finjan was screaming in the accident and emergency department of the Jabal Amel hospital in the centre of Tyre.

She was naked and covered in shrapnel wounds. Her father, similarly injured, was in another room. They had been in a convoy of civilian vehicles fleeing the village of Taire, 20 miles from here, when a devastating airstrike hit.

Israeli warplanes struck their minibus only hours after the Israeli military had told them and residents of 12 neighbouring villages to evacuate.

Three refugees were killed, the other 13 on board wounded.

'The Israelis told them to leave their village and when they did so they bombed their cars,' explained a member of the hospital's staff.

By late morning 40 wounded had been brought in, all from roads in the area.

'Today is the day of the cars,' the weary hospital director Dr Ahmad Mroue told me. His staff, who now work, eat and sleep in the hospital, had treated 286 wounded in 12 days. Thirty seven people had died here, including eight children.

Its basement corridor was clogged with wounded, their families and the homeless.

Around Tyre many more bodies were still buried in rubble or in mangled vehicles on the road, the situation too dangerous for them to be recovered.

'I have yet to see a single wounded fighter in this war,' Dr Mroue observed, drily. At the current rate his hospital will run out of medical supplies within the next ten days. No new supplies have come through this week because of the bombing.

What a shabby little war this is, fought by soldiers of both sides against civilians. Shame on the generals and the politicians they serve.

The ancient port town of Tyre is on the frontline, only 15 miles from the Israeli border and the tens of thousands of troops massing there for a possible full scale invasion.

'They told them to evacuate the village then bombed their cars' HOSPITAL WORKER IN TYRE YESTERDAY

morning alarm call is needed in this town. A little after 7am a succession of sharp detonations overhead roused all but the deepest sleeper. The airbursts released not shrapnel but thousands of Israeli propaganda cartoons, pouring scorn on *Hezbollah* and urging civilians to leave south Lebanon. Then the bombing began again in earnest.

Yesterday morning the rolling thunder of the bombing around the town and the constant buzz of unmanned drones was joined by the mad clanging of a cracked bell in the tower of the seafront church.

My first thought was of Nazi-threatened Britain almost 70 years ago, when the bells were supposed to warn of enemy invasion.

Then it came to me; amid the bombs and the blood I had simply forgotten that it was Sunday morning. What faithful there remained here were being summoned to worship.

More than half of the town's 90,000 peacetime population have fled. But another 30,000 refugees have sought sanctuary here, in schools and abandoned hotels, flocking tired and terrified from the outlying villages which are being mercilessly pounded by the Israeli Defence Force. Tyre offers limited succour.

Seventy six people were buried in a mass grave here on Thursday. Another trench has been dug and already the town morgue has 30 new corpses.

Every road in or out has now been bombed.

Water is in short supply because the town's main pipeline has been struck twice from the air. Yesterday I met mothers who were begging for food for their children. One told me the family had not eaten for two days and was in despair.

Why are they still here, when some 150,000 have crossed into Syria so far?

It is quite simple; those who remain in Tyre are either too poor or too scared of the bombing to join the exodus north.

Hundreds have filled the Rest House beach resort. Maha Bourji, 21, had fled from the war-ravaged village of Bazourieh with 23 members of her family. She told me: 'We were there for ten days and bombs were falling very near all the time.

They are not just bombing *Hezbollah* they are bombing everyone.

'We have transport to go north but there is no protection on the roads. I would like to leave Lebanon and never return.', In Asarat Street lingered that familiar smell of bodies decomposing in the sticky heat in the shattered-upper storeys of what had been a 12-floor apartment building were the corpses of an old Lebanese woman and her Sri Lankan maid. The tower block had been hit by two missiles one afternoon, scattering debris over a large part of the neighbourhood.

So far 18 bodies have been pulled out of the wreckage. Another 50 residents were wounded. Abed Al-Husseini, the Tyre region's 71-year-old president, was vibrating with anger and disgust in his office as he tried to describe to me the scale of the disaster which had befallen this place.

'We want you to transmit to the world what is happening here,' he said.

'There are dead and wounded in every village and in Tyre and the emergency services cannot reach them because the Israelis won't allow it.

In one village 23 people were killed and they were armed with nothing more than a loaf of bread.

In the village of Srifa five days ago the Israelis killed 35 people. On the road from Bazourieh civilians cars were hit and 14 died and 13 were injured. It took days before we could recover their corpses.' He shouted: 'Is this civilised of Israel? And they are doing it with the blessing of America and with American weapons.' Mr Al-Husseini said there

'They told them to evacuate the village then bombed their cars' HOSPITAL WORKER IN TYRE YESTERDAY

was no <u>Hezbollah</u> presence in Tyre and that the organisation was not firing its rockets from civilian villages, but the mountains and valleys. I certainly saw no fighters in the towns.

'Now we are cut off and only 10 per cent of the civilian needs are being met,' said the president. 'The International Red Cross is waiting for two days to get to the villages and has been refused permission of safe passage so far.' He said that the small United Nations presence on the border was unable to help and two of its own people had also been killed.

'If the Israelis encircle us here in Tyre we will fight them with stones, because we have no weapons. The <u>women</u> and children will fight. At least we will die with dignity.' As he spoke, a few were still choosing to leave by road and run the Israeli air gauntlet. Rich and poor were in flight, their transport ranging from brand new Jaguars to the most battered of baby Fiats, almost all flying the white flag, towel or bedsheet which signified that they were harmless, peaceful and, above all, wanted to live.

As darkness fell, Tyre's old port offered a confusion of sounds, of soothing waves and the omnipresent helicopters hunting in the night. In South Lebanon today there is no hiding place.

Graphic

BLOOD AND TEARS: AN INJURED LEBANESE BOY WITH HIS MOTHER AFTER AN ISRAELI ROCKET HIT THEIR VAN AS THEY FLED. INSET: A DISTRAUGHT NADIA FINJAN IN HOSPITAL

Load-Date: July 24, 2006



How many more must they kill?; But Blair and Bush still refuse to act

Birmingham Post
July 31, 2006, Monday
First Edition

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Section: NEWS; Pg. 1 Length: 660 words

Byline: Jonathan Walker and Emma Pinch

Body

Tony Blair was under growing pressure to stand up to George Bush last night after 37 children were killed in an Israeli bombing raid on Lebanon.

One of his staunchest allies, Birmingham MP Khalid Mah-mood, described Britain's stance as "outrageous" and called for the Government to urge the US to take action to stop the bloodshed.

"It is outrageous that we are standing by and watching this go on," he said. "Enough is enough and we need to be far more vocal in calling for Israel to stop."

Mr Mahmood (Lab Perry Barr), one of the few Muslim MPs in the Commons, has generally supported the British Government's foreign policy, including the close alliance with the United States.

His comments followed reports that the Cabinet is split over the Middle East crisis, with Jack Straw, the Leader of the Commons and former Foreign Secretary, attacking Israel's "disproportionate" offensive.

Mr Blair's spokesman denied the Cabinet was divided yesterday. He said the Prime Minister did not endorse or criticise Mr Straw's remarks.

But Mr Blair and President George Bush have refused to call for an immediate ceasefire, arguing that <u>Hezbollah</u>'s rocket attacks on Israel must end for any peace agreement to be sustainable.

At least 60 civilians, 37 of them children, died in an Israeli air-strike on the town of Qana in southern Lebanon.

Last night Mr Blair described the destruction of Qana as "an absolutely tragic situation" and called for an immediate United Nations resolution to halt the Middle East bloodshed.

Mr Mahmood said: "We cannot continue saying we are working towards peace in the Middle East and allow things like this to go on.

"I think Jack Straw has hit the nail on the head. We need more people to raise the issue, and the Prime Minister to take the lead.

"I think it is deliberate targeting of women and children. We have to condemn it and put a stop to it.

How many more must they kill? But Blair and Bush still refuse to act

"It is true that only the United States really has the power to make it stop, but if Britain spoke out I think the US would listen.

"I wholly condemn the attacks by <u>Hezbollah</u> on innocent people in Israel, but equally we must condemn attacks by Israel on innocent people in Lebanon."

Meanwhile Selly Oak MP Dr Lynne Jones was one of nine Birmingham <u>women</u> deported from Israel yesterday on a mission to build peaceful links between Britain's second city and that of Ramallah.

She described their treatment as "quite appalling" and claimed the refusal was a clumsy bid by the Israelis to screen from public view what was happening in Palestine.

The <u>women</u> were taking books and money raised by Birmingham's Ramallah Twinning Committee to create a library at a refugee camp. The MP had joined the group after a similar peace visit by the group, which included Yvonne Washbrook, president of Birmingham Trades Council, and Salma Iqbal, a Respect Coalition candidate in the last Birmingham City Council elections, was turned away last year.

The Israeli embassy was informed of their detailed itinerary, flights and passport numbers beforehand to facilitate access into the country. But on arrival at Tel Aviv airport at 3.45am yesterday the group, after interrogation, were sent to a detention centre then put on a flight home.

Dr Jones said: "I find it horrendous that the Israeli authorities can deny entry to what should be an independent Palestinian state, so we can't get there to see what they are doing.

"First they said they did not know anything about our trip, and when challenged they changed their tune. We were in constant contact with the British Embassy and the Israeli Foreign Affairs Ministry and the Ministry of the Interior, and it was clear they had all the details about our trip.

She said they were kept for 11 hours with only water to drink, and the interrogation had reduced one of their group to tears.

"I will come again on parliamentary business if I can and I will look for the opportunity to confront the people behind this outrageous decision," she said.

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Graphic

A civil defence worker carries the body of a child recovered from the rubble of a demolished building after the attack on the village of Qana in Lebanon' Deported from Israel: Lynne Jones and Salma Iqbal

Load-Date: July 31, 2006



Palestinian Leader Orders Force to Find Seized Israeli

The New York Times

June 27, 2006 Tuesday

Late Edition - Final

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Section: Section A; Column 1; Foreign Desk; Pg. 8

Length: 1148 words

Byline: By STEVEN ERLANGER; Ian Fisher contributed reporting from Gaza for this article.

Dateline: JERUSALEM, June 26

Body

The Palestinian Authority president, Mahmoud Abbas, ordered his security services on Monday to find a kidnapped Israeli soldier in the Gaza Strip. The Israeli prime minister, Ehud Olmert, warned of "comprehensive and ongoing military action" in Gaza by the Israeli military, which massed troops and armor on the border.

Tensions were building over the fate of the soldier, Cpl. Gilad Shalit, 19, who was captured early Sunday morning in a raid by Palestinians into Israel through a long tunnel from Gaza. The groups holding him said that before any information on him would be disclosed, Israel must release all Palestinian <u>women</u> in its jails and all Palestinian prisoners under the age of 18.

Israel rejected the demand from the groups, which include the Popular Resistance Committees; the Army of Islam, a new grouping; and the military wing of Hamas, the group that is running the Palestinian government.

There are 95 Palestinian <u>women</u> and 313 Palestinians under 18 in Israeli jails, of a prison population of about 9,000 Palestinians.

The Israeli call for the release of Corporal Shalit, who also holds French citizenship, was echoed by many nations. Egyptian and French diplomats took a leading role in Gaza in trying to persuade the armed groups to let the corporal go.

As those efforts continued, Mr. Olmert spoke in Jerusalem. "Yesterday, I ordered the heads of the army to deploy our forces in order to be ready for comprehensive and ongoing military action, in order to strike at the terror organizations, their commanders and anyone involved in terror," he said. "Let it be clear. We will find them all, wherever they are, and they know it. Let it be clear that no one will be immune."

He said later: "We will react against each and every terrorist and against each and every terror organization wherever it may be. They know we can reach them even when they believe they are safe. We do not act under pressure and therefore we have weighed our steps with patience. But the time leading towards an extensive, stern and harsh operation is growing shorter."

Palestinian Leader Orders Force to Find Seized Israeli

Mr. Olmert made it clear on Sunday that Israel holds the Palestinian Authority -- from its president, Mr. Abbas, of the opposition Fatah party, to the Hamas prime minister, Ismail Haniya -- responsible for the attack and the fate of Corporal Shalit.

There is a wide expectation among Israeli officials and analysts that Israel will strike back in Gaza, but how hard, and with what means, is likely to depend on the corporal's fate.

Israeli officials said Monday that the seizure of a soldier seemed to be a prime aim of the Palestinian raid, in which two Israeli soldiers were killed, along with two of the attackers. They said the militant groups, led by Hamas, were following the model of the *Hezbollah* militia in southern Lebanon and would try to bargain to release prisoners.

Corporal Shalit is being held by senior members of Hamas's military wing, according to a senior military intelligence officer who spoke to the Foreign Affairs and Defense Committee of the Israeli Parliament. The soldier's whereabouts are not known but he is believed to be "alive and lightly wounded," one of the legislators quoted the officer as saying.

Still, other officials were puzzled that the groups did not release a video or some other proof that the soldier is alive.

The intelligence official also said that Mr. Haniya, the Hamas prime minister, was at odds with the military wing of Hamas, believed by Palestinians and Israelis to be under the command of the exiled Hamas leader, Khaled Meshal, who lives in Damascus, Syria.

Ghazi Hamad, the spokesman for the Hamas government in Gaza, said in an interview that Mr. Haniya and the government were not a party to the raid. "We are not involved in military action," he said. "We are never involved with this. All the Palestinian factions have military wings and political wings. This is because we are still in a liberation stage and a building stage."

But in an interview with The New York Times 10 days ago, Mr. Hamad insisted that Hamas was one organization with a single leadership, making decisions collectively.

On Monday, Mr. Hamad, reflecting the more anxious and responsible tone of the government, said Mr. Haniya was urging the militants "not to harm" the corporal "and to respect him as a prisoner." But Mr. Hamad stopped short of urging the groups to release him.

On Monday, after a briefing by the Israeli foreign minister, Tzipi Livni, the American ambassador to Israel, Richard H. Jones, said, "This is a demonstration of the inability of the Hamas government so far to control its own ranks, let alone provide for the needs of the Palestinian people, and I think the world should think very hard about how we deal with an entity that can't even control its own house."

Efraim Halevy, the former head of the Israeli spy agency, Mossad, a senior adviser to three prime ministers and former head of the National Security Council, said the Shalit affair posed a serious test to Hamas, whether it could get its own house in order "and act like a responsible government." If so, he said, "it could be a turning point" in the way the world views Hamas.

But Hamas officials in power in Gaza, like Mr. Haniya, must show they are in charge of Palestinian affairs, Mr. Halevy said. "If Hamas doesn't control its own forces, it's a problem not only for them but for Israel and all others who deal with them," he said.

The raid and kidnapping were also a deep embarrassment to Mr. Abbas. "If it ends badly, if Abbas is shown to be less and less relevant than before, then he will be the big loser," Mr. Halevy said.

He suggested that Israel felt a deep sense of political urgency. "Israel is prepared to take very serious military action," he said. "The warnings must be taken very seriously. This is not an event to which Israel can turn a blind eye."

Palestinian Leader Orders Force to Find Seized Israeli

Israeli officials have been confronted with a series of high-profile kidnappings in recent years.

In October 1994, Cpl. Nachshon Wachsman, who held joint American and Israeli citizenship, was kidnapped and held by Hamas gunmen. Hamas demands for the release of its leader, Sheik Ahmed Yassin, and 200 Hamas prisoners were rejected by Yitzhak Rabin, then prime minister. He ordered a rescue attempt, but Corporal Wachsman and the Israeli unit commander were killed.

Israel has at times also made deals and exchanged prisoners. In October 2000, <u>Hezbollah</u> abducted three Israeli soldiers in an effort to free imprisoned leaders. The soldiers were apparently murdered or died during the abduction or soon afterward. The same month, <u>Hezbollah</u> abducted Elhanan Tannenbaum, an Israeli civilian lured to Abu Dhabi by the offer of a lucrative deal.

In exchange for the three dead soldiers and the release of Mr. Tannenbaum, Israel released more than 430 prisoners in January 2004.

http://www.nytimes.com

Graphic

Photos: An undated photograph of Cpl. Gilad Shalit, who was captured Sunday by Palestinian gunmen. (Photo by European Pressphoto Agency)

Israeli tanks and armored personnel carriers near the Israel-Gaza border yesterday. Prime Minister Ehud Olmert warned of military action. (Photo by Yannis Behrakis/Reuters)Map of Gaza Strip and Israel highlighting the approximate site of tunnel: Palestinians who captured Corporal Shalit came through a tunnel.

Load-Date: June 27, 2006



Labouring for dignity of dead as bombs fall nearby

The Irish Times

July 31, 2006 Monday

Copyright 2006 The Irish Times All Rights Reserved **Section:** WORLD; Qana Bombing; Pg. 8

Length: 1391 words

Byline: Lara Marlowe in Qana

Body

There are only two families in the Karheiba neighbourhood on the outskirts of Qana: the Hashems and the Shalhoubs. So all of the more than 54 people who died yesterday - buried alive, crushed and suffocated in the basement of Abbas Hashem's unfinished house - bore the same two family names.

The house was at the edge of town, clinging to a hillside. As shown by the drying tobacco leaves, the olive trees on the terraces, and the plough outside, the Hashems and Shalhoubs are farmers. They thought their wives, children and disabled would be safe in the Hashems' basement.

Mohamed Ali Shalhoub was the first man I saw carried out on a stretcher when I arrived with civil defence workers from Tyre at 8.30am. He was writhing with pain, but I was able to speak to him six hours later in a hospital in Tyre.

"We were sleeping when the first bomb hit at one in the morning," Shalhoub said. "I was thrown across the room. I fell on my face and my legs were buried under the rubble."

His wife, Rebab, herself wounded, used her hands to free the couple's four-year-old son, then freed her husband.

Mohamed is a paraplegic, so Rebab dragged him outside and placed him under a tree. For 7¾ hours, he lay there with a broken leg and badly bruised face. "I could hear Israeli planes and helicopters and drones the whole time," he said.

"There were explosions 150 metres away. I was waiting to be hit again."

Doctors put Mohamed, Rebab and little Hassan Shalhoub in the same hospital room, and the wife listened, interjecting: "May God destroy Israel."

Though Rebab saved their son, Hassan, three close relatives were killed: the couple's six-year-old daughter, Mohamed's brother and his paraplegic sister. "If the Israelis had not continued bombing around us, we could have saved half the children," Rebab said.

About two-thirds of more than 25 bodies I saw dug out of the rubble were children. One dead girl, aged about four, looked normal except that the backside of her trousers, was soaked in blood. Another child had its face smashed flat. Several had severe gashes on their head and blood matted in their hair.

Labouring for dignity of dead as bombs fall nearby

A driver showed me something he considered supernatural. In the back of an ambulance a little boy with a bloodied face lay beside a woman. The child died with his index finger pointing, the gesture Muslims make when they say, "There is no God but Allah and Muhammad is his prophet."

The deaths of the children deeply shocked the Lebanese. "Twenty dead children, 20 dead children," a woman wailed in a house on the rubble-strewn path between the ambulances and bomb site. She stuffed belongings into a hold-all, and her teenage son, sobbing, pulled his grandfather by the arm. Having survived almost three weeks of war, they were taking their chances to flee throughout the bombardment outside.

Flies and wasps swarmed around the bodies. Rescuers tried to maintain some dignity for the dead. When a blanket slipped off a dead woman being carried away on a stretcher, I glimpsed her pretty face and gold jewellery. A civil defence worker put two <u>women</u>'s handbags and a bundle of clothing in an ambulance in the hope that relatives would identify the belongings in the morgue.

The whole time Israeli aircraft roared overhead, dropping bombs in the surrounding countryside, elsewhere in the town, and on the road to Tyre. From time to time a drone whined overhead. Lebanese particularly fear these pilotless aircraft, which relay images in real time and guide weapons. In 1996, the last time Israel massacred civilians at Qana, a UN peacekeepers' video refuted Israel's denial that a drone was present during the bombardment.

If there are good guys in Lebanon, they are the civil defence workers who risk their lives to rescue the wounded.

Yesterday they laboured in just a few square metres, beneath the buckling ceiling of the basement, blown open on to the hillside. The ceiling and the weight of the three-storey building risked collapsing on the rescue workers at any moment. They had to give up before retrieving all the bodies, and the army moved in with heavy equipment.

As the press army now based in Tyre braved the bombardment to drive up to Qana, Naim Rakka, a civil defence worker, lost his temper with a journalist. "I am fed up being asked the same silly questions over and over," he shouted. " 'What's your name? How old are you? What did you see?' We are sick of being used as guinea pigs for Israeli weapons."

A civil defence worker who was one of the first on the scene of the 1996 Qana massacre recalled seeing dozens of children cut into pieces by Israel's proximity shells then. "My heart is black like this shirt," he said, pulling the fabric from under his flak jacket. "It no longer feels emotion."

The outcry that followed the 1996 massacre forced Israel to stop its "Operation Grapes of Wrath". There was speculation yesterday that the deaths in Abbas Hashem's basement might speed up an end to this war.

Ahmad Abu al-Shebeb, the Palestinian imam in a white scull cap, had come from Tyre to watch the rescue. "Rashidiyeh (the main Palestinian refugee camp in Tyre) was bombed a week ago," Shebeb said. "They destroyed seven houses and a bakery and wounded 10 people."

If, as the Israeli prime minister, Ehud Olmert, promised yesterday, Israel suddenly allows humanitarian aid to reach Qana, the aid workers will not find many takers.

The war has displaced 800,000 people, most of them from the south, and Qana is a ghost town.

Just off the main square, I found white-haired Youssef Bourji, a blacksmith, and his wife, Aliya, sitting out the bombardment in the shade of their great arbour.

"I stayed here through 1978, 1982, 1993 and 1996," Bourji said. "I'd rather die at home than die of hunger and thirst somewhere else.

"Our children fled to Beirut," Aliya said. "When the bombing gets too close, we go inside and wait for it to end."

Labouring for dignity of dead as bombs fall nearby

We heard a half-dozen outgoing rockers, and decided it was time to head back through the broken glass and rubble, the bomb craters and tangles of downed power lines.

At Tyre government hospital, I found Mohamed Kassem Shalhoub, a skinny construction worker with a boxer's nose whom I'd seen carried out that morning with a broken arm and bloodied face.

He lost his five children, wife, mother, two uncles and their families in the bombing. "I heard people screaming, 'Stop the bleeding! Pull my son out of the rubble!'," he said with extraordinary calm. "I managed to pull three people out."

Mohamed Kassem repeated a thought I heard voiced several times yesterday: "The Israelis tried to fight mujahideenat Maroun al Ras and Bint Jbeil, and they lost. So they take revenge by bombing children."

After yesterday's massacre, the thirst for revenge is on <u>Hizbullah</u>'s side. On Saturday night Sayyid Hassan Nasrallah, the group's leader, threatened to fire longer-range missiles at towns in central Israel. Yesterday he swore that Israel "will assume the consequences of the massacres of Qana and elsewhere", and promised that the Qana bombing "will not remain unpunished".

Support for <u>Hizbullah</u> is tied up with religious fervour among the Shia of southern Lebanon. After listing his dead relatives Mohamed Kassem Shalhoub said: "We have an example to follow in Imam Hussein and we are all ready for Hassan Nasrallah."

His eyes welled with tears when I asked what he would do without his wife and children: "I have a god, I don't know what to do. He took my family, he will take care of me . . ."

Halla Shalhoub lay half-delirious in hospital, her head wrapped in bandages. "I lost my two little girls, 1½ and 3½. My two little girls will go to heaven, Thank God. I have memorised much of the Koran. To die with honour is better, Imam Hussein will see to it we will win."

The only survivor who talked of politics was Mohamed Ali Shalhoub, the paraplegic.

"I am not a fighter", he said. "My sister was sleeping beside me and she was also paralysed. Most of the children were under the age of 10. Are these people resistance?" he asked angrily. "Is this the new Middle East that the US is preaching?

"This is what they want for Iraq, Palestine, and Lebanon. The terrorism is coming from America."

Shalhoub understood the Israelis' strategy. "They are bombing civilians because they want to revolt against the resistance. If they kill us to the last person, we will still support the resistance. We will not be humiliated."

Load-Date: July 31, 2006



The Australian (Australia)
July 24, 2006 Monday
All-round Country Edition

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Section: FEATURES; Letters; Pg. 9

Length: 2600 words

Body

MATP

Israeli aggression helping lose battle for hearts and minds

MOST TALKED ABOUT

LEBANON CRISIS

YOUR editorials ("Israel must win the war of ideas", 21/7, "Foes must accept the Jewish state", 22-23/7) are correct. The battle of ideas -- or, to use an older phrase, the battle for hearts and minds -- is being lost for Israel. But the answer is a radical change of behaviour by Israel. Compassionate people cannot stand to see Lebanon destroyed this way and hundreds of innocents killed.

The Israeli ambassador to Australia said on ABC radio that this is happening because <u>Hezbollah</u> hide themselves and their arms amid civilians. This was surely known to Israel before it retaliated and should have meant it adopted other means.

Prisoners have been exchanged with <u>Hezbollah</u> before, in 2004, for example. Given the danger to civilians, a prisoner exchange should have been agreed to this time.

The best way to deal with <u>Hezbollah</u> is via Iran and not this frontal attack which has only strengthened the militia and led to global hostility towards Israel. Many believe Israel fell into **Hezbollah**'s trap and it appears so.

Mike Rubbo

Avoca Beach, NSW

YOUR editorial (22-23/7) was a disgrace. I didn't realise you were on the Israeli Government payroll. Israel can never win the war of ideas -- unless the media totally distorts the truth -- because it cannot win the war of facts. Why don't you tell your readers why *Hezbollah* and Hamas challenge Israel's right to exist?

Why don't you tell readers that less than 100 years ago, 90 per cent of the population of the land that is now Israel was Palestinian? Why don't you tell them that the West gave Israel to the Jews to assuage their Holocaust guilt without regard for the wishes or intrerests of the Palestinians.

Why don't you tell your readers about Security Council Resolution 242 and all the other resolutions that Israel has ignored? Why don't you tell them about the ruling of the International Court of Justice against Israel's apartheid wall, which it has also ignored? You are a newspaper not a propaganda sheet.

S. Q. Marsden

Fitzroy, Vic

THE editorial (22-23/7) makes depressing reading. Most people would agree with Israel's desire to exist. Yet, until it and its supporters acknowledge and address the root cause of Palestinian unrest everyone will continue to suffer and Israel will lose the war of ideas.

D. Kilgariff

Rivervale, WA

YOUR editorial (22-23/7) came as a bolt from the blue: a carefully considered, humane and pragmatic insight. No one should have to thank a newspaper for accurate, honest and unbiased reporting, but it is so rare these days that I have no hesitation in expressing gratitude. You have shown me and those who support Israel, a glimmer of hope in the murky mire of anti-Israel bigotry that pervades journalism, from the BBC to the pseudo-intellectual rabid rags of Fleet Street, such as The Guardian. The Australian stands as a bastion protecting the true craft of journalism that elsewhere has become another casualty in this war.

Barry Walters

Subiaco, WA

THE federal Government has it wrong or else it is pandering to the racist minority by charging refugees for some of the costs of their evacuation from Beirut. Australian tourists caught up in the conflict must surely have travel insurance from which they can claim the cost. Those with dual citizenship but have been domiciled in Lebanon are the true refugees and should not be charged the cost of their rescue. They are severely disadvantaged and in need of our ongoing support.

Loucille McGinley

East Brighton, Vic

I AM absolutely fed up with the insulting and ungrateful attitude of some Lebanese-born Australians banging on about how little our government is doing to extricate them from the consequences of their decision to return to Lebanon. I understand there may be those there on holidays or cultural tours but there are many thousands living there simply because the exchange rate and other circumstances suit. These self-interested, self-absorbed and selfish individuals, abuse the privilege of citizenship by using a passport as nothing more than an emergency escape hatch. We really don't need egocentric people like these who are stuck in the pain of past conflict and not prepared to make a new life here. Australia needs to be a damn sight choosier about who we allow here and concentrate our efforts on people who wish to genuinely contribute to this wonderful nation.

Steve Graham

Hawthorn, Vic

I WONDER what the general reaction would be if a foreign power sent a raiding party into Australia and kidnapped two of our soldiers then threatened to kill them if their demands were not met. Would the media and general population of Australia be calling for restraint and a measured diplomatic response or baying for blood and revenge?

Doug Steley

Maroochydore, Qld

THE Lebanese protesters (in Sydney and other capitals) would find more Australians standing shoulder to shoulder with them if they also protested in the same numbers, and with the same emotion and vigour against Hamas and <u>Hezbollah</u> killing Jews.

N. Ford

Kambah, ACT

Economists should try living on the minimum wage

DAVID Uren's article ("Push to freeze wages of low paid", 22-23/7) seems to highlight severe problems. Economists seem to take the economy as an abstract without realising that there are real people on the end of their decisions. With the University of Canberra's Phil Lewis saying there was no reason for an increase, may I suggest Professor Lewis try to live on \$484.40 a week, year after year, and replace motor vehicles, go to the dentist, raise and educate children etc. He would very quickly come face to face with a reason.

I find it interesting that these people always look to cut the wages of those who can least afford it. They never do a survey of how many more people would be employed if the billions that are siphoned out of the community every year in corporate profits were funneled into extra jobs. It is time to recognise that these people suffer from a severe lack of empathy.

Rob Duff

Cairns, Qld

ALL those who wish to freeze the wages of the low paid, such as Phil Lewis, should come to the US and see what such policies encourage: homeless people in droves living under freeways with not enough money to pay the bond for an apartment. The US has not raised the minimum wage in nine years and it remains at \$US5.15 (\$6.85) per hour. It is a disgrace when the wealthiest in wealthy countries profit from the sweat of the least wealthy and refuse to pay a fair wage.

David Jamieson

Houston, Texas

ARE your headlines ("Push to freeze wages of low paid", "Scrap migrant pay safety net: bosses", "Restaurant man 'kept as a slave", 22-23/7) a taste of the future for employment in Australia? With the introduction of the IR laws it seems that not only are the low paid going to suffer a decline in real wages but also migrant workers are going to be paid even less. Will we see more headlines about unscrupulous employers paying migrant workers a pittance and keeping them as slaves? If the rate of pay for Australian workers is too high, will we see an influx of unskilled migrant workers working for less? Will profits for Australian companies be made on the back of slaves from the Third World?

Robert Pallister

Punchbowl, NSW

THROWING our country open to temporary foreign workers will create the same problem that exists in the US which attracts illegal immigrants, such as Mexicans. The people we bring in will take a look at our lifestyle and vanish in the cities. Don't let greed drive us to an even greater problem.

Gary Gillies

Minyama, Qld

AUSTRALIA'S Joint Strike Fighter is due in 2012. How could making something that small take so long? We need more foreign workers.

Derek Budd

Tweed Heads, Qld

Dogs always get the blame

I READ that police may lay charges over the mauling death by dogs of Tyra Kuehne. What about the child's mother? I feel sorry for all involved but it is always the dog and dog owner who get the blame. The animals were tethered in their yard. They are territorial, so when someone intrudes, they act naturally.

I am not a fan of hunting dogs and would be happy to see them eradicated from Australia. As a nurse in an emergency department, I have seen many unprovoked attacks on children and adults by common-breed pet dogs. Australian Veterinary Association president Kersti Seksel states: "The failure of owners to responsibly care for and control their dog is one of the major underlying problems." Try inserting the child for dog.

Margaret Ann Clarke

Mount Colah, NSW

I READ the distressing report ("NSW to get tougher on dangerous dogs", 20/7) of the savage attack on Tyra Kuehne and my heart melted with sympathy for the family. But why should this be? There are breeds that are known for their savagery but we allow them to be kept by owners that cry, "mine would not do anything like that". The answer is simple: defang the dogs. This allows the animals to be kept as companion animals and any family would be confident that the animal could never harm any child or person even if it escaped on to the street.

James A. Foster

Panania, NSW

Lessons on curriculum

I WAS most disconcerted to read Christopher Pearson's reckless advocacy of the postmodern scam of critical literacy in the secondary history curriculum through students developing a speculative attitude towards the seeming certainties of the times ("Let history be the judge", 22-23/7). The eminently reasonable Pearson has otherwise been a bulwark against the new age, politically correct mantras of faux-Marxist educationalists who appear determined to dumb down the curriculum and make relativism the order of the day.

The recent example of students audaciously satirising the Howard Government's new industrial relations laws in an impertinent rock eisteddfod piece suggests that encouraging critical thinking in schools, rather than the acceptance of received wisdom, will lead to the political hijacking of the nation's classrooms by the worst extremes of progressivism.

Mark Howie

Lawson, NSW

CHRISTOPHER Pearson's article (22-23/7) contained an illustration of Sir John Monash and, more particularly, his helmet, said to be used at Gallipoli. The steel helmet could not have been worn by Monash as they were not on general issue until 1916 when the Australian troops had arrived in France.

Des Martin

Mountain Creek, Qld

FROM his rather narrow range of topics, Kevin Donnelly is again attacking English syllabuses ("It's all depths and deconstruction", 22-23/7). One basic concept about effective writing is shared by the sort of traditional English teaching that Donnelly hankers after and the quality of work being done in progressive English classrooms around the country. It is the notion that subject matter and the vocabulary selected to represent it should be appropriate for the intended audience. An explanation about jet engines in a primary school science book should certainly use different language from an article on the same topic in a journal for aeronautical engineers.

It is well to remember that the target audience for syllabus documents is the teaching profession and not, in the first instance, the general public. What can be cheaply decried as impenetrable jargon can also be seen as appropriate technical language. Is there a media outcry because professional publications in medicine, science and engineering contain vocabulary that the person in the street is unlikely to understand? A large chunk of human knowledge would have to be jettisoned if we were to restrict ourselves to ideas and vocabulary that the uneducated can readily understand.

New syllabus documents provide an opportunity for teachers to be presented with cutting-edge ideas. They should provide an element of challenge rather than being dumbed down to be within easy reach of the lowest common denominator.

Garry Collins

Stafford Heights, Qld

Defending the indefensible

GREAT hatchet job on the legal liberal Peter Breen ("MP with stars in his eyes for killers", 22-23/7). I had no idea the hysterical lynch-mob of Jonestown was the new target demographic of The Australian. You should be warned that competition in this target group is very crowded. Perhaps you should direct reporters to do "Inside story" pieces on the evils of refugee advocates, welfare recipients and nasty church leaders who say nice things about disgusting people, such as the poor.

Daniel Barnes

Brighton, SA

THE "Inside story" on Peter Breen (22-23/7) has clarified an otherwise incomprehensible situation. Learning that Mr Breen was elected on a platform of "reform the legal system" makes his otherwise seemingly bizarre actions somewhat more comprehensible though not more justified. My wife and I, who are campaigning for the reform of aspects of the legal system in South Australia following our 2005 experience with the system after the death of our daughter on the road, were left with the impression that there is a need to fix an unfair system. We doubt Mr Breen will be re-elected but we are not at all surprised that he was elected in the first place, such is the disenchantment in the community with the legal system. Mr Breen understands this community concern. Unfortunately, as far as we are concerned, he has chosen the wrong people to defend. He should have chosen instead the innocent victims.

Robin Percy

Redwood Park, SA

FIRST BYTE

letters@theaustralian.com.au

The twin problems of the wine glut and the water shortage might be solved if only we could identify someone who could turn wine into water.

Paul Phelan

Mount Beauty, Vic

There's no such thing as a free shopping bag, so charging an extra 10c seems to indicate collusion somewhere.

M. Mitchell

Lindenow South, Vic

Buying some frozen fish at Coles in Fremantle this weekend, the label revealed the country of origin as "Taiwan, Province of China". Is this an example of appearament of China being taken too far?

Rod Steed

Bull Creek, WA

Nobel laureate Patrick White is honoured daily on Australian golf courses with a putt named after him. A "Patrick White" is a bad read way off to the left.

Frank Anning

Ascot, Qld

There is a chronic shortage of <u>women</u> in country Australia. The Government could introduce a Vietnam-style draft for <u>women</u>. Conscript the required number and send them out bush for a year. Farmers would appreciate an influx of young city girls every six months.

Russell Metcalfe

Glebe, NSW

I FEEL sorry for Wendell Sailor. I thought the crackdown on drugs in sport was about performance-enhancing drugs. While he may have broken some social taboos and exposed himself to prosecution for his private excesses, it does seem a bit over the top. Doesn't anyone know the difference between cocaine and EPO?

Peter Clark

Toowoomba, Qld

Goodbye Sailor!

Peter Thornton

Kureelpa, Qld

I'm of two minds. Should Howard stay on just to continue to infuriate Phillip Adams or should he retire just to shut Adams up?

Christopher Hanley

Mt Egerton, Vic

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

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Load-Date: July 23, 2006



'Jewish people are used to it - to suffer, to fight for our existence'

The Irish Times
July 14, 2006 Friday

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Section: WORLD; Other World Stories; Pg. 11

Length: 587 words

Byline: Inigo Gilmore in Naharia and Rory McCarthy in Jerusalem

Body

MIDDLE EAST: 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.

<u>Hizbullah</u> 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 30 miles 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.

'Jewish people are used to it - to suffer, to fight for our existence'

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.

As a precaution yesterday many of the patients, including <u>women</u> 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, 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.

Load-Date: July 26, 2006



AIRLIFT BRITS FLEE LEBANON; Biggest evacuation since Dunkirk

Daily Star
July 18, 2006 Tuesday
U.K. 1st Edition

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Section: NEWS; 2 Length: 292 words

Byline: by IAIN BURCHELL

Body

THE first of 22,000 Brits stranded in Lebanon were yesterday airlifted to safety.

It has started what could become the biggest evacuation since Dunkirk.

About 40 people - mainly **women**, children and those needing medical attention - were helicoptered from north of Beirut to Cyprus.

And a fleet of Royal Navy warships moved off the coast for a massive evacuation by sea and air.

Foreign office Minister Kim Howells said 12,000 Brits and 10,000 dual nationals were there.

He said: "If these numbers are evacuated, it becomes the biggest evacuation since Dunkirk."

More than 300,000 troops were evacuated from Dunkirk and the surrounding beaches in 1940 during World War Two as they were rescued from the Germans.

PM Tony Blair, who yesterday called for an international force to be sent in to restore order, said the UK was "doing everything we can" to rescue stranded Britons.

Embassy staff in Beirut have been joined by a Foreign Office team to sort Britons into high and low priority for evacuation.

Our ambassador in Lebanon James Watt, 54, said the main options for more evacuations were British naval ships. He said plans were in place to move Brits "in a safe and orderly way out by sea".

He said: "We're asking our citizens to continue staying safe, staying at home, keeping their heads down, staying in touch with us."

The death toll since fighting began after militant group <u>Hezbollah</u> captured two Israeli soldiers has climbed above 200.

Meanwhile, British charity worker Clair Vainola, 31, from Newcastle Upon Tyne, described how she was trapped by an Israeli blockade in Beirut.

AIRLIFT BRITS FLEE LEBANON Biggest evacuation since Dunkirk

She fled from the west to the safer east of the city and is now staying on a yacht.

She said: "It has been very frightening. I just thank God I have Lebanese people helping me."

Graphic

SCARED: An Irish girl cries out in terror

Load-Date: July 18, 2006



Jewish security tightens: SEATTLE SHOOTING: Cautious, even if 'isolated incident'

The Vancouver Province (British Columbia)

July 30, 2006 Sunday

Final Edition

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Section: NEWS; Pg. A10

Length: 286 words

Byline: Lena Sin, The Province; with a file from Matthew Ramsey

Body

Security in synagogues and Jewish centres around the Lower Mainland is being stepped up after a shooting at a Seattle Jewish organization killed one person and wounded five **women**.

The gunman, who described himself as a Muslim American angry with Israel, barged into the offices of the Jewish Federation of Greater Seattle Friday and opened fire with a handgun, killing one woman and wounding five others before surrendering to police.

Police identified the arrested suspect as Naveed Afzal Haq, 30, from suburban Everett. A police source said Haq apparently has a history of mental illness.

The shooting came a day after the FBI warned Jewish organizations nationwide to be on alert. <u>Hezbollah</u> leaders in Lebanon and al-Qaida's second in command had both urged that the war raging in the Middle East be brought to the U.S.

Hag is thought to have acted on his own.

As shock, dismay and sympathy rippled through B.C.'s Jewish community yesterday, many felt it was better to err on the side of safety, said Mitchell Gropper, vice-president of the Jewish Federation of Greater Vancouver.

"We as Jews and Canadians deplore the use of violence to express your personal or political will. This is a very unfortunate incident, but . . . it appears to be an isolated incident."

A rally scheduled for tomorrow night will go ahead despite the violence in Seattle Friday.

Mira Oreck, Pacific Region director of the Canadian Jewish Congress, said the rally, aimed at showing support for Israel, was planned before Friday's shooting. Hundreds are expected at the Schara Tzedeck Synagogue on Oak Street at 7 p.m.

Const. Howard Chow of the Vancouver police department said he was not aware of any direct threats to local Jews.

Isin@png.canwest.com

Jewish security tightens: SEATTLE SHOOTING: Cautious, even if 'isolated incident'

Load-Date: July 30, 2006



Fifth of Lebanese made homeless

Yorkshire Post July 29, 2006

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Length: 293 words

Body

One in five Lebanese has been made homeless by the ongoing violence between <u>Hezbollah</u> and Israel, the UN's World Food Programme (WFP) has said.

Food shortages and the shelling of residential areas has turned the conflict into a major humanitarian crisis.

An estimated 800,000 people have been displaced in Lebanon - 95,000 in and around the capital Beirut.

Yesterday, the WFP sent emergency relief convoys to the cities of Sidon and Jezzine in the south of the country.

Eight convoy trucks loaded with 90 tonnes of wheat flour, 15 tonnes of canned meat, blankets and shelter materials provided by Medicins Sans Frontier (MSF) were bound for Jezzine.

Ten trucks laden with 18 tonnes of food and shelter supplies were also heading towards Sidon.

Amer Daoudi, the WFP's emergency co-ordinator in Lebanon, said: "There are <u>women</u> and children who face a daily threat not only of shelling and injury, but of having less and less food and water to sustain them.

"We have no time to waste in reaching them. A greater catastrophe is in the making if we don't assist people soon."

The WFP is set to send more convoys into the area over the next few days.

Mr Daoudi said WFP staff who travelled to the bombed city of Tyre, southern Lebanon, saw deserted villages and refugees fleeing in bumper to bumper traffic.

The WFP, which has called for £26m to help fund the humanitarian operation, is also flying in aid from Italy.

Twenty temporary warehouses and five generators will be flown into Latakkia, in Syria, and then taken to Lebanon by UN trucks.

The British Red Cross said it had only raised £68,000 of the £10m it was trying to collect for the troubled region.

It urged the public to donate to help provide humanitarian assistance in the form of food, water and medical supplies.

Load-Date: July 29, 2006



Beauties and the peace

Hindustan Times

February 26, 2005 Saturday 12:20 PM EST

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Length: 291 words

Byline: Hindustan Times

Dateline: NEW DELHI, India

Body

NEW DELHI, India, Feb. 26 -- By the time you read this, the Mrs World 2005 pageant will've ended; the world's 'Most Beautiful Married Woman' will've been crowned. There'll be one Mrs World, but several winners; among them two **women** who'll take home the best prize of all: friendship.

Given their nationalities, it'll be an unusual - and rare - bond.

Israel and Lebanon have never had too much affection for each other. They're not exactly enemies, but Tel Aviv continues to be troubled by the <u>Hezbollah</u> bases in southern Lebanon. It's a concern Mrs Israel Sima Bakhar shares but won't be overwhelmed by.

"I'm happy to be on the same stage as Mrs Lebanon. I have always wanted to be friends with Lebanon so that all the suffering can end," says the architect with a two-and-a-half-year-old kid.

Mrs Lebanon Cynthia Bounehme, trained in law and eastern philosophy, and mother of a five-year-old daughter, agrees: "Why should we keep alive political differences? Why can't we all live peacefully?"

Bounehme's theory, backed by Bakhar, is this: "Men have egos that reflect on their decisions, especially the political ones. If <u>women</u> were given a chance, the decisions would be different. <u>Women</u> want peace and harmony more than men."

Part-time model Bounehme gets her inspiration from God. "I've read the Bhagavad Gita and Buddhist texts. The world needs tolerance, peace and love, not territorial wars," she says.

The contestants-turned-friends look to extending their relationship beyond Amby Valley, Sahara Lake City, where they met. "Our friendship must continue for the sake of our children. They must know the world as a peaceful place...," they say, almost in chorus. Amen.

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Load-Date: March 1, 2005



World in crisis; LETTERS

Daily Mail (London)
July 20, 2006 Thursday

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Section: ED SC1; Pg. 68

Length: 325 words

Body

THE Middle East powder keg is closer to a major explosion than at any time for years, with a hawkish American administration unlikely to restrain Israel's response to the provocation of Hamas and <u>Hezbollah</u> (and Syria and Iran keen to support them).

Thousands of British troops face a daily life-or-death battle in Iraq and Afghanistan, sent there by an incompetent Government to satisfy the whims of a glory-seeking Prime Minister hanging on to the coattails of a bumbling, blustering American President ignorant of Middle Eastern culture and history.

It is hardly believable such a situation could get worse, but our incompetent Government has become a completely impotent one with the Deputy Prime Minister possibly facing a standards watchdog inquiry and the Prime Minister's most notable ally and chief fundraiser already the subject of a police investigation.

This gentleman also happens to be the Prime Minister's personal envoy to - of all places - the Middle East.

In the midst of such a crisis, we could normally rely upon Parliament to protect the interests of this country, its citizens and servicemen and <u>women</u>, but today, thanks to the actions of Mr Blair's government since 1997, the power of the once Mother of Parliaments has been neutered.

And what of Her Majesty's Opposition - the party which incredibly supported the foresaid troop deployments? They are proving themselves as inept and out of touch with reality as those they are supposed to oppose, taking time out to prove their green credentials and to lecture the decent, law-abiding citizens who are terrorised by young tearaways and drug addicts on learning to love their transgressors.

I must congratulate Mr Cameron on achieving one feat. He has ensured that, for the first time in my life, I shall not be voting Conservative at the next election and shall not do so as long as this 'Blair clone' remains leader of that once formidable party.

GEORGE McGEE, Midcalder, W. Lothian.

Load-Date: July 20, 2006



GET US OUT!; Biggest evacuation since Dunkirk

Daily Star
July 18, 2006 Tuesday
U.K. 2nd Edition

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Section: NEWS; 2 Length: 283 words

Byline: by IAIN BURCHELL

Body

THE first of 22,000 Brits stuck in Lebanon were yesterday airlifted to safety.

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About 40 people - mainly **women**, children and those needing medical attention - were helicoptered from north of Beirut to Cyprus.

And a fleet of Royal Navy warships moved off the coast for a massive evacuation by sea and air. Foreign office Minister Kim Howells said 12,000 Brits and 10,000 dual nationals were stranded there.

He said: "If these numbers are evacuated, it becomes the biggest evacuation since Dunkirk." More than 300,000 troops were saved from the Germans at Dunkirk in 1940.

PM Tony Blair, who yesterday called for an international force to be sent in to restore order, said the UK was "doing everything we can" to rescue stranded Britons.

Embassy staff in Beirut have been joined by a Foreign Office team to sort Britons into high and low priority for evacuation.

Our ambassador in Lebanon James Watt, 54, said the main options for more evacuations were British naval ships. He said plans were in place to move Brits "in a safe and orderly way out by sea". He said: "We're asking our citizens to continue staying safe, staying at home, keeping their heads down, staying in touch with us."

The death toll since fighting began after militant group <u>Hezbollah</u> captured two Israeli soldiers has climbed above 200.

Meanwhile, British charity worker Clair Vainola, 31, from Newcastle Upon Tyne, described how she was trapped by an Israeli blockade in Beirut.

She fled from the west to the safer east of the city and is now staying on a yacht.

She said: "It has been very frightening. I just thank God I have Lebanese people helping me."

Graphic

TEARFUL: A terrified Irish girl

Load-Date: July 18, 2006



'Pothole theory' may get a test in Mideast politics

The Philadelphia Inquirer

APRIL 17, 2005 Sunday CITY-D EDITION

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The Philadelphia Inquirer

Found on Philly . com

Section: CURRENTS; Pg. C01

Length: 799 words **Byline:** Trudy Rubin

Body

Here is one of the most fascinating debates going on among Middle Eastern intellectuals: Should Islamist parties be included in the democratic process?

Oddly, this debate has been provoked by the Iraq war, whose alleged aim was to undercut radical Islamists. Now that President Bush's Mideast focus has shifted to democracy promotion, he confronts an irony: The strongest political forces in many Arab states are religious.

Should they be let into the political game?

Thirteen years ago, when violent Algerian Islamists almost took power by the ballot, many Mideast moderates and U.S. officials recoiled at the notion. "One man, one vote, one time" was the slogan of Algerian radicals who wanted to use elections to achieve an Islamic state. Washington backed the Algerian military's cancellation of the election.

Today, that thinking seems to be shifting. According to Beirut Daily Star editor Rami Khouri, participants at a recent U.S.-Islamic World Forum in Doha, Qatar, did not debate whether Islamist groups should participate in elections, "but how they can do so in a manner that is acceptable to all concerned."

More intriguing, the Bush administration also is revising its thinking on the political role of Islamists. It labels <u>Hezbollah</u> in Lebanon and Hamas in the Palestinian territories as terrorist organizations. Yet both deliver social services to their publics and are likely to do well in coming elections.

President Bush suggested that if <u>Hezbollah</u> laid down its arms, it could be accepted as a political organization.

"Maybe some will run for office and say, 'Vote for me, I look forward to blowing up America,' " Bush said. "But I don't think so. I think people who generally run for office say, 'Vote for me, I'm looking forward to fixing your potholes.' "

Let's call this the pothole theory of Mideastern politics - get the Islamists into the game and they will learn to play by democratic rules, lay down arms, and focus on pleasing their voters. Is it safe to apply the pothole theory to the region as a rule of thumb?

One compelling test is going on right now in Iraq.

U.S. officials were surprised to find that the strongest social and political forces in Iraq were religious. In January elections, a list endorsed by the leading Shiite cleric Ayatollah Ali al-Sistani was the winner. The list included the two major Shiite Muslim political parties, al-Da'awa and SCIRI (Supreme Council for the Islamic Revolution in Iraq). Both had at one time called for a state governed by religious law.

The man who is set to become Iraq's prime minister, Ibrahim Jaafari, the leader of al-Da'awa, insisted in a January interview that his list had no desire to create an Islamic government like that in Iran. "Not all Iraqis are Shia and not all Shia are Islamists and not all Islamists believe in velayet e faqih," or rule of the supreme cleric, he said. "Our society doesn't want this."

But - beyond mere words - there are concrete factors in Iraq that help ensure that religious parties will play by democratic rules:

Iraq's religious parties are not jihadi parties that pursue armed struggle against impure Muslim regimes or the West. They want to play a role in Iraq's national system, not to reconstruct an Islamic empire.

SCIRI and al-Da'awa have signed on to a set of democratic precepts agreed to by all political parties. U.S. and Iraqi lawyers drew up the transitional administrative law that will govern Iraq until Iraqis themselves hammer out a new constitution. Religious parties aren't strong enough to dictate all of the constitution's terms.

Should some religious politicos still dream of theocracy, Iraq has enforcers to keep them in line until democratic norms take hold. In the background, U.S. influence is still potent - although Americans can't control the process or stay forever. In the foreground is Ayatollah Sistani, a visionary who understands the need for consensus among all Iraqis.

"You will see the moderating influence of Sistani on the constitution," says Zuhair Humadi, secretary general of the Iraqi cabinet.

Iraq has other political parties and organizations that can offset religious parties - notably the secular Kurdish parties. If religious groups push too hard to roll back *women*'s rights, these parties will push back.

Some of these factors are unique to Iraq and can't be copied elsewhere. None guarantee that Iraq won't experience secular-religious tensions. But they offset the danger that religious parties will use democracy to install a theocracy.

The lesson from Iraq is that religious parties must be bound up within a political structure that keeps them democratic. Otherwise, the pothole theory could lead to a wreck.

Contact columnist Trudy Rubin at 215-854-5823 or <u>trubin@phillynews.com</u>. Read her recent work at <u>http://go.philly.com/trudyrubin</u>.

Notes

Worldview

Load-Date: September 12, 2005



7 Canadians killed in Lebanon attack: Four Montreal children among the dead

The Vancouver Sun (British Columbia)

July 17, 2006 Monday

Final Edition

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Section: NEWS; Pg. A1

Length: 664 words

Byline: Michelle Lalonde, CanWest News Service

Dateline: MONTREAL

Body

MONTREAL -- Hassan El-Akhras was marching in a peaceful demonstration against recent Israeli bomb attacks on Lebanon Sunday afternoon when his cellphone rang with some devastating news.

Seven Canadian citizens visiting Lebanon -- all members of El-Akhras's Montreal family -- were killed in the bombing of Aitaroun, a village in southern Lebanon, Sunday.

Four children between the ages of one and eight were among the dead.

At least three other members of the same family were badly injured, said El-Akhras. The family had been hiding in the basement of their ancestral home for the past three days, family members said.

"My cousin just called me to say my father is dead, my mother is in hospital, two of my aunts, my uncle and his son and his grandson ... they are all martyrs," said El-Akhras, 31, in a quiet voice, clearly stunned by the news.

His sister, Hanan, cried out in anguish, clinging to a baby stroller to keep from collapsing, as she tried to digest the news.

Weeping <u>women</u>, teenaged girls and children stood embracing each other on the sidewalk, while several young men, still holding Lebanese flags and placards from the rally, called other family members on cellphones to deliver the grim news or to try to get more details.

Later, El-Akhras would receive another call from his cousin in Lebanon.

That call confirmed that his aunt Haniya Al-Akhras, his cousin's wife Amira Al-Akhras, 23, and their four children, Saja, Zeinab, Ahmad and Salam, were dead.

Another man died as well, but El-Akhras said he didn't know whether it was his father, Ali El-Akhras, 70, or his uncle Ahmad Al-Akhras, 60. The other was reported wounded, as were his mother, Saada El-Akhras and his cousin Ali El-Akhras, a Montreal pharmacist and the father of the dead children.

El-Akhras said all his information was based on the phone calls from Lebanon.

7 Canadians killed in Lebanon attack: Four Montreal children among the dead

The elder victims had all moved to Montreal from Lebanon in the early 1990s, El-Akhras said, while his cousin's four children were born here.

Two more of his aunts, both Lebanese nationals, were also killed in the attack, he said.

He said his parents moved to Montreal in 1991, but returned frequently to Lebanon to visit relatives. This time his parents were to stay six months. He and his sister had planned to join the family in Lebanon on Tuesday, but learned last week that all flights to the troubled region had been cancelled.

"I want this message to go to the prime minister," El-Akhras said.

"Tell Israel to stop the bombing. They are killing Canadian citizens...They are attacking civilians and Canada has been supporting Israel without even knowing what is going on."

Prime Minister Harper is attending the G-8 summit in St. Petersburg, Russia. A spokesperson in the prime minister's office said Harper had been informed of the casualties in Lebanon, but had issued no statement as of

5 p.m. Sunday. Harper is expected home late Wednesday evening.

Harper infuriated many Lebanese Canadians when he called Israel's recent actions in Lebanon "measured" and agreed with U.S. President George W. Bush that Israel is simply defending itself.

At Sunday's rally, organized by a group called the Montreal Lebanese Committee, some marchers carried signs with photos of Harper that said, "We were stupid for voting for you."

About a dozen children headed the march for a period, shouting along with their parents, "Israel assassin, Canada complice" (Israel murderer, Canada accomplice).

Guinoua Haidar was among the many at the rally who brought children along. Her two children, aged three years and 10 months, sat in stollers while the adults around them joined in the anti-Israel, anti-Bush, and sometimes anti-Harper chants.

"They are killing children, and leaving them (injured) without arms and legs," said Haidar, whose uncles, cousins and grandparents are holed up in bomb shelters in southern Lebanon.

"A lot of Lebanese people voted for Stephen Harper, and what are we getting back now?" added her husband, Wahib Abbas.

mlalonde@thegazette.canwest.com

Graphic

Colour Photo: Zeinab Al-Akhras;

Colour Photo: Ahmad Al-Akhras;

Colour Photo: Salam Al-Akhras;

Colour Photo: Saja Al-Akhras;

Colour Photo: Muhammed Muheisen, Associated Press; ISRAEL'S CAMPAIGN AGAINST LEBANON TARGETS ESCALATES...Israeli gunners cover their ears as a heavy artillery piece fires at a target in southern Lebanon on Sunday.;

7 Canadians killed in Lebanon attack: Four Montreal children among the dead

Colour Photo: Nasser Nasser, Associated Press; ISRAEL'S CAMPAIGN AGAINST LEBANON TARGETS ESCALATES... Lebanese men carry an injured boy out of a building after an attack by an Israeli warplane.;

Colour Photo: Oded Balilty, Associated Press; ... AND <u>HEZBOLLAH</u> CONTINUES BOMBARDMENT OF ISRAEL: Police officers inspect the site of a rocket attack in the Israeli city of Haifa.;

Colour Photo: Oded Balilty, Associated Press / ... AND <u>HEZBOLLAH</u> CONTINUES BOMBARDMENT OF ISRAEL: An Israeli border policeman (above right) helps an injured woman Saturday.

Load-Date: July 17, 2006



Doomsday was right: world's ripe for disaster; DIARY OF A DAY TRADER

Sydney Morning Herald (Australia)

July 29, 2006 Saturday

First Edition

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Section: BUSINESS; Investing; Pg. 41

Length: 758 words

Byline: JAMES BONE

Body

Monday, July 24: The indigenous people of Arnhem Land showed no interest in our day traders' seminar. I don't blame them. Instead they told us a dreamtime story about how the echidna got its spines.

The night was dark and the desert cold. The fire danced. The tribe did too. One painted elder raced up to our senior chartist and pulled frightening faces.

The Bungkul dance features a lot of jumping about by the men and knee-waggling by the <u>women</u>. A few blokes sat tapping sticks and a large elder, Mr Djalu, played a didgeridoo. It was all very interesting.

Yogi, our chartist, tried to interrupt the performance to draw the tribe's attention to four great little investments being floated on Friday: Gosford Quarry Holdings, Mineral Resources, Emeco Holdings and Rialto Energy. Yogi had a PowerPoint presentation at the ready. This fell on deaf ears. Tuesday, July 25: Tonight we heard of four events with catastrophic consequences for Earth.

First was the collapse of the Doha round of trade talks. Protectionism has triumphed over free markets. The end game is thus in play: globalisation is in retreat, and nothing can save the world from another Great Depression.

The second was <u>Hezbollah</u>'s dastardly attack on Israel, and Israel's proportionate response. This involved Jewish kiddies drawing slogans on rockets. The Middle East is doomed (unless of course Syria and Iran stop giving rockets to <u>Hezbollah</u>, Israel recognises a Palestinian state, everyone stops invoking God or Allah as their authority for creating general mayhem, and all parties give Condi a big kiss and make up).

The third disaster was advance warning, via our inside trader, Pamela Vortex (who is having an affair with a cousin of a mate of a Reserve Bank director), that inflation would exceed 4 per cent and interest rates would rise - leading to a collapse in share prices.

Last, and perhaps most grievous, is the catastrophic state of the Australian banana industry. Cyclone Larry has wiped out our supplies. Only a few hundred are left, and they're going for about \$4053.25 each. The impact on the CPI has been tremendous.

At a recent celebrity auction, Russell Crowe and Kylie Minogue donated their entire fruit bowls (including two bananas each) to a children's charity. The fruit bowls fetched \$20,010.06!

Doomsday was right: world's ripe for disaster DIARY OF A DAY TRADER

But that's nothing compared to the human cost. Many Australian homes have gone banana-less for weeks, an emergency World Health Organisation inquiry found. "The gap between the rich and the poor in Australia has deepened," reported the UN agency. "Australia is now a nation of haves and have-nots, of those who can afford bananas and those who can't."

Apparently Robert Fisk is flying in to cover this Australian crisis. "It's an Israeli plot to corner the world's banana supply, and starve the Arabs into submission," he reportedly said. We gave the tribal elders our last few bananas and set off on the long journey home.

"The Things are playing in Sydney. We gotta be back by August 13!" Yogi explained.

Mr Djalu put down his didgeridoo and said: "Ah, The Things - a fine band! I taught them to play the clapsticks. Please pass on our deepest respects!"Wednesday, July 26: We headed south. Nothing much happened. The long road rolled away to the horizon. The Winnebago gently rocked us to sleep. FastCash, our head of research, drove. "We gotta get back in time for The Things!" Yogi kept muttering. Thursday, July 27: On and on, past beaches and farms, and not a single banana tree in sight. Then we came upon a few blue-helmeted UN peacekeepers protecting a lone banana from a bunch of salivating bandits. Sir Bob Geldof offered them a blanket instead.

Martha-from-Macquarie, who hasn't spoken for months, suddenly piped up and said: "Why don't we import Filipino bananas? They're half the price of Aussie ones."

It seemed a good idea. We resolved to talk to Mr Vaile about Martha's ingenious plan to flatten inflation, deter an interest rate rise, and save the Government. Hooray! Friday, July 28: All looks dark and foreboding. Local banana growers won't accept Filipino imports.

Australians queued outside banana kitchens this morning for the daily ration: a quarter of a fritter, or a mouthful of a smoothie, if they're lucky.

Robert Fisk filmed himself gravely feeding a dwarf banana to an emaciated kiddie.

The only good news was the success of Anatrim, an obesity drug Oprah endorses: "The first two pills almost immediately took my banana cravings away," said Fergal of New York. "Now, three belt holes later, I am an advocate for this awesome natural supplement!"

Load-Date: July 17, 2007



Palestinians turn out to vote for president;

Irish News January 10, 2005

Copyright 2005 The Irish News Limited

Section: Pg. 20

Length: 767 words

Body

PALESTINIANS hoped yesterday's presidential election, their first in nine years, would revitalise the Middle East peace process in the wake of longtime leader Yasser Arafat's death on November 11.

Mahmoud Abbas, after initial results had topped the poll.

Khalil Shekaki, the Palestinian policy centre's director said that Mr Abbas will have the legitimacy to negotiate with the Israelis, and the Palestinian people will accept what he will agree on.

Voting went relatively smoothly for the estimated 1.8 million Palestinians eligible to cast ballots.

However, the Lebanese guerrilla group <u>Hezbollah</u>, which has been funding Palestinian militants to disrupt a possible Israeli-Palestinian truce, carried out an attack on the border with Israel on Sunday. A French UN observer, an Israeli army officer and a **Hezbollah** fighter were killed in the incident.

In the West Bank, five gunmen burst into an election office, firing into the air and complaining that the names of their relatives had been left off registration lists. In Jerusalem, there was some confusion over voter lists that was eventually resolved, with the help of international observers.

Among the thousands of international observers monitoring the fairness of the election was Ulster Unionist Lord Kilclooney. He was leading a 15-strong delegation of the Council of Europe Parliamentary Assembly in Ramallah and Jerusalem.

Palestinian cabinet minister Saeb Erekat said the elections can be a model for the Arab world, noting that seven candidates competed.

"This is a message to President Bush, to the rest of the world, that the problem we have here is not the kind of system we have, it's not reform, it's the Israeli occupation, " Mr Erekat said.

Mr Bush has said a resumption of Israeli-Palestinian peace talks must be accompanied by sweeping Palestinian government reform. US Secretary of State Colin Powell, speaking on CNN, praised the vote as a moment of opportunity for both sides.

Visiting US Senator John Kerry, who challenged Mr Bush in the 2004 US election, met with candidates in the West Bank. "We're here because we have very, very high hopes for an election that can help move the peace process forward, " he said.

Palestinians turn out to vote for president;

The Palestinian election came a day before Israel's parliament was to approve a new, more moderate coalition, seen as a boost for Prime Minister Ariel Sharon's plan to withdraw from the Gaza Strip and parts of the West Bank in the summer.

In the new alliance, Mr Sharon will govern side-by-side with elder statesman Shimon Peres, leader of the moderate Labour Party, and an architect of interim peace deals with the Palestinians.

Hardliners had quit the coalition last year, in protest against the planned withdrawal.

Mr Sharon plans to meet with 69-yearold Mr Abbas after the election, an adviser close to Mr Sharon said.

Israel is offering to release Palestinian prisoners if Mr Abbas can halt rocket attacks on Israeli communities, one Israeli official said.

Israel holds an estimated 7,000 Palestinian prisoners. It released 159 prisoners last month, but Palestinians dismissed the gesture as insufficient.

Polls opened at 7am across the West Bank, Gaza Strip and east Jerusalem.

Voters were slow to arrive, and by noon only about 30 per cent had cast ballots.

Later in the day, election officials simplified procedures, allowing voters to cast ballots in any of more than 1,000 locations, rather than were they registered.

This enabled thousands of members of the Palestinian security services to cast ballots where they serve, rather than having to travel to their hometowns.

Mr Abbas, accompanied by his family, voted at Yasser Arafat's former headquarters in Ramallah.

"The election is going well and that indicates that the Palestinian people are heading toward democracy, " he said.

Mr Abbas has said his main goal is the same as Mr Arafat's, an end to Israeli occupation and a Palestinian state in the West Bank and Gaza Strip, with east Jerusalem as its capital.

He faces a difficult balancing act. He is likely to encounter resistance from militants intent on continuing attacks on Israel. On the other hand, he is under heavy pressure from Israel to crack down on the militants.

"After the elections, we want to see a strategic decision to fight the terror and incitement, " Israeli Foreign Minister Silvan Shalom told Israel Radio.

Mr Abbas has so far resisted calls for a crackdown. Instead, he hopes to persuade militants to halt their attacks on Israel.

By prior agreement with Israel, only about 5,000 of 120,000 eligible voters in Jerusalem were permitted to vote in post offices in the city.

Graphic

EXERCISING THEIR FRANCHISE: Palestinian <u>women</u> cast their vote in the presidential election yesterday. Initial results put Mahmoud Abbas at the top of the poll with 66 per cent

Load-Date: January 13, 2005



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

The International Herald Tribune
January 18, 2005 Tuesday

Copyright 2005 International Herald Tribune

Section: NEWS; Pg. 1

Length: 808 words

Byline: Greg Myre

Dateline: GAZA:

Body

Facing strong pressure from Israel, the Palestinian leader, Mahmoud Abbas, has instructed Palestinian security forces to try to prevent attacks against Israel and to investigate a deadly assault last week in the Gaza Strip, Palestinian officials said Monday.

Abbas's order came only two days after he was sworn in as president of the Palestinian Authority and one day after Prime Minister Ariel Sharon of Israel announced that the Israeli military had free rein to pursue armed factions in Gaza.

Zalman Shoval, an adviser to Sharon, described Abbas's move "as a small but positive sign."

Israel did not lift its threat of a possible large-scale incursion into Gaza, but any such offensive appeared to be on hold, at least for now, according to Israeli media reports.

The New York Times

"What we really expect him to do is put his security forces in the parts of the Gaza Strip where the rockets are being fired." Shoval said of Abbas.

The Palestinian rockets, with a range of barely eight kilometers, or five miles, are fired regularly from the northern Gaza Strip at the Israeli town of Sederot, which is just outside Gaza's perimeter fence.

Palestinians shot two rockets Monday at Sederot, and mortars were fired at Jewish settlements in southern Gaza, the military said. The attacks caused no injuries or damage.

Elsewhere in Gaza, Israeli troops shot and killed two Palestinian gunmen who approached a road in southern Gaza reserved for Jewish settlers, the military said. Islamic Jihad, a faction behind many attacks against Israel, said the two men were from its group.

Abbas has been speaking out against Palestinian bombing and shooting attacks. But until the decision Monday, announced at a cabinet meeting, he had not indicated that he would call on security forces to confront the armed Palestinian factions.

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

"There are intensified instructions to the Palestinian security forces to assume their responsibilities," Azzam al-Ahmed, the Palestinian communications minister, told reporters after the cabinet session in the West Bank city of Ramallah. "The attacks by the Palestinian side must come to an end, but Israeli military operations must also end."

In addition, Abbas ordered the security forces to investigate an assault on a crossing point between Israel and Gaza that killed six Israeli civilians Thursday.

Following that attack, Sharon suspended Israeli contact with Abbas and the Palestinian leadership.

A group of liberal Israeli politicians, including several current and former members of Parliament, met Abbas in Ramallah and said afterward they believed he was sincere about trying to stop Palestinian attacks.

"Mr. Abbas is totally committed to ending the violence by various means, that is clear to us," said Yossi Beilin, leader of the leftist Yahad Party.

Abbas did not comment publicly on his decision, and fellow cabinet members did not provide details on how security forces might act to halt the daily Palestinian attacks, most of which are currently launched in Gaza. Under the late Yasser Arafat, Palestinian security forces never made a sustained effort to prevent attacks during the past four years.

Israel accuses Palestinian security forces of frequently assisting the armed factions, or of participating directly in attacks against Israeli targets.

A senior Palestinian security official, who spoke on condition of anonymity, said the security services had not received any new orders from Abbas and were waiting for him to visit Gaza later this week to discuss matters.

Abbas, commonly known as Abu Mazen, is also expected to meet the armed factions in Gaza. They have been engaged in dialogue with him, though they reject his call to halt attacks.

"The resistance did not begin with a decision by Abu Mazen, and it won't end with a decision by him," said Sami Abu Zuhri, a spokesman for Hamas. He said "there is no way such a decision will be implemented in the field because the resistance is a project for all the Palestinian people."

Hamas and other factions say they would consider laying down their weapons only if Israel also agrees to halt raids on Palestinian areas.

Mokhaimer Abusada, a political science professor at Al-Azhar University in Gaza City, said he believed that Hamas would be deeply reluctant to agree to a truce when it knows that Israel intends to withdraw its soldiers and settlers from Gaza this summer.

Meanwhile, in the tense region where the borders of Israel, Lebanon and Syria converge, the Lebanese guerrilla group <u>Hezbollah</u> detonated a bomb close to an Israeli Army bulldozer but it caused no injuries, the Israeli military said.

Israel responded with air strikes in southern Lebanon that targeted two <u>Hezbollah</u> bases, the military added. In Lebanon, security officials said that two <u>women</u> were injured in the strikes, several miles north of the border, The Associated Press reported from Beirut.

Load-Date: January 18, 2005



A Week in Books

The Independent (London)
July 28, 2006 Friday

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The INDEPENDENT

Section: FEATURES; Pg. 20

Length: 627 words

Byline: BOYD TONKIN

Body

At a time when bombs, shells and missiles are wrecking so many lives, it may seem frivolous or callous to worry that they also menace books. Look at history, however, and you'll find that a contempt for human beings and a contempt for the culture that they fashion never stand too far apart. In Beirut, this week, some books that powerful but truly callous people in the West really ought to read have just about survived - so far. They are languishing in a warehouse in the pulverised south of the city used by Saqi Books.

Saqi is the outstanding independent house built up by writer and publisher Mai Ghoussoub after her exile from Beirut during the city's previous bouts of strife. In Lebanon, the staff of Dar al Saqi, the London outfit's sister company, are trying to work amid the raids, but also acting as volunteers in centres set up for refugees. As of Wednesday, the warehouse itself still stood.

Always a superb source of books from and about the Arabic world (it publishes, for instance, Naim Qassem's study *Hizbullah*: the Story from Within), Saqi has broadened its remit lately to create a choice list of international fiction. Recently, under its new Telegram imprint, it has launched a series of short-story anthologies by *women* writers from around the world. In May, Nancy Hawker's Povidky: Short Stories by Czech *Women* Appeared. Two further anthologies had been scheduled for August and September.

Since Saqi prints in Lebanon, these are the books that now sit at the mercy of the raining bombs. We could hardly need them more urgently than we do now. They are Hikayat: Short Stories by Lebanese <u>Women</u>, edited by Roseanne Saad Khalaf' and Qissat: Short stories by Palestinian <u>Women</u>, edited by Jo Glanville. Saqi's staff have managed to spirit a few copies out of the country via Jordan in the past few days. The rest remain in the firing-line, as fragile as the people whose humanity and complexity they celebrate.

In a world with porous frontiers, literature can help outsiders register the depth and dignity of other lives. And it is, perhaps, the widespread refusal in the West to recognise that Arab lives might possess a depth and dignity equal to any other that helps explain why those bombs are still allowed to fall so pitilessly. As Hizbollah's random missiles fall, just as pitilessly if rather more ineptly, on Haifa - the home city of the leading Israeli novelist and social critic A B Yehoshua, whom we profiled here a year ago.

A Week in Books

In the West we can hear relatively easily from Yehoshua, as from his remarkable Israeli peers such as David Grossman and Amos Oz. Saqi is trying to ensure that we can attend to voices from elsewhere as well. Don't treat such writers as voices from the "other side", because any literature worth its name should shatter the delusion that any other human side exists, apart from the truly unknown terrain beyond the wall that separates life from death. Saqi deserves to be left to do this quietly heroic job in peace.

Of course, Israeli tanks and warplanes hardly pose the only threat to literary liberty across the Middle East. A toxic tradition of repression and despotism - both political and religious - has suffocated many Arab efforts to make a free literature the herald of a free society. At a festival in Marrakech last autumn, one session posed the question of why we can still read so little Arabic writing in the West. The admirable Iraqi-born editor and author Samuel Shimon promptly replied that it's because Arab governments hate their authors. Historically, many of them have.

That made Lebanon, a far more open space for thought and art than many in the region, such a life-giving exception to the rule. So it must remain. And we should hope that Saqi's warehouse can release its precious cargo soon.

Load-Date: July 31, 2006



Suspicion defines Syria's international relationships

St. Petersburg Times (Florida)

February 26, 2005 Saturday 0 South Pinellas Edition

Copyright 2005 Times Publishing Company

Section: NATIONAL; Pg. 5A; Newspaper

Length: 1358 words

Byline: SUSAN TAYLOR MARTIN

Series: TIMES 2; SORTING IT OUT: SYRIA

Body

Why is Syria so much in the news these days?

Syria is suspected of involvement in the Feb. 14 assassination of Rafik Hariri, the popular former prime minister of neighboring Lebanon. Hariri had increasingly opposed Syria's military occupation of Lebanon and its control of Lebanese politics. The Bush administration also accuses Syria of supporting the insurgency in neighboring Iraq.

Did Syria have anything to do with Hariri's killing?

There is no firm evidence. Some analysts think Syrian intelligence agents might have played a role in killing the man perceived as a growing threat to Syria's control of Lebanon. On the other hand, as columnist Pat Buchanan put it, Syrian President Bashar Assad "would have to be the stupidest man on the planet" to order such a high-profile murder when Syria is under so much scrutiny from the Bush administration, Israel and others.

How did Syria get involved in Lebanon in the first place?

The countries have been close since they were ruled by France from 1920 to 1946. Beirut, the Lebanese capital, has been called "the Paris of the Mideast," and many wealthy Syrians do their banking and shopping there. From 1975 to 1990, Lebanon was racked by a civil war in which Syria supported various factions. The war ended with an agreement for Syria to temporarily station troops in Lebanon to maintain peace, but the soldiers never left. As a Lebanese critic put it, "Syria has been allowed to get away with pretty much whatever it likes in Lebanon."

Will Syria ever leave Lebanon?

Bowing to international pressure, Syria announced Thursday it would move some of its 15,000 troops closer to its own border but gave no timetable. Syrian officials accuse the United States of a double standard in demanding Syria withdraw from Lebanon while Israel continues to occupy Palestinian territories and the Golan Heights, captured from Syria in 1967.

Why are Syria and Israel such enemies?

Suspicion defines Syria 's international relationships

Syria is among the Arab nations that fought wars against Israel in 1948, 1967 and 1973. Along with Iran, Syria supports *Hezbollah*, the militant group that has killed dozens of Israelis. Syria also shelters leaders of other anti-Israel groups, including Ramadan Abdullah Shallah, a former University of South Florida instructor who heads the Palestinian Islamic Jihad and lives in Damascus.

Is there any chance of peace between Syria and Israel?

Syria's late ruler, Hafez Assad, insisted the Syrian-Israeli conflict could not be resolved unless it was part of a comprehensive peace agreement that also addressed Palestinian issues. His son, Bashar, has offered to resume talks with no strings attached, but so far has been rebuffed by Israel, which says it doubts his sincerity.

The late President Assad was a ruthless leader who killed as many as 25,000 of his own people to quash a threat from Islamic fundamentalists. Is his son like him?

Many analysts had high hopes for Bashar Assad, 39, who trained as an eye doctor in London and is known as a computer geek. After his father died in 2000, he tried to institute economic and political reforms but quickly ran into opposition from hard-liners and entrenched interests. Some experts think Assad still wants to modernize and liberalize his country, which lacks Iraq's oil wealth, but progress has been slow. However, Syria no longer has the oppressive police state atmosphere it did when Assad's father was in power.

Is Syria an enemy of the United States?

No, insist Syrian officials, who point to cooperation after the Sept. 11, 2001, terrorist attacks. In 2002, Syria reportedly tipped off the CIA to a planned attack against U.S. personnel in an undisclosed Persian Gulf country. Syria also has provided intelligence on other Islamic groups and individuals linked to al-Qaida. In an interview with the New York Times editorial board last fall, then-Secretary of State Colin Powell said Syrian officials "gave me some information with respect to financial activities (of insurgents in Iraq) and how we can cooperate more fully on that."

Why, then, is the Bush administration taking such a tough line on Syria?

The administration says Syria has sheltered top officials of Saddam Hussein's regime and supported the insurgency in other ways. In a tape aired this week on an Iraqi TV network, a man claiming to be a Syrian intelligence officer said he helped train insurgents to behead and build car bombs to attack U.S. and Iraqi troops. Neither the man's identity nor the tape's authenticity has been verified.

What steps can the administration take against Syria?

Short of military action, not many. The United States already has recalled its ambassador to Damascus and imposed tough sanctions, including a ban on most U.S. exports to Syria other than food and medicine. President Bush says he will wait to see whether Syria withdraws from Lebanon before asking the United Nations to impose international sanctions.

Would the United States attack Syria?

Most experts doubt the United States could afford to get involved in another war when it still has so many troops in Iraq and Afghanistan. However, there could be limited strikes. Israel has hit militant targets in Damascus and U.S. troops reportedly have entered Syria from Iraq in pursuit of insurgents.

How big a threat does Syria pose to the United States itself?

Suspicion defines Syria 's international relationships

The State Department lists Syria as a "state sponsor of terrorism," primarily for its support of <u>Hezbollah</u>. The organization has run training camps in Lebanon's Syrian-controlled Bekaa Valley, where terrorists from around the world reportedly are taught to forge identification, make bombs and plot assassinations. <u>Hezbollah</u> has not been suspected of any overt anti-American acts in years, but it killed enough Americans in Lebanon during the civil war to make it second only to al-Qaida in causing U.S. deaths. Syria itself is a relatively poor, small county (its population is just 18-million), and its military is no match for either Israel or the United States.

- SUSAN TAYLOR MARTIN, Times senior correspondent

SYRIA AT A GLANCE

HISTORY

Damascus, settled about 2500 B.C., is one of the oldest continuously inhabited cities in the world. Archaeologists have discovered extensive writings and evidence of a brilliant culture rivaling those of Mesopotamia and Egypt in and around the ancient city of Ebla. Over the ages, Syria has seen invasions and occupations by almost all the great powers of the region. In 1517, Syria fell under the rule of the Ottoman Turks. After the breakup of their empire after World War I, Syria was ruled by the French until independence in 1946. After a long period of instability, the pan-Arab Baath (Renaissance) Party took control in 1963. (The Baath movement also came to power in Iraq.) The government has been characterized by authoritarian rule, which has eased somewhat since 2000 under President Bashar Assad.

PEOPLE

POPULATION: 18.2-million.

ETHNIC GROUPS: Arabs (90 percent), Kurds (9 percent), Armenians, Circassians, Turkmen.

RELIGIONS: Sunni Muslim (74 percent), Alawite Muslim (12 percent), Christians (10 percent), Druze (3 percent), and small numbers of other Muslim sects, Jews and Yazidis.

MAJOR LANGUAGES: Arabic (official), English and French (widely understood), Kurdish.

LITERACY: 89.7 percent male, 64 percent female.

LIFE EXPECTANCY: 68 years male, 71 years female.

GEOGRAPHY

AREA: 71,504 square miles (including Israeli-occupied Golan Heights); slightly larger than North Dakota.

MAJOR CITIES: capital, Damascus (5-million); Aleppo (4.5-million).

ECONOMY

POPULATION BELOW POVERTY LINE (2003 ESTIMATE): 20 percent.

GDP PER CAPITA (2003 ESTIMATE): \$1,165.

INDUSTRIES: petroleum, textiles, food processing, beverages, tobacco, phosphate mining.

MAJOR EXPORTS: crude oil, petroleum products, fruits and vegetables, textiles, cotton.

Suspicion defines Syria 's international relationships

GOVERNMENT

TYPE: republic (under military regime).

HEAD OF STATE: President Bashar Assad, since July 2000.

Military: 30-month service for males over 18. Army: roughly 215,000 active duty (2002). Air force: roughly 40,000 active; one of the largest in the Middle East. Small navy.

Sources: CIA World Factbook, State Department Background Notes, Energy Information Administration, GlobalSecurity.org.

Graphic

PHOTO, ASSOCIATED PRESS; MAP; PHOTO; A family picnics on Kassioun mountain, high above the Syrian capital of Damascus.; Map of Syria locates major cities; Bashar Assad

Load-Date: February 26, 2005



Blaming the extremists

Red Deer Express (Alberta)

July 26, 2006 Wednesday

Final Edition

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Section: NEWS; Pg. 35; Bob Mills

Length: 321 words

Byline: Bob Mills, Red Deer Express

Body

As you are reading this our new government is mounting the biggest evacuation effort in Canada's history.

Officials in Canada and in the region are working around the clock and are in regular contact with the Canadians registered in Lebanon.

We have chartered commercial vessels to evacuate Canadians and chartered aircraft to then fly them back to Canada.

Clearly this is a daunting task. It simply hasn't happened on a civilian level like this in a very long time.

That being said, the real tragedy is continuing to unfold in Lebanon and Israel.

I am deeply saddened by the deaths and injury of those innocent people caused by extremist organizations in Lebanon, Israel, and the world.

I extend my deepest condolences to their families and friends, and our thoughts and prayers are with them and we will make every effort to assist them in this difficult time.

Our government recognizes Israel's right to exist but we do call on Israel to exercise restraint and to avoid civilian casualties and damage to civilian infrastructure.

News that one third of the casualties in Lebanon are children is heart-wrenching.

But, the first thing that needs to be done is the return of the captured Israeli soldiers. And, <u>Hezbollah</u> has to end attacks on Israel and all parties need to back away from further conflict.

Our Conservative government will not shift blame from the extremists who caused this violence, and who want it to continue in Israel.

We regret this conflict but hold extremists responsible. They initiated it and oppose peace in principle. Peace and freedom run counter to their goals of anarchy and violence.

It is for similar reasons that our troops are over in Afghanistan fighting terrorists, drug lords and criminals.

Blaming the extremists

Canada does not have the luxury of standing by in the world while criminal thugs kill <u>women</u>, children and other innocent civilians. And, just as sure as the sun rises every morning, we are winning.

Until next time...

Load-Date: July 27, 2006



Smiles have faded in a magic land

Birmingham Evening Mail July 28, 2006, Friday Worcs Edition

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Section: FEATURES; Pg. 12

Length: 321 words

Byline: Maureen Messent

Body

HOW'S my meandering little road in the Holy Land while mayhem rages? Are the Arab <u>women</u> with their richly embroidered black dresses still waiting by the roadside with their chickens and goats to take to Ramallah market?

In the good old days, before Ariel Sharon's bloody hands, possibly the world's best day trip ran from the Arab bus station in East Jerusalem - near the Damascus Gate - to the West Bank.

True, the transport was on its last legs, wheezing and clanking through the reddish-pink dust on verges between the Holy City and Bethlehem, gears grinding as we slow to avoid young shepherds and wandering goats.

The magic was on all sides. There were the toothless Arab <u>women</u> who'd peel oranges and offer me a segment, their daughters' fussing over their babies and chickens in baskets while, enthralling for a Christian the knowledge that Jesus' eyes would have seen the same hills that I glimpsed.

Orange groves of ancient trees littered the landscape, looking more grey than green as the road looped like a pink ribbon thrown on a grey quilt. Little houses would spring from nowhere like the illustrations on kitsch Christmas cards, children would run beside us waving and shouting.

There would be a half-hour halt in Ramallah's market place where men drank endless cups of acrid black coffee while <u>women</u> shopped, hidden behind their purchases. And where, to my horror, I once saw a large sheep destined to be the next day's menu, bundled bleating through a cafe doorway.

This journey is now impossible in Israel. The hated wall rears up and there is no public transport to the West Bank, now regarded as hostile territory. Will the Jews never learn that negotiation is the sole way to peace, not bombing civilians? Will the Lebanese government have the courage to expel <u>Hezbollah</u>? Britain learned the hard way with the IRA that semi-warfare accomplishes nothing.

But what's happened to my road and those lovely smiling women?

Load-Date: July 28, 2006



Toasting friendships across the divide; Taste of Lebanon

The Sun Herald (Sydney, Australia)

January 8, 2006 Sunday

Late Edition

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Section: TRAVEL; Pg. 18

Length: 634 words **Byline:** Kevin Gould

Body

Kevin Gould sips wines made from grape varieties as old as the Bible.

SERGE Hochar looks like the British Foreign Secretary Jack Straw, but talks like Bob Dylan. He makes one of the world's great wines - not in France, the Napa or along the Rhine, but in Lebanon.

His label is Chateau Musar, which is not actually a chateau at all, but a winery cut into the side of Mount Hermon. I am with Serge and, well, the good wine's a-flowing, but he says that we're not drinking, but sipping . . . so we sip red wine, and he serenades his glass in soft Arabic and French that means: all I really want to do, baby, is be friends with you.

In the Bekaa Valley I'm being friends with people whose faces express the history of the Levant. There are Christians and Muslims: pale, plucked Armenians and Greeks/Turks with broom moustaches; swarthy Bedu; covered-up <u>Hizbullah</u>-wallahs. We meander forwards and back, weaving through villages Anna and Amick where vines are trellissed through churchyards and espaliered on to first-century church walls. The grapes Serge grows here are varieties like obadiah (the mother of chardonnay) and merwah (the father of semillon). These are the same fruit that Jesus plucked and whose wines he drank when he wandered these lanes 2000 years ago.

Discoursing on the Eternal Circle, the Gates of Eden and the birth of civilisation, Serge points a finger to his right the Golan Heights. Behind us, Mount Lebanon is copsed with 6000-year-old cedars like stubble on a Bedu's sunflayed face. In front, haloed by sun haze, the fertile Bekaa is patched with smallholders' fields in green, straw and gold as if painted by Klimt. To our left is Syria, before whose border towers Baalbek, which we visit to pay our respects at the Temple of Bacchus.

Lunch is taken in the village of Kefraya. Antoine Jarjoura is famous here for his dairy products, so we dine on a sandwich of labne (strained sheep's yoghurt) spread on to rough flatbread, licked with olive oil, tickled with wild mint, scattered with olives and cold crisp cucumber, then rolled into a truncheon. A bowl of rose-scented goat's ice-cream completes the meal.

Driving the haphazard roads back to Beirut, we pass army checkpoints and Serge recalls the civil war with well-bred sangfroid: "My vineyards were a shooting gallery, but, each September except one, a ceasefire was called, and opposing soldiers would help bring in the harvest. We thanked them in wine."

Toasting friendships across the divide Taste of Lebanon

It is cool in the Musar winery, its cellars hewn deep into the damp rock. "Baby, baby, baby " Serge points to bottle after dusty bottle. "One must not drink them too young. I trust my wines to improve with age." For this reason, he releases no harvest until it is seven years old, and then only a third of the production. The rest resides in the heart of this biblical mountain, silently evolving, 6 million bottles or more, stretching back to the 1932 cuvee made by Serge's father, Gaston. There exists a virile, rich auction market in older Musar vintages. Aha! Businessmen they drink his wine, and they dig it, too. But - Serge cautions - no matter the price, three things in his wines should be valued above all else: life, length and truth.

Chateau Musar, whether the garnet-scented 1974, or a younger straw-hued white, must taste, feel, be alive, their energy fed by the warm Lebanese sun and improved by time.

Also, instead of the fruity, loud one-line jokes that often pass for New World fine wine, Serge's wines are long and complex on the tongue, their character formed in the tribal mixes and ancient history of people who have made wine here for four millennia.

I am searching for the truths embodied in Serge's sainted wines by diving into a case of 1995 red. Toasting Lebanon, the Father and the Son, I know that the truth is, I might drown before I find it.

Graphic

THREE PHOTOS: STAMPEDE: Lebanese <u>women</u> crush grapes with their feet at the country's annual wine festival (left). Sommeliers stand in line with their wine offerings at the festival. Pictures: AFP

Load-Date: June 20, 2007



Soldiers hope stranded Canadians reach ship: Evacuation efforts are winding down

Ottawa Citizen

July 26, 2006 Wednesday

EARLY Edition

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Section: NEWS; Pg. A1

Length: 822 words

Byline: Matthew Fisher and Aileen Mccabe, with files from David Pugliese, The Ottawa Citizen

Dateline: BEIRUT

Body

BEIRUT - A small group of Canadian soldiers and diplomats will be in the besieged southern Lebanese port city of Tyre for a few hours today to rescue Canadians trapped there by war.

"We have information that Canadians might be stranded there," said Lt.-Col. Shane Brennan of Kingston, who commands Joint Task Force Lebanon, which has been charged by the federal government with getting out Canadian nationals who wish to escape the war.

"But we have had heard reports that not many people have been moving around down there today. We're hopeful a lot of people will be there to take our ship, but we don't know."

The Canadian-chartered cruise liner Princesa Marissa left Cyprus last night for Tyre in a bid to rescue the estimated 2,000 to 3,000 Canadians who may be in the area.

The Princesa Marissa does not have any charts for the sea around Tyre and must anchor off shore for most of the day. Those wishing to be rescued will be processed and then taken to the vessel in small boats. Canada has also invited nationals from the U.S., Australia and the European Union to join the ship, which is to take the evacuees to Cyprus.

The Princesa Marissa rescued a dozen Canadians from Tyre yesterday. That trip was a charter the German government arranged on behalf of the EU that carried several hundred European passport holders.

There has been intense media speculation in Canada that JTF2 forces might be in Lebanon to defend Canadian interests. Asked about this, Maj. Darryl Morrell, who is in Beirut, gave what has become a standard Department of Defence reply when asked about Canada's elite, commando-style unit. "We do not discuss any aspects of Canadian special operations forces," he said.

In February 2004 after violence and looting erupted in Haiti, a small contingent of JTF2 commandos escorted Canadian citizens to that country's main airport where they boarded military aircraft to return to Canada.

Soldiers hope stranded Canadians reach ship: Evacuation efforts are winding down

The Defence Department noted that Task Force Lebanon is composed of headquarters personnel, telecommunications specialists, a medical section, naval liaison officers, as well as security and movement control personnel. The Canadian navy liaison officers are co-ordinating movement of rescue ships with the Israeli navy which is involved in a blockade of Lebanese ports.

Canada has gained security clearance from Israel for "a safe box around the port" when the Princesa Marissa calls on Tyre, Maj. Brennan said. The Lebanese army is to provide security for evacuees along the waterfront which has been bombarded constantly by Israeli warplanes since <u>Hezbollah</u> kidnapped two Israeli soldiers July 12.

When the ship arrived in Cyprus early yesterday, it carried at least 15 Canadian military personnel. They outnumbered the 12 Canadian citizens who were rescued by the boat that day.

It was likely a dry-run for today's mission, which embassy officials in Beirut hope has been publicized enough that Canadians hiding in south Lebanon are aware it is taking place and are willing to take the risk of coming out of hiding to make the dangerous journey to the dock and, ultimately, safety.

Israel's bombing campaign has focused heavily on southern Lebanon, a <u>Hezbollah</u> stronghold that is also home to many of Lebanon's Christians who have been caught in the crosshairs of the fighting.

On the dock, Lebanese officials would only let people with foreign passports onto lifeboats, so many desperate and frightened men, <u>women</u> and children were left behind when the Israelis apparently told the Marissa its time was up and it had to set sail.

Meanwhile, three ships left Beirut yesterday carrying 1,050 people to Mersin, Turkey.

So far, Canada has rescued about 8,700 Canadians from Beirut on chartered ships to Cyprus and Turkey and then quickly repatriated them on aircraft. An estimated 500 other Canadians managed to hitch rides to safety on ships chartered by other countries.

Prime Minister Stephen Harper called the Canadian evacuation an operation without precedent in the country's history.

"I think the public service of Canada ... is doing a fantastic job of evacuating the Canadians on a scale we've never seen before and on very short notice," Mr. Harper said.

One of the difficulties involved in the planning he said, has been guessing the exact number of people who are seeking help fleeing the Israeli bombardments.

Although there are believed to be 40,000 to 50,000 people with ties to Canada in Lebanon, Mr. Harper said the total number that will have been removed by the time evacuation efforts wind down in the next 24 hours will likely be closer to 10,000.

No dollar figures for the mission are available as of yet, but the prime minister said cost was no object.

"I can't give you a cost estimate at the moment," he said. "I can tell you that the instructions I gave when we began the evacuation process was that we were to spare no expense, that if necessary, we'll fund it out of the contingency funds of the government of Canada."

Load-Date: July 26, 2006



Is black-market baby formula financing terror?

Christian Science Monitor (Boston, MA)

June 29, 2005, Wednesday

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Section: FEATURES; CURRENTS; Pg. 01

Length: 1583 words

Byline: By Mark Clayton Staff writer of The Christian Science Monitor

Body

On the day terrorists destroyed the World Trade Center, a Texas state trooper pulled over a rental van driven by a Middle Eastern man toward Houston. Opening the cargo door, the officer found a huge load of ... baby formula.

False alarm? Not really. Police later identified the driver as a member of a terrorist group and linked him to a nationwide theft ring that specialized in reselling stolen infant formula, says Sgt. Johnnie Jezierski of the Special Crimes Service of the Texas Department of Public Safety. Proceeds were wired to the Middle East. The driver is still under investigation.

Operation Blackbird, as Texas investigators dubbed their multistate baby-formula investigation, has since led to felony charges against more than 40 suspects, about half illegal immigrants. Authorities have seized some \$ 2.7 million in stolen assets, including \$ 1 million worth of formula.

Blackbird was just the beginning. In the nearly four years since 9/11, police have uncovered and dismantled a growing number of regional and national theft rings specializing in shoplifted infant formula, over-the-counter medicines, and personal-care products. At least eight of the major baby-formula cases have involved "fences" who are of Middle Eastern descent or who have ties to that region, according to a Monitor review of congressional testimony, news accounts, and a study by the National Retail Federation released Tuesday.

The Federal Bureau of Investigation has traced money from these infant-formula traffickers back to nations where terrorist groups, such as Hamas and <u>Hizbullah</u>, are active, investigators say. Then, the trail usually goes cold. Once funds enter such countries, there's often no way to track them.

FBI Director Robert Mueller first talked of a possible link in a speech last fall. He did it again in testimony before the Senate Committee on Intelligence in February, saying: "Middle Eastern criminal enterprises involved in the organized theft and resale of infant formula pose not only an economic threat, but a public health threat to infants, and a potential source of material support to a terrorist organization."

So far, most officials are unwilling to draw conclusive links between proceeds from shoplifted formula and terror financing, saying only that they're "likely" or "probable" in some cases.

"Just because you have an infant- formula operation doesn't mean it's a terror funding operation," says Sergeant Jezierski. "But to say there's no terrorist funding isn't the case either."

While many terrorist groups eschew criminal commerce because it tends to attract police attention, other groups finance themselves with theft, fraud, and smuggling. The Irish Republican Army, Colombia's FARC, and <u>Hizbullah</u>

all have engaged in criminal enterprises, says Matthew Levitt, a former FBI counterterrorism analyst, now director of terrorism studies at the Washington Institute for Near East Policy. Some Al Qaeda cells, mostly at the fringes of their operations, have engaged in criminal self-financing, he says. "Important operational funding can come from these criminal activities... If you are funding yourself, it's freeing up the home organization."

Less convinced is Mardi Mountford, executive director of the International Formula Council, an Atlanta-based trade association that represents infant formula manufacturers in the United States. "We've heard that speculation, but we're not aware of a direct connection."

Theft of baby formula from store shelves has risen over the past decade, costing retailers billions of dollars. Formula was the fourth most-often-shoplifted item last year, according to a survey by the Food Marketing Institute, a Washington, D.C., trade group.

In the wake of several cases in North Carolina and Florida, some retailers have transferred formula from store shelves to behind the counter. One big grocery chain, Albertsons Inc., now keeps a few cans on the shelf - along with a sign directing customers to the courtesy counter.

Calling it "a serious security issue" for retailers, the National Retail Federation unveiled its 200-page report highlighting "organized retail theft" of infant formula. At least seven of the report's 10 case studies detail fencing operations run by citizens of Middle Eastern origin.

"The rings I identified dealing in stolen infant formula are operated mostly by Middle Easterners," says Charles Miller, a loss-prevention consultant and author of the report. They typically organize the rings, pay the shoplifters (who are mostly from Latin America), repackage the formula, and resell it. Out of \$ 30 billion in annual retail theft, about \$ 7 billion of infant formula is stolen and resold for a tidy profit, Mr. Miller estimates.

The scheme works this way: A shoplifter may get \$ 5 for a can of formula from his fence, who then reboxes the loot and sells that to a dishonest retailer for \$ 9 a can. That retailer then sells it for perhaps \$ 15 or \$ 16 a can. The result may be a \$ 6 or \$ 7 profit a can for the dishonest retailer - instead of pennies a can for the honest merchant, Miller says.

Several Middle Eastern businessmen have already been charged or convicted in connection with baby-formula thefts.

Mohammed Khalil Ghali was sentenced in February to 14 years in prison, convicted on 15 counts that included transporting stolen goods and money laundering. A search warrant states that money generated from the sale of the goods was wired to banks in the Middle East, "specifically Jordan, Egypt, and Palestine." Nine of the 11 individuals indicted in the case are of Middle Eastern descent, according to the Department of Homeland Security.

Samih Fadl Jamal was a fixture in Phoenix, until investigators discovered that his company gained \$ 11 million in profits from the sale of \$ 22 million of stolen baby formula from 2001 to 2003, prosecutors say.

In all, 27 people connected to the Jamal Trading company scheme were indicted, most from Iraq, Jordan, or Lebanon. Some are naturalized US citizens; others overstayed student or visitor visas, the National Retail Federation report said. Investigators' wiretaps indicated that about \$ 8 million was funneled to countries in the Middle East, where it disappeared. Mr. Jamal, a naturalized US citizen born in Lebanon, was convicted in April of 20 counts of conspiracy to transport and receive stolen property and other related charges, as well as money laundering.

Of course, just because the money goes to the Middle East doesn't mean it's going to terrorists, some groups point out.

"To say that - 'Oh, there's a chance that these funds went to fund terrorism because there are terrorist groups active in this country' - is irresponsible," says Rabia Ahmed of the Council on American-Islamic Relations in Washington. "We've seen many cases like this, where a prominent Muslim leader has been charged with horrible things, but it ends up being some kind of immigration technicality."

Is black-market baby formula financing terror?

First identified in the early 1980s, organized retail theft is a key feature of baby-formula theft. Teams of professional shoplifters may travel 200 to 300 miles over a week or more, Miller says. Typically each has a shoplifting list of specific brands of infant formula, medications, shaving products, and batteries given them by their fences.

Shoplifting teams may involve five or six <u>women</u> or young men. Typically they disperse into a store in pairs or separately, posting lookouts to watch for store security. Then a separate team loads carts of formula and goes straight to the exit where a vehicle is waiting, investigators say.

Formula is a favorite of theft rings mostly because of the steady demand, high cost, and large profit margins. Its price is also supported by the US Department of Agriculture's \$ 4.9 billion <u>Women</u>, Infants and Children (WIC) program.

To battle this trend, Texas authorities mandated that retailers participating in WIC must purchase their infant formula from approved WIC wholesalers or the manufacturers themselves. US Rep. John Carter (R) of Texas sponsored legislation included in the WIC Reauthorization Act of 2004 that aims to eliminate the market for stolen infant formula with a similar mandate. But those measures have not been implemented in most states.

As of May, the USDA has mandated that stores nationwide use a licensed wholesaler, say Oklahoma officials, where a recent burst of formula shoplifting has drawn attention even though Oklahoma is one of the few states that require stores to buy from a licensed wholesaler.

A key problem is that many local law enforcement officers view baby- formula theft as petty shoplifting - and shoplifting laws tend to be soft, experts say. Few shoplifters go to jail.

But there are signs that that attitude is changing. The Retail Industry Leaders Association in March testified before Congress, asking for tougher laws to crack down on organized shoplifting. Major retailers like Wal-Mart, Kroger, Walgreens, and others reported to be losing millions on shoplifted baby-formula have internal teams focused on the problem.

Although the FBI has also deployed teams nationwide to crack down on organized retail theft, some investigators say the problem is growing - and moving onto the Internet. On Monday, the online auction house eBay carried more than 1,000 offers of Enfamil baby formula. "This problem is getting worse, no question," Miller says. "It is in every state in the union, and neither law enforcement nor the retailers have their arms around it."

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Load-Date: June 28, 2005



Conflict likely to top G-8 talks

The Toronto Star July 15, 2006 Saturday

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Byline: Les Whittington, Toronto Star With files from Reuters, Associated Press

Dateline: LONDON

Body

Stephen Harper yesterday joined with British Prime Minister Tony Blair in a call for international pressure to halt Arab-Israeli violence, but Canada's prime minister continued to single out Palestinian militants for blame in the latest flare-up in the Middle East.

Blair, who called the renewed fighting in the Middle East "absolutely tragic," urged the world community to throw its weight behind the peace mission dispatched to the region by United Nations Secretary General Kofi Annan.

In a joint press conference with Harper, Blair backed up Israel's right to defend itself but also expressed sympathy for the "suffering" of the Palestinians and "the plight" of Lebanon, which has become a battlefield in the latest flare-up.

Blair said Palestinians and Israelis must return to the bargaining table and pursue a solution in keeping with the UN-backed "roadmap for peace" that calls for development of an independent Palestine and recognition of Israel's right to exist.

"The truth of the matter is, and this is what is most frustrating about the whole situation between Israel and Palestine, there is actual total international unanimity on the basic solution to this, which is a two-state solution.

"The only way you are going to get a two-state solution is that you negotiate the outstanding issues ... and that both sides of the negotiation accept the right to exist of the other," Blair said.

Harper agreed with the need for fresh negotiations. But he continued to put the onus on the Hamas-led Palestinian Authority to open the way to a peaceful resolution of the conflict.

"I think it's very difficult to move forward on the 'roadmap' unless the Hamas government is prepared to accept the principles of the 'roadmap.'

"To this point, they've been unwilling to do so," Harper said.

He urged Hamas to support the two-state solution to the conflict and to make a "commitment to non-violence and the recognition" of Israel.

Conflict likely to top G-8 talks

"The real secret to (resolving the crisis) is how we in the international community can find some way of empowering, on both sides, the forces of moderation and the forces that are inclined to negotiation rather than to violence. And that's a role I'm sure we'll all be reflecting on in St. Petersburg."

The Prime Minister was referring to this weekend's Group of Eight summit in Russia where the Middle East is likely to overwhelm the official agenda.

U.S. President George W. Bush yesterday called the leaders of Lebanon, Egypt and Jordan to explore ways to end three days of furious fighting between Israel and *Hezbollah* militants in Lebanon.

Turning aside complaints that Israel is using excessive force, Bush rejected a ceasefire plea from Lebanese Prime Minister Fuad Saniora, saying Israelis have a right to protect themselves.

The White House said Bush would not press Israel to halt its military operation.

"The president is not going to make military decisions for Israel," White House press secretary Tony Snow said.

In contrast with Bush's stand, Russian President Vladimir Putin said, "No hostage-takings are acceptable ... but neither is the use of full-scale force in response to these, even if unlawful, actions. We will demand that all sides involved in the conflict immediately stop the bloodshed."

French President Jacques Chirac accused Israel of going too far. "One could ask if today there is not a sort of will to destroy Lebanon, its equipment, its roads, its communications," said Chirac, who has tried to patch relations with Washington after disagreements over the Iraq war.

Italian Premier Romani Prodi said the spiral of violence was making a return to dialogue difficult. "We have regressed 20 years. If we go on like this, all efforts made in the past years will have been in vain," he said.

Top UN relief co-ordinator Jan Egeland said those who had seized Israeli soldiers and fired rockets into Israel from both Gaza and southern Lebanon bore their share of the blame.

"They don't seem to care the slightest bit that it is the children and the <u>women</u> and the civilians who bear the brunt of all of this," he told a news conference in Geneva.

After talks in Cairo yesterday, Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak and King Abdullah of Jordan appealed for international efforts to contain the conflict and prevent an escalation.

Vatican Secretary of State Cardinal Angelo Sodano said Pope Benedict and his aides were deeply concerned.

Finnish Foreign Minister Erkki Tuomioja, holding the rotating EU presidency, warned: "There is still the possibility it could get worse and that the conflict could spread, especially to Syria."

Meanwhile, Syria's ruling Baath party said yesterday it would support its allies <u>Hezbollah</u> and Lebanon against Israel's attacks. "The Syrian people are ready to extend full support to the Lebanese people and their heroic resistance to remain steadfast and confront the barbaric Israeli aggression and its crimes," a communique said.

Graphic

SERGEI GUNEYEV AFP-Getty Images U.S. President George W. Bush and Russian President Vladimir Putin hold informal talks in St. Petersburg yesterday, ahead of today's meeting of the Group of Eight industrialized nations.

Load-Date: July 15, 2006



U.S. policy singles out Syria

St. Petersburg Times (Florida)

February 20, 2005 Sunday 0 South Pinellas Edition

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Length: 833 words

Byline: SUSAN TAYLOR MARTIN

Body

There are many things to dislike about Syria.

For decades it has been ruled by dictators. It has supported terrorism against Israel. It has long overstayed its welcome in Lebanon.

But as they say in the penalty phase of a trial, there are mitigating factors. Though most of its 18-million people are Muslim, Syria is a secular country that practices religious freedom. It has generally cooperated with the United States in the global war on terror. It has made conciliatory noises toward Israel and has taken at least a few wobbly steps toward economic and political reform.

In short, Syria isn't a country that fits neatly into a "good" or "evil" slot. Yet it is clear where the Bush administration and other critics want to push it.

Syria's stock hit bottom last week with the horrific bombing that killed former Lebanese Prime Minister Rafik Hariri and 16 others. Despite the lack of evidence, the White House, Israel and many Lebanese quickly pointed the finger at Syria, whose longtime control over Lebanese politics had frustrated Hariri and others.

Syria has denied any involvement. While it may have had reason to silence an opponent, it also had reason not to.

"Whoever killed Hariri must have known what the consequences would be, especially since the Bush administration has been increasingly accusing Syria of all sorts of ills," says Rime Allaf, a Mideast expert at London's Chatham House.

"Therefore, I find it very hard to believe, in spite of all the mistakes they've made in Lebanon and elsewhere, that Syria would even think of committing such an atrocity."

Syrians could be excused for feeling they had been unfairly singled out when President Bush recalled the U.S. ambassador to Damascus, saying "Syria is out of step with the progress being made in the greater Middle East."

True, there have been free and fair elections in Iraq and the Palestinian territories. But Syria is hardly the only Arab country lagging on the march to democracy.

Saudi Arabia's municipal elections were widely considered a sham: <u>Women</u> were banned from voting and the toothless municipal councils will be dominated by members appointed by the kingdom's unelected rulers. The

U.S. policy singles out Syria

authoritarian leaders of Libya and Egypt are grooming their sons to take over when they die. Even moderate countries like Jordan, Bahrain and the United Arab Emirates have nothing close to Western-style democracies.

Syria also gets what some feel is a disproportionate share of blame for anti-American insurgents crossing the border into Iraq. Doubtless, some have entered from Syria, but many have entered from other countries.

The administration has said little about Jordan, even though it was home to insurgent leader Abu Musab al-Zarqawi. Nor has there been much criticism of Saudi Arabia, which produced most of the Sept. 11 hijackers.

"There are a lot of other frontier borders, but the only ones that get blamed are Syrians and they were the ones least likely to support Saddam Hussein's regime before," Allaf says. She notes that during the Iran-Iraq war, Syria backed Iran.

Why has Syria become such a bane of the Bush administration?

Syria has long been at odds with America's closest Mideast ally, Israel, for supporting the radical group <u>Hezbollah</u> and sheltering other anti-Israel organizations. The two countries also have locked horns over the Golan Heights, which Israel has occupied since the 1967 Mideast War.

Patrick Seale, a British journalist who has written extensively about Syria, says Israel is among several Syrian enemies that might have seen Hariri's murder as a chance to destabilize the regime.

"Right-wing Christians want to expel Syria from Lebanon, Islamists have not forgiven Syria for its repression of the Muslim Brotherhood, while Israel would like to weaken Syria and destroy <u>Hezbollah</u>," Seale writes. "Any of these actors might have seized the opportunity to cause Syria great embarrassment at a time when it is under U.S. pressure because of its alleged interference in Iraq."

Israel has denied any connection to the bombing, and there is some speculation it was an al-Qaida attack prompted by Hariri's close ties to Saudi Arabia.

As Hariri's family demands an internationally led investigation, Syrians worry they may be the next target for regime change. But an American expert thinks it's unfortunate the White House has taken such a tough line at a time when Syria's young president, the British-educated Bashar Assad, has shown signs of wanting to liberalize the economy, allow greater public discourse and resume peace talks with Israel.

"There are thugs and hard-liners that have power in Syria, but there are also extremely enlightened people," says Scott C. Davis, author of The Road from Damascus: A Journey Through Syria. "The question is, is the United States going to act in such a way that we strengthen and empower the reformers in the country, or do we act in such a way that we empower the hard-liners left over from the Cold War?"

Susan Taylor Martin can be reached at <u>susan@sptimes.com</u>.

Graphic

PHOTO, Associated Press; On Saturday, Saadeddine Hariri and Bahaa Hariri, sons of slain Lebanese leader Rafik Hariri, visit the bombing site in Beirut where he died.

Load-Date: February 20, 2005



As democracy advances, Islamic parties gain ground; President Bush's call for free elections in the Mideast has produced surprises.

The Philadelphia Inquirer January 16, 2006 Monday

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Byline: Warren P. Strobel, Inquirer Washington Bureau

Body

Call it a case of why you should be careful what you wish for.

President Bush's efforts to spread democracy to the Middle East have had one unintended effect: strengthening Islamists across the region, posing fresh challenges for the United States, according to U.S. officials, foreign diplomats and democracy experts.

Islamist parties trounced secular opponents in recent elections in Iraq and Egypt.

Hamas, the armed Islamic Palestinian group, appears set to fare well in Palestinian parliamentary elections Jan. 25, posing a quandary for how the United States and Israel pursue peace efforts. Hamas has carried out suicide bombings against Israel and calls for the country's destruction.

In Lebanon, the Shiite Muslim militia <u>Hezbollah</u> is part of the government for the first time.

Washington considers *Hezbollah* and Hamas, both of which have Iranian support, to be terrorist groups.

"In the short run, the big windfall winners... have been the Islamists," said Michael McFaul, a Stanford University expert on democracy and development.

In the long run, democracy probably will lead to a more stable, economically flourishing Middle East, McFaul recently told a Washington conference. But he added: "We're taking a chance."

Islamist groups espouse Islam as the answer to their countries' problems. They appeal to large segments of Arab societies, particularly when the only alternative is the repressive and often corrupt state apparatus. They've proved adept at providing social services that governments often don't, and they're largely corruption-free.

Most strongly oppose U.S. foreign policy in the region and don't acknowledge Israel's right to exist. Their long-term commitment to the give-and-take of the democratic process is largely untested.

As democracy advances, Islamic parties gain ground President Bush's call for free elections in the Mideast has produced surprises.

Bush administration officials and many pro-democracy advocates argue that Islamist politicians inevitably will become more moderate once they're given the responsibilities of power. That hasn't happened, however, in Iran, which is Shiite but not Arab.

"It's entirely possible. But I think it's going to be a bumpy ride," said F. Gregory Gause III, the director of Middle East studies at the University of Vermont.

Bush used his second inaugural address a year ago to make spreading democracy, particularly in the Islamic world, the priority of U.S. foreign policy. The ultimate goal, he declared, is "ending tyranny in our world."

The United States is spending roughly \$1.3 billion in fiscal 2006 to promote democracy worldwide, the President said last May.

He argues that democracy will reduce the threat from terrorism. Some political scientists, including Gause, disagree.

Even Bush's critics give him credit for convincing Arab regimes that Washington is serious about democracy and for encouraging a tide of relative openness from North Africa to the Persian Gulf. Pushing democracy is slowly becoming entrenched as a priority at the State Department under Condoleezza Rice and at other agencies, officials said.

But the successes are far more modest than the White House has claimed, some said.

Bush and Rice rarely discuss in public the prospect that Islamists could be the prime beneficiaries of their policies.

Last spring there were elections in Iraq and the Palestinian Authority; Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak allowed multiparty presidential elections for the first time; and Syria withdrew its troops from Lebanon under international and local pressure, leading to new polls there.

But a more sober mood has set in.

"People were overly optimistic," said former State Department official Jon Alterman, the director of the Middle East Program at the Washington-based Center for Strategic and International Studies, a national-security research center. "And now people are overly pessimistic."

Repression and one-man rule remain the norm.

The Economist magazine's Intelligence Unit in November gave only two countries in the Middle East relatively high marks on a 10-point scale of political freedom: Israel (8.20) and Lebanon (6.55). Morocco, Iraq and the Palestinian areas each scored slightly above 5 points, while 15 countries didn't reach that halfway mark. Libya got the lowest score, 2.05.

Islamists and Mideast Democracy

Iraq. Parties representing secular Shiites fared poorly in December's parliamentary elections compared with an Islamist Shiite slate.

The Palestinian Authority. Hamas appears poised to break the decades-old political monopoly of the secular Fatah movement. With Fatah bitterly divided, Hamas will finish just behind or possibly even ahead of the late Yasir Arafat's party in elections for the Palestinian Parliament.

Egypt. Candidates affiliated with the Muslim Brotherhood fared better than expected late last year in parliamentary elections that outside observers described as flawed.

As democracy advances, Islamic parties gain ground President Bush's call for free elections in the Mideast has produced surprises.

Lebanon. Syria withdrew its troops from Lebanon in April, and Lebanon held its first modern elections free of Syrian domination in June. But the excitement of the "Cedar Revolution" has been replaced by political deadlock among Lebanon's contending religious groups.

The Persian Gulf. Saudi Arabia permitted municipal elections last year, while Kuwait's parliament gave <u>women</u> the right to vote. But real representative democracy seems decades way.

Contact reporter Warren Strobel at wstrobel@krwashington.com.

Load-Date: January 16, 2006



Middle East crisis: Air strikes: No hiding place for those caught up in bombing

The Guardian - Final Edition
July 25, 2006 Tuesday

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Section: GUARDIAN HOME PAGES; Pg. 6

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Byline: Jonathan Steele, Beirut

Body

Heavily bandaged with only his eyes and mouth showing, 18-year-old Zakaria Alamedin lies in a Beirut hospital, still unaware that his father died in the rocket attack which burnt his face.

He was lucky to have just left the cellar of the 14-storey office and apartment block where most of his family were sheltering in the city of Tyre. Someone had phoned to say Hassan Nasrallah, the <u>Hizbullah</u> leader, was on TV and he ran upstairs to watch. It saved his life.

The Israeli bomb left the tall building standing but homed in on the basement which is open at one side. Twenty people who had thought they were safe died instantly. Forty were wounded.

In Beirut's city centre Isam Kaoun, a 31-year-old house-painter, tells a similar story of mass death. He was in his home town of Srifa last week when Israeli missiles struck three houses in rapid succession shortly after 3am. They killed nine people in one basement shelter, six in another, and six in a third.

While Israeli missiles continue to strike vehicles full of desperate refugees fleeing their villages in south Lebanon, Israel is also accused of targeting a large number of homes and office buildings used only by civilians.

Researchers for Human Rights Watch, the New York-based non-governmental organisation, say they have compiled details on the deaths of more than a quarter of the roughly 400 Lebanese killed by the air strikes Israel launched a fortnight ago. "We've investigated the results of air campaigns in Kosovo, Afghanistan, and Iraq, and the pattern here is different. They're hitting civilians time and time again," Peter Bouckaert, a long-serving Human Rights Watch investigator, said.

"Just because the Israelis are using smart weapons doesn't mean they're hitting military targets," he added. "The Israelis seem to make no discrimination between military and civilian targets."

In many cases the Israeli attacks have killed or injured entire families. Ahmed Ali, a taxi driver, 45, lies in a room at Beirut's Rafik Hariri hospital. He has lost both his legs. In a room nearby sits his wounded wife, Akram Ibrahim, cradling their one-year-old daughter with a bandage on her tiny right arm. Ten-year-old Ali Ahmed Ali is in a wheelchair, his body peppered with blood-stained injuries.

Middle East crisis: Air strikes: No hiding place for those caught up in bombing

They lived in Blida, a village of 3,500 less than a mile from Lebanon's eastern border with Israel. "We woke at 6.30am last Wednesday to the sound of a bomb exploding somewhere else in the village. So we rushed down to the basement and waited until the heavy bombing ended," said Akram Ibrahim.

"At 2.30pm they started again and we went down again. There were 12 people in the cellar. It's an ordinary house, nothing special. Then we were hit." Hundreds of people from Blida have now fled, but 200 remain there in fear.

The Human Rights Watch researchers are convinced from Ahmed Ali's description that the family was injured by at least two cluster bomblets, which entered the basement, releasing metal fragments. The weapons are a standard part of Israel's arsenal and were used by them in Lebanon in the 1980s.

A separate team of Human Rights Watch investigators photographed cluster munitions with Israeli forces near the Lebanese border in recent days. The photographs show M483A1 "dual purpose improved conventional munitions", which are produced in the United States.

"Our prior research in Iraq and Kosovo clearly shows that cluster munitions cannot be used in populated areas without huge loss of civilian life. Human Rights Watch calls upon the Israeli military to immediately cease the use of indiscriminate weapons like cluster munitions in Lebanon," Mr Bouckaert said.

In Srifa, an inland town of about 10,000 people, the Israeli attacks have been particularly lethal, killing as many as 42 people, according to Human Rights Watch. Jan Egeland, the United Nations humanitarian affairs coordinator, was visibly shocked after meeting Srifa survivors in Beirut yesterday. He called for access to be opened to the inland villages.

"We hear horrific stories from there where so many <u>women</u> and children were killed. The <u>women</u> told us 'Let us at least be able to retrieve our bodies, because the dogs are eating them'," he said.

Load-Date: July 25, 2006



Never mind Hillary - it's 'Laura for president' now

Christian Science Monitor (Boston, MA)

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Byline: By John Hughes

Dateline: SALT LAKE CITY

Body

I and my readers had such fun with my provocative column suggesting a Nobel peace prize for President Bush and British Prime Minister Tony Blair that I'm ready to try another: Laura Bush for president in 2008.

The Bush and Blair column drew as much reader reaction as any I can remember in many years of column writing.

At one end of the spectrum, Bush supporters thought it was a nifty idea. I never heard the broadcast, but many readers told me that Sean Hannity commented on the "idea from this feller in Salt Lake City" and said "the country needs more thinking like this."

By contrast, Bush critics thought it was a terrible idea. One of my perennial correspondents, who has routinely suggested that Bush is motivated by Satanic influences, said he was "truly sickened by the proposal." Others suggested I resign from clubs I don't even belong to.

Now to Laura. Her public opinion ratings are currently higher than the president's. Her performance at the Gridiron dinner in Washington proved she has even more comedic flair than her husband. And on her trip to the Middle East last week, she showed she has a mind of her own and can sometimes, with civility, take positions different from Mr. Bush.

Still not persuaded? Think the wife of a former president shouldn't, or couldn't, take a crack at running for the White House? Well Hillary Clinton is the wife of a former president and a lot of people think she's a front-runner for the Democratic nomination in 2008. What a contest that would be: Laura and Hillary. Choose one for first woman president. What a campaign Karl Rove would make.

Of course, Laura would have to elbow out Bill Frist, John McCain, and maybe even brother-in-law Jeb Bush, as well as a string of other aspiring males to get the Republican nomination. But I suspect that beneath that poised and charming exterior are nerves of steel and a canny political sense on issues of great import.

She certainly displayed cool nerve in the midst of rambunctious demonstrating crowds during her five-day Middle East visit. She also shrewdly pitched the president's agenda of freedom and democracy to the audience that could perhaps do more than any other to further that agenda throughout the Arab lands.

Never mind Hillary - it's 'Laura for president' now

That audience, of course, is the <u>women</u> of the region. In male-dominated societies, they have been traditionally disenfranchised and relegated to inferior status, their educational potential and influence for constructive change untapped and dismissed. But if encouraged and unleashed, what a force they could be.

The winds of change are rippling across the Arab lands - evident in voter turnouts in liberated Iraq, pro-democracy demonstrations that have sent Syrian troops out of Lebanon, and the burgeoning of a substantial opposition movement in Egypt. Of necessity, and not always from conviction, political concessions are being made by kings, princes, and traditional rulers.

Islamist parties, which have long curried favor with the population by providing social services, are poised to become part of the opposition. Hamas and *Hizbullah*, for example, are debating whether to renounce violence and become mainstream political organizations.

Arab <u>women</u>, if empowered, could be a significant factor in shifting their menfolk away from terror and bloodshed and into orthodox politics. That's why it was cheering to see Mrs. Bush sit down with Hanan Ashrawi and other prominent Palestinian <u>women</u> last week to encourage the advancement of <u>women</u>'s rights.

Peace and stability will be better served when there are more <u>women</u> legislators and judges and government officials in positions of responsibility in the Islamic world. Some progress is being made, as in Afghanistan.

But throughout Arab nations, 50 percent of <u>women</u> are still illiterate. A recent report prepared for the United Nations by Arab intellectuals found that "despite laudable efforts to promote the status of <u>women</u>, success remains limited." Greater progress, it concluded, is required in <u>women</u>'s political participation, legal status, marital rights, and their integration into development.

Laura for president. Maybe that would help.

- * John Hughes, a former editor of the Monitor, is editor and chief operating officer of Deseret Morning News.
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Load-Date: May 31, 2005



In Beirut, Cultural Life Is Another War Casualty

The New York Times
July 31, 2006 Monday
Late Edition - Final

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Section: Section E; Column 1; The Arts/Cultural Desk; Pg. 1

Length: 1423 words

Byline: By JAD MOUAWAD **Dateline:** BEIRUT, July 30

Body

The invitations had been sent long ago and the ads paid for and printed. Despite the shells shattering a few miles away, Ghazi Abdel Baki, a Lebanese music producer, was determined not to cancel the release of his label's latest album at the Virgin Megastore in this city's former opera house. For him it was also a small act of resistance on the second day of the war.

In the end he didn't have much choice: the store was shut down after Israeli warships were spotted in the Bay of Beirut. Since then the Internet site of Mr. Abdel Baki's production company has carried this small notice: "We are not updating our Web site because we are under siege!"

The war in Lebanon is now in its third week, freezing life in mid-flow. A summer season that looked as if it would be highly successful for tourism was suddenly interrupted, as were numerous music festivals, theatrical and movie openings and, because this is Beirut, wild parties. For Lebanon's burgeoning cultural scene, the conflict has put a stop, at least for the moment, to the patient work begun after the civil war ended in 1990.

Now some movie theaters are opening their doors to refugees, artists are signing manifestoes against the war, commercial stations have turned into 24-hour news channels, and most restaurants and bars are closed. What was supposed to be Beirut's first break after last year's traumas -- including the assassination of Rafik Hariri, the former prime minister -- has been shattered.

"This was to be a turning point for us after years of hard work," said Mr. Abdel Baki, 36, whose label produces both 10th-century Andalusian music and modern fusions of bossa nova and Arab rhythms. "But in 24 hours your life is suddenly turned upside down. Even if this stops now, who is going to have the energy and the stamina to produce music, organize a concert or even attend a show?"

Much of what has made Beirut appealing in recent years, at least to adventurous travelers, are the handful of Phoenician, Roman and Crusader ruins in Baalbeck, Sidon and Tyre, a boisterous night life and a naughty reputation. But beyond the ruins and the rowdy image, Lebanon's artistic expression, after years of neglect, was also blooming.

"The city was thriving," said Ramsey Short, the British editor in chief of Time Out Beirut, a four-month-old publication that had become an indispensable tool to navigate Beirut's busy cultural and entertainment scene.

In Beirut, Cultural Life Is Another War Casualty

The July issue, with its cover story on Lebanon's summer festivals and its 114 pages, has become a memento of a time that never happened: all the events and shows have been canceled. The next issue has been postponed until further notice.

"Just like that, it's all gone," Mr. Short said. "And I don't think we'll return to that world any time soon."

The war caught most people by surprise. Dozens of festivals, concerts and shows have been canceled, including elaborate months-long programs in Baalbeck; in Beiteddine, south of the capital, where open-air concerts are held in a 19th-century palace in the Chouf mountains; and in Byblos, a coastal town north of Beirut. Ticketholders are being reimbursed. Organizers of Liban Jazz, scheduled for September, are trying to keep that festival alive, perhaps as a charity event in Paris. Along the bombed-out coastal highway in the south between Beirut and Tyre, dozens of fancy resorts are deserted, their once-pristine beaches polluted by an oil slick.

The Baalbeck International Festival, set inside stunning Roman ruins in the middle of the Bekaa Valley, east of Beirut, was to celebrate its 50th anniversary this year. Organizers had scheduled performances by Lebanon's national diva, Fairuz; the Ballet Theater of St. Petersburg; and the Budapest Symphony Orchestra and Opera of Nice in a joint production of Donizetti's "Lucia di Lammermoor."

Thousands of well-to-do Beirutis had bought tickets and were prepared to drive two hours to attend these open-air productions between the temples of Jupiter and Bacchus. Instead, in the town of Baalbeck itself, away from the historic ruins, Israeli Air Force planes have leveled dozens of buildings in recent days. Baalbeck is a stronghold of the militant Shiite group *Hezbollah*; the Israeli military campaign in Lebanon began after a *Hezbollah* raid into Israel on July 12.

"I feel stupid because I was so optimistic," said Carole Ammoun, a 27-year-old actress who had been performing in a local version of Eve Ensler's "Vagina Monologues," called here "Hakeh Nesswan," or "*Women*'s Talk." The play, which was originally scheduled for five nights, had been extended for three months straight.

"It was such a compliment to perform in something that was successful and that people enjoyed," said Ms. Ammoun, a bubbly woman with a large flashing smile. "We broke so many taboos talking about sexuality in an Arab country. There was a real sense that we were opening new doors."

The performances have been suspended, and Ms. Ammoun said she can't decide what her real role is today. "I feel frustrated, I feel angry, I feel castrated," she said.

Some artists have channeled similar feelings into their work. Mazen Kerbaj recorded a musical piece with his trumpet and the sound of bombs falling on Beirut in the background for a duet he called "Starry Night." He has also created a popular blog (www.mazenkerblog.blogspot.com) on which he posts cartoons, sketches and caricatures he has created in recent days. Most are about the war. One picture, called "Terrorism Is a Funny Word," says: "Lebanon is being sold for the price of a word: TERRORISM. What a bad joke!!!"

Another shows two faces screaming at each other. The bearded one says, "Allahu Akbar" ("God Is Great"), the other answers, "Freedom & Democracy." In the middle a tiny, shy face asks, "Can I say something?"

In Hamra, Beirut's faded former commercial district, Hania Mroue had been looking forward to July as she opened the Metropolis, a theater for art-house movies. For the premiere, attended by the culture minister and the French ambassador, she picked "Les Amities Malefiques" ("Poison Friends") by the French director Emmanuel Bourdieu, which won the Critics' Week Grand Prix in Cannes. The next day the war began.

Now about 40 people from Beirut's bombed-out southern suburbs sleep in her movie theater and offices, which are two floors underground. During the day she shows films and documentaries to keep the children busy.

Last Monday she decided to reopen the theater to the public for daily screenings at 6 p.m.: early enough, she said with grim Lebanese humor, so the audience can go home before the bombing begins.

In Beirut, Cultural Life Is Another War Casualty

"It's important to be able to talk about other things than Israel and <u>Hezbollah</u>," said Ms. Mroue, 31, whose soft features belie her steeliness. "We will have all the time to analyze, to argue and even to cry about all this later. This is why theaters like this are important: so that you can live, even during a war."

Last week she asked two doctors from the nearby American University of Beirut hospital to vaccinate the children in the theater. At the same time she somehow managed to obtain a Sri Lankan movie -- "The Forsaken Land" -- that had been stuck in Damascus for three weeks. Next she plans to show movies by the late Lebanese filmmaker Maroun Baghdadi about the country's civil war.

"It so hurts my heart to admit this that words fail me," she said. "We had such a promising year. I don't think we've realized what we have just lost."

At sunset Beirut's intellectual and artistic crowd has returned to Cafe Rawda, where the Mediterranean licks the city's rocky shores. This open-air restaurant offers scented water pipes, the best views of the sun melting into the sea, and a refuge from the city.

Rawda reopened recently, but it is still short staffed since all its Syrian waiters left when the conflict began. Airplanes on their final approach to the nearby airport no longer drown out conversations: the airport has been closed since the beginning of the conflict.

As everywhere, the war dominates discussions. Many talk about feelings of loss, abandonment or despair. What seems to rankle most, though, is the sense that a huge collective bubble has been pricked without warning.

"It took a long time to get to where we were," said Mr. Abdel Baki, the musician, as the sun slowly dropped into the sea. "Things won't be the same anymore. It's the uncertainty that's unsettling. It shows how precarious our lives were."

http://www.nytimes.com

Graphic

Photos: A smattering of filmgoers at Metropolis, a new art-house cinema in Beirut that opened the night before the war began. Now it houses refugees. (Photo by Bryan Denton for The New York Times)(pg. E1)

Ghazi Abdel Baki, a music producer, at a cafe on the corniche in Beirut. (Photo by Bryan Denton for The New York Times)(pg. E7)

Load-Date: July 31, 2006



MIDDLE EAST CRISIS: We are so glad to get out safely; Mother tells of exhausting time

Daily Post (North Wales)
July 20, 2006, Thursday
North Wales Edition

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Section: NEWS; Pg. 11

Length: 311 words

Byline: CAROLINE GAMELL

Body

EXHAUSTED Britons last night spoke of their relief to be heading back to the UK after a terrifying week in Lebanon.

The Royal Navy destroyer HMS Gloucester arrived in Cyprus yesterday carrying a first sea-borne wave of 180 evacuees, mainly **women** and children, from Beirut.

A charter flight carrying them back to the UK was due to land at Gatwick last night as HMS Gloucester and her sister ship, HMS York, returned to Lebanon for more British citizens.

The Government has launched a large-scale operation to rescue the thousands of Britons still remaining in Lebanon, telling them to make their way to the port for evacuation.

Among those disembarking at Cyprus's southern port of Limassol was Elise Mazegi, who made the 11-hour crossing with her five-month-old triplets and three-year-old son.

She said: "I'm exhausted but I'm very glad to be out. The trip was long but it was okay. The babies slept most of the time

"The crew on the ship were amazing, they really helped me out a lot. I'm looking forward to going back to Brighton. I just want to go home."

Commander Mike Patterson, captain of HMS Gloucester, said the evacuees were anxious and tired last night but left "fairly buoyant and in high spirits".

Prime Minister Tony Blair said events in Lebanon were "tragic and terrible" but would not call for a ceasefire now.

Speaking at Prime Minister's Questions, he said: "If it is to stop, it has to stop by undoing how it started, and it started with the kidnap of Israeli soldiers and the bombardment of northern Israel, and if we want this to stop, that has to stop."

Liberal Democrat leader Sir Menzies Campbell urged him to condemn Israel's "disproportionate" military response.

MIDDLE EAST CRISIS: We are so glad to get out safely Mother tells of exhausting time

Mr Blair replied: "I have to say this would stop now if the soldiers that were kidnapped wrongly, when <u>Hezbollah</u> crossed the United Nations blue line, were released."

welshnews@dailypost.co.uk

Graphic

Elize Mazegi with her five-month-old triplets, left to right: Yasmin, Isabella and Joey after disembarking HMS Gloucester at the Cypriot port of Limassol. She said the three babies slept through the bombing during the week, and through the 11-hour sea crossing to Cyprus

Load-Date: July 20, 2006



Western Daily Press July 20, 2006 Thursday

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Section: Pg. 20

Length: 910 words

Byline: Tim Foreman t.foreman@bepp.co.uk

Body

The first British evacuees from war-torn Lebanon were due to land back at Gatwick Airport last night.

Others arrived safely in Cyprus yesterday morning after being rescued by the Royal Navy destroyer HMS Gloucester.

A tired but relieved group of 180 people, mainly <u>women</u> and children, left the devastated city of Beirut as Israeli attacks continued. They were followed by about 250 more who left Beirut Port on HMS York.

The Navy was expected to transport 800 Britons away from the trouble zone yesterday.

As the conflict entered its eighth day the Lebanese death toll reached 270 - mostly civilians. Some 25 Israelis have also died, including 13 civilians killed by *Hezbollah* rocket attacks.

As the violence continued, Sea King helicopters from Somerset touched down in Cyprus yesterday afternoon.

The six aircraft are on standby at RAF Akrotiri to help evacuate British citizens.

More than 80 support staff from 845 and 846 Naval Air Squadrons RNAS Yeovilton, including mechanics and logistics personnel, were due to join them early today.

Colonel John McCardle, Royal Marines Commanding Officer, said: "Preparations for these types of operations are routinely practised and the Commando Helicopter Force prides itself on its ability to respond rapidly to these situations.

"Both aircraft and aircrew are extremely well versed in this type of operation with squadrons previously deployed in the former Yugoslavia and currently in Iraq."

Up to 5,000 more Britons are expected to be evacuated over the next few days as HMS Gloucester and its sister ship, HMS York, sail back and forth between Cyprus and Beirut.

Clutching shopping bags of bottled water and food, Britons spoke of their sadness to be leaving Lebanon, their adopted country, and their loved ones, as they boarded HMS York.

"We're leaving very reluctantly," said Helen Jabra, a 40-year-old from Warwickshire who has lived in Lebanon since the late 1980s. "But we have no choice. We have children."

Mrs Jabra was embarking on the destroyer with her two daughters and five-year-old son, but leaving behind her Lebanese husband.

Paula Standing, 45, of Brighton, who has lived in Lebanon for 25 years, said: "I feel this is my home.

"I didn't want to go, but we don't have a choice," she said, referring to her two sons and a daughter.

Mrs Standing was leaving behind her husband to look after the family business. "This is the hardest part," she said.

Fellow Briton Stephanie Faysal, 20, said she was going to London to join her brother, but her English mother was staying behind with her Lebanese father.

"I'm confused," she said. "I didn't want to go. I think it's best to go. I don't know how bad things will be."

Military helicopters have airlifted dozens of Britons since Monday, landing on a coastal strip near Beirut and flying them to Cyprus.

Earlier, an unknown number of Britons were among up to 500 Europeans evacuated from Beirut on board a Greek ship.

The aircraft carrier Illustrious is also preparing to bring British evacuees out of Lebanon and can carry more than 1,000 people if needed.

But despite the rescue efforts, some Britons are still stuck.

British charity worker Clair Vainola made increasingly desperate calls to be rescued as she is trapped in Beirut.

Ms Vainola, 31, from Newcastle upon Tyne, has been trying to leave for more than a week.

But she still cannot get a satisfactory response from the British Embassy in Beirut or a guarantee of a place on one of the ships being used to rescue people. Ms Vainola said: "This is very serious. This morning I was woken up by bombing in southern Beirut.

"It is an ongoing situation. How can they say it is not evacuation?

"There are more than 20,000 British or dual nationals here. To get 170 people out is quite frankly appalling. We need help and we need it soon."

Ms Vainola said she called the British Embassy yesterday but only got an answer machine message, telling her to call back.

Some evacuees complained that they were being charged £290 per person to return on the Government's chartered flight from Cyprus. But the High Commission later insisted everyone would fly for free.

British High Commissioner Peter Millet said: "In most cases we do charge, in this exceptional case there is no charge. It is exceptional given the circumstances in Beirut and given what most people have been through.

"I think it is right to have the opportunity to go back to the UK without having to pay."

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"But if it is to stop, it has to stop by undoing how it started, and it started with the kidnap of Israeli soldiers and the bombardment of northern Israel and if we want this to stop, that has to stop."

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Load-Date: October 29, 2006



Western Daily Press July 20, 2006 Thursday

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Section: Pg. 20

Length: 910 words

Byline: Tim Foreman t.foreman@bepp.co.uk

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Load-Date: July 22, 2006



Western Daily Press July 20, 2006 Thursday

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Length: 910 words

Byline: Tim Foreman t.foreman@bepp.co.uk

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JOURNALS

Weekend Australian
July 29, 2006 Saturday
All-round Country Edition

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Section: FEATURES; Editor; Pg. 32

Length: 929 words

Body

MATP

CONFLICT MIDDLE EAST'S MAYHEM

LEBANON seemed to be entering a labyrinth from which nobody could find the way out, Elias Khoury wrote in the London Review of Books. "The only certainty is that Lebanon is facing destruction, that the dream of restoring the country to independence is on hold." Like the Americans in Iraq, the Israelis said they did not want to occupy Lebanon. "The issue, however, is not what they want but what they are doing. Can Israel tolerate religious and ethnic chaos on its borders? Is it performing a service to the US by trying to weaken <code>Hezbollah</code>, Iran's strongest ally in the region, prior to the opening up of the Iranian nuclear file? What is clear, beneath the drone of the missiles hurled at the southern suburbs of Beirut, is that Israel, realising it is incapable of destroying <code>Hezbollah</code>, has decided to destroy Lebanon. But the madness is not just Israeli. Much of the Arab world is following the road to self-destruction, via a fundamentalist ideology that reflects the world view of Bernard Lewis's disciples, the neo-orientalists."

TERRORISM INDIA BITES BACK

INDIA was considering launching strikes at terrorist groups operating in Pakistan and Bangladesh in the aftermath of the Mumbai train bombings, according to Outlook magazine. "An Israel-type option, unfolding now in Lebanon, is a complete no-no; the intention is to target religious bodies promoting jihad against India." As the question of cross-border strikes was being debated, India was looking at sectarian fault lines in Pakistan and Bangladesh that could be exploited to its advantage, the Indian weekly reported. "Waziristan on the Afghan border has seen a growing insurgency and a heavy military response. A separatist turmoil has been on the boil to the south, with the Balochis up in arms against 'Punjabi dominance'. These are seen as vulnerable points, ripe for the launch of intelligence operations inside Pakistan. The influx of Bangladeshi economic refugees into India also offers an ethnic pool that can be tapped." For now, however, a "hot pursuit" strategy had few takers within the security agencies. "We must remember that unless the core issues of Kashmir and Pakistan are addressed, we will have to continue bracing ourselves for similar terrorist attacks," former intelligence chief A.S. Dulat told the weekly.

TV AL-JAZEERA GOES GLOBAL

ALTHOUGH it was vilified as a propaganda machine, Al-Jazeera was as hated in the palaces of Riyadh as it was in the White House, Hugh Miles wrote in Foreign Policy. "As millions of loyal viewers already know, Al-Jazeera promotes a level of free speech and dissent rarely seen in the Arab world. With plans to go global, it might just

JOURNALS

become your network of choice." Although the network offered its estimated 50million viewers exclusive interviews with Osama bin Laden, it had never supported violence against the US. "The network has never captured an attack on the coalition live and there's no evidence Al-Jazeera has known about any attack beforehand." But hopes Al-Jazeera could spread political freedom were wishful thinking. "To assume that satellite television will transform Arab societies into transparent, just and equal democracies is to presume that the current state of affairs in the

Arab world results from an information deficit,

which is not true."

FASHION CELEBS GET A BAGGING

THESE days, bags were no longer where a woman kept her keys, lippie and cash, they were a friend and a plaything, Alice Fisher wrote in the Observer Magazine. "Now they're the ultimate status symbol, a celebrity must-have and a reflection of your personality." Market analysts found British <u>women</u> aspired to own, on average, five "it" bags. "Like designer scent and make-up before them, bags have become a signifier of luxury lifestyle, a way for saying, 'I'm worth it.' And, apparently, that's something an increasing number of us want to say. As loudly as possible." The names that made the difference to the it-ness of a bag were celebrity ones. "Kate Moss has single-handedly launched a luggage carousel's worth of handbags, everything from the Chloe Paddington to the Mulberry Emmy was first snapped dangling off her trend-setting arm." <u>Women's</u> fascination with it bags was more powerful than their disapproval of any celebrity's lifestyle, weight or love life. Pictures of a skeletal Victoria Beckham at the FIFA World Cup provoked opprobrium for the outfit and her weight, "but everyone also clocked the rather nice Hermes Birkin, perhaps because it looked more substantial than she did".

INTERNET WISE UP TO WIKIPEDIA

WIKIPEDIA remained a lumpy work in progress. "What can be said for an encyclopedia that is sometimes right, sometimes wrong, and sometimes illiterate?" Stacy Schiff wrote in The New Yorker. People have had enough of mainstream media and authorities, they did not just want to be fed any more but to be answered. That was evident in Wikipedia's description of its authors: "There are Aspergian Wikipedians (72), bipolar Wikipedians, vegetarian Wikipedians, anti-vegetarian Wikipedians, existential Wikipedians, pro-Luxembourg Wikipedians, and Wikipedians who don't like to be categorised." According to the site, an avid interest in Wikipedia had been known to afflict "computer programmers, academics, graduate students, game-show contestants, news junkies, the unemployed, the soon-to-be unemployed and, in general, people with multiple interests and good memories." Concluded Schiff: "You may travel in more exalted circles, but this covers pretty much everyone I know."

Load-Date: July 28, 2006



Anti-war protestors march on Israeli, U.S. consulates

The Toronto Star July 23, 2006 Sunday

Copyright 2006 Toronto Star Newspapers, Ltd.

Section: NEWS; Pg. A02

Length: 839 words

Byline: Thulasi Srikanthan, Toronto Star

Body

Hundreds of red and white Lebanese flags waved on Toronto's downtown streets as thousands of protestors called for an end to the violence in Lebanon.

To the beat of drums, the demonstrators yesterday gathered first at the Israeli consulate on Bloor St. W. before marching to the United States consulate on University Ave.

The horde chanted slogans condemning Israel for the deaths of Lebanese civilians and slammed Prime Minister Stephen Harper's comments calling Israel's response "measured."

Many also called for sanctions and a boycott of Israeli goods and businesses. The chants that rang out included "Shame, Shame," "The people united will never be defeated," "Shame on you Mr. Harper" and "Arab lives have value too."

Organizers estimated more than 10,000 people participated in the protest, but Toronto police would only say thousands of people took part.

"It is important for everyone regardless of religion or ethnicity, who believes in human rights and dignity, to call for an end to Israel's brutal actions," said Nadia Daar, a spokesperson for the Coalition Against Israel Apartheid, one of the groups which organized the rally.

Other organizers included the Canadian Peace Alliance, Canadian Arab Federation, Jewish <u>Women's Committee</u> to End the Occupation, and the Muslim United group.

Though the crowd included Christians and Jews, the majority were from Muslim groups.

The demonstrators also waved Palestinian flags and called on Israel to respect the rights of Palestinians.

Judith Weisman, a member of the Jewish <u>Women</u>'s Committee to End the Occupation, said: "I am Jewish and I am against Israel's actions."

Several protestors carried placards featuring photos of wounded Lebanese children and of Israeli children writing on missiles. Some protestors also hoisted pictures of <u>Hezbollah</u> leader Hassan Nasrallah and Iranian President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad.

Anti-war protestors march on Israeli, U.S. consulates

The march began in front of the Israeli consulate under rain and ended at the U.S. Consulate under semi-clear skies. Peggy Nash, a member of Parliament for Parkdale-High Park, said the violence must stop.

"We are the voices of sanity, calling for peace," Nash, a New Democrat said.

The Toronto protest was part of several global demonstrations that took place yesterday.

Thousands of demonstrators marched through London, England, and hundreds more gathered in Amsterdam and Chicago to protest the Israeli attacks in Lebanon and the refusal of the U.S. and British governments to condemn them, Reuters reports.

Police said around 7,000 people joined the London protest as it snaked from the banks of the Thames to Hyde Park, first in brilliant sunshine and then in torrential rain. Many carried red and white Lebanese flags and placards condemning "Israeli crimes in Lebanon."

"We are all <u>Hezbollah</u>. Boycott Israel" read one. "Axis of evil: Bush, Blair, Olmert," read another, referring to the political leaders of the United States, Britain and Israel.

In Britain, hundreds also marched in Birmingham, Manchester, Glasgow, Newcastle and Sheffield.

In Amsterdam, some 700 people gathered near Dam Square to condemn the Israeli assault, which up to yesterday had killed an estimated 349 people in Lebanon, mostly civilians, in the past 11 days.

The Dutch protest came two days after around 2,000 pro-Israeli demonstrators gathered in Amsterdam.

In the United States, several hundred demonstrators gathered in bright sunshine in downtown Chicago for a rally to protest Israeli military actions in Lebanon and Gaza.

Protestors carried banners proclaiming "The Right to Fight Or The Might to Smite", or "Not with our money, not in our name."

"I'm outraged as an American, I'm outraged as a human being at what is happening to the people of Lebanon," said Dale Lehman, a 60-year-old Jewish resident of Chicago.

In Toronto yesterday, Zahie Awad was one of the many chanting in the crowd. But unlike many others, she was also in tears as she looked into the rows of protestors. Her son, a Canadian citizen, is now in Lebanon, trying to come to Canada with her grandson.

So far, it hasn't been easy, as her grandson's papers were lost when their home was destroyed. Appeals to the Canadian government have been unheeded, she said. She hasn't been able to sleep and yesterday, contact was cut off with her son as Israel stepped up its campaign, Awad said.

Hussein Awad, her other son, said they came to the rally so other Canadians could know what was happening in the Middle East.

"We need Canada to do its role," he said, calling for this country to broker a ceasefire.

Like Awad, all Roni Chaia has been thinking about is his father and sister in Lebanon.

"They say they don't know when they are going to get hit." Chaia said, adding his family is running out of water and food.

"There is no safe place for them in Lebanon."

For Khadijeh Rakie, who also has family in Lebanon, the rally affirmed the belief she has in Canadians.

"The amount of people who showed up today, it's inspiring," she said. "It shows that Canadians do care and that our prime minister is not reflective of the country."

Graphic

Carlos Osorio Toronto Star Demonstrators gather near the Royal Ontario Museum yesterday. The march started at Israeli consulate and made its way south to the American consulate. Carlos Osorio Toronto Star A woman, waving a Lebanese flag, leads anti-war protestors in Toronto yesterday. Organizers estimated the crowd at 10,000. Carlos Osorio Toronto Star A woman, waving a Lebanese flag, leads anti-war protestors in Toronto yesterday. Organizers estimated the crowd at 10,000.

Load-Date: July 23, 2006



<u>Protesters keep pressure on Syria Lebanese opposition supporters pour</u> into Beirut; Syrian agents evacuate more offices

Charleston Daily Mail (West Virginia)

March 14, 2005, Monday

Copyright 2005 Charleston Newspapers

Section: News; Pg. P3A

Length: 376 words

Byline: THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Body

BEIRUT, Lebanon - Hundreds of thousands of opposition demonstrators chanted "Freedom, sovereignty, independence" and unfurled a huge Lebanese flag in Beirut today, the biggest protest yet in the opposition's duel of street rallies with supporters of the Damascus-backed government.

Crowds of men, <u>women</u> and children flooded Martyrs Square, spilling over into nearby streets, while more from across the country packed the roads into Beirut - responding to an opposition call to demonstrate for the removal of Syrian troops from Lebanon.

The assassination of former Prime Minister Rafik Hariri exactly one month ago sparked the series of protests against Syria, the dominant power in Lebanon.

The throngs fell silent at 12:55 p.m. - the exact time Hariri was killed four weeks ago by a huge bomb in Beirut.

Today's protest easily topped a pro-government rally of hundreds of thousands of people last week by the Shiite Muslim militant group *Hezbollah*. That show of strength forced the opposition to try to regain its momentum.

Syria's military withdrawal continued today, with intelligence agents closing two offices in the northern towns of Amyoun and Deir Ammar, on the coastal road between the port of Tripoli and the Syrian border. Intelligence agents also dismantled two checkpoints in the Akkar area. About 50 intelligence agents in all departed for unknown destinations, although it was believed to be northern Syria.

Most intelligence offices, the widely resented arm through which Syria has controlled many aspects of Lebanese life, remained in northern and central Lebanon after Syrian troops moved east, closer to the Syrian border.

Last week, intelligence officers left the central towns of Aley and Bhamdoun and headed to Syrian-controlled areas of eastern Lebanon. The redeployment is the first stage of what Damascus says will be a full withdrawal, although it has not given a timetable.

The opposition is demanding a full Syrian withdrawal, the resignations of Lebanese security chiefs and an international investigation into Hariri's Feb. 14 assassination.

Protesters keep pressure on Syria Lebanese opposition supporters pour into Beirut; Syrian agents evacuate more offices

Many were also particularly offended by pro-Syrian President Emile Lahoud's reinstatement last week of Prime Minister Omar Karami, who was forced to resign on Feb. 28 by a giant opposition protest.

Load-Date: March 16, 2005



Middle East crisis: They put the 86 corpses into plain wood caskets. Many were just big enough to fit a small child: Dozens of dead buried in temporary mass grave until fighting ends

The Guardian - Final Edition
July 22, 2006 Saturday

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Section: GUARDIAN HOME PAGES; Pg. 6

Length: 697 words

Byline: Clancy Chassay, Tyre

Body

In the driveway of Tyre's Government hospital yesterday the sour smell of rotting flesh mingled with spray paint as the chief coroner wrote the names of the dead on their coffins.

Empty wood caskets, which had been neatly stacked by a large white freezertruck o one of two being used to store the bodies of many of those killed during Israel's bombardment of south

Lebanon o were now being filled; 86 of the 150 corpses in the truck were to be buried in the afternoon.

The continuous drone of Israel's Apache gunships could be heard over a clamouring crowd that had gathered to witness the burial. As an old man nailed coffins shut, friends and family members of the victims wept or stared at the bodies, loosely wrapped in plastic or

bloodied blankets, as they were passed out of the truck. The noisy gathering quietened each time a smaller bundle emerged from the makeshift morque.

Once sealed, the coffins were placed along the length of a wall outside the hospital each underneath a large black painted number. Several hours passed before they were finally ferried to a nearby field where two trenches had been dug to serve as a mass grave. It will not be their last resting place. They will lie there until the fighting subsides and the bodies can be exhumed and handed over to their families. The caskets, many only big enough to hold a small child

were laid in two large trenches, less than 100 metres long, two metres wide and no more than a metre deep.

Watching the burial was Qasim Shaala, the chief medic at Tyre's Red Cross offices. iMost of the casualties are <u>women</u> and children,i he said. iThey (Israel) are not letting us save them. Ambulances aren't allowed into areas after they are shelled.i

For the past four days, Mr Shaala and his team of 50 volunteers have been ferrying people from the Red Cross centre in Tibnin, near the border with Israel, to Tyre. Earlier that day Mr Shaala described the dangers and difficulties his ambulance workers had faced.

Middle East crisis: They put the 86 corpses into plain wood caskets. Many were just big enough to fit a small child: Dozens of dead buried in temporary mass gra....

iWe are being bombed as we try to get to the victims, and when we try to bring them back. Many of the roads are destroyed so we have to take detours through the orchards and farmland.i

He said that on every trip the teams had to stop their vehicles several times to clear large chunks of debris from those stretches of road that could still be used. Several of his drivers had been wounded by Israeli air strikes and one of his five ambulances was rendered useless.

iOne of my drivers is in the hospital, with shrapnel wounds to his head, hands and feet.i He only survived the attack by the helicopters because he was wearing the bright orange body armour issued to all Red Cross workers in the area.

Another driver from his team was wounded as he tried to bring injured from an attack near Qasmieh refugee camp. A bomb landed 10 metres from the ambulance as they arrived at the scene. The previous day nine ambulances had braved the road from Beirut to pick up patients from the Jabal Amal hospital in Tyre to clear the hospital in preparation for the many casualties expected from the south.

As they were leaving the coastal city, the three ambulances at the tail of the convoy were driven off the road when an Israeli shell landed 100 metres to the left of them. il have been an ambulance worker for 15 years and I have never seen it like this before. In 1996, (when Israel launched an operation to destroy *Hizbullah*, killing 170 civilians) we never had these problems,i said Mr Shaala.

Mr Shaala and his 50 staff are all volunteers: they receive no payment, it is the same for all ambulance workers in Lebanon. il have told my staff they are free to go whenever they feel the risk is too great." But no one wants to quit. iThe victims they are our people, our countrymen, our family: we must save them.i

Ahmad Ghanen, one of Mr Shaala's team, described coming under Israeli fire as they tried to retrieve the bodies of a baby and her mother along with two others who were killed in an air strike on their car. He had found the tiny body lying under a tree in a nearby orange grove, her mother was a few metres away, her leg severed above the knee: She had bled to death waiting for an ambulance that could not reach her.

Load-Date: July 22, 2006



<u>Middle East crisis: Israelis take cover as rockets rain down on north:</u> <u>Barrage reminiscent of height of war in 1980s: One dead, dozens hurt as residents flock to bunkers</u>

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

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.

<u>Hizbullah</u> 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 <u>women</u> 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, <u>women</u> 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



Israel suspends air strikes after carnage

Bath Chronicle
July 31, 2006 Monday

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Section: Pg. 6

Length: 427 words

Body

Reacting to world condemnation, Israel suspended its air strikes in southern Lebanon for 48 hours following a bombing attack that killed at least 56 Lebanese, most of them **women** and children.

Yesterday's bloody attack levelled a building where families had taken shelter from earlier Israeli attacks.

The carnage in the village of Qana escalated international pressure on Washington to back an immediate end to the fighting and prompted US secretary of state Condoleezza Rice to cut short her Middle East mission.

Early today an emergency session of the United Nations Security Council passed a statement expressing "extreme shock and distress", but not condemnation, of the civilian bombing in Qana.

The announcement of the pause in overflights - first made by the US State Department - appeared to reflect American pressure on Israel to make a concession after the strike.

Israeli officials confirmed that Israel had agreed to the pause.

However, the officials left open the possibility that Israel might hit targets to stop imminent attacks on Israel, and that the suspension could last less than 48 hours if the military completed its inquiry and interpretation before then.

The officials said Israel would allow opening of corridors for 24 hours for Lebanese civilians who wanted to leave south Lebanon for the north and would maintain land, sea and air corridors for humanitarian assistance.

The attack on Qana brought Lebanon's death toll to more than 510 and pushed American peace efforts to a crucial juncture, as fury at the US flared in Lebanon. The Beirut government said it would no longer negotiate over a US peace package without an unconditional ceasefire.

In Qana, workers pulled dirt-covered bodies of young boys and girls - dressed in the shorts and T-shirts they had been sleeping in - out of the mangled wreckage of the three-storey building. Bodies were carried in blankets and sheets, one decorated with Raggedy Ann and Andy drawings.

Two extended families, the Shalhoubs and the Hashems, had gathered together in the house for shelter from another night of Israeli bombardment in the border area when the 1am strike brought the building down.

"I was so afraid. There was dirt and rocks and I couldn't see. Everything was black," said 13-year-old Noor Hashem, who survived, although her five siblings did not. She was pulled out of the ruins by her uncle, whose wife and five children also died.

Israel suspends air strikes after carnage

Israel apologised for the deaths but blamed $\underline{\textit{Hezbollah}}$ guerillas, saying they had fired rockets into northern Israel from near the building.

news@bathchron.co.uk

Load-Date: August 1, 2006



Medals ban is an absolute disgrace

EVENING CHRONICLE (Newcastle, UK)

July 24, 2006 Monday

Edition 1

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Section: NEWS; Pg. 20

Length: 1031 words

Byline: By The Evening Chronicle

Body

The article by Gareth Deighan entitled Banned from wearing medals leaves me with a feeling of overwhelming sadness.

How terribly sad it is that the British Government's, unfathomably mean spirited, refusal to permit Malaya / Borneo veterans the right to wear the medal, bestowed on them by a grateful Malaysian nation. This will deny veterans, such as Gordon King, a tiny bit of pride in their declining years.

This shocking revelation inspires the following questions.

Precisely what detrimental effect could the accepting and wearing of the PJM have on the integrity of the Imperial Honours System and what possible harm can result from permitting elderly veterans the unrestricted right to wear their medal with justifiable pride?

All of us should be delighted to see British veterans thus honoured by a grateful foreign nation and what an incredible shame that their own nation refuses to accord them similar honour and respect.

The mind boggles at such an ignominious exhibition of bureaucratic insensitivity.

JOHN FENTON Oshawa, Ontario, Canada.

Schools must be closed

WITH reference to school reorganisations in Gateshead 2006. I see from his letter to Your Shout, July 17, that Tony Dowling is still making ill informed, disparaging remarks in the name of Respect and has clearly failed to grasp my comments on responsible advice.

The reorganisation covers a large area, and is not just about closing schools.

As many more teachers in a wide area will be much more likely to struggle with lack of equipment and redundancy, if his efforts to obstruct reorganisations and closures succeed, they may wish to ask him to explain, why he and Jim Hutchinson, still dispute that wasting money on oversized buildings when it is needed to pay teachers, leads to larger or oversized classes.

Medals ban is an absolute disgrace

These people are posturing as presenting an alternative plan - a plan to allow reducing pupil numbers to produce reducing budgets while overhead costs of large buildings remain, leaving many schools to sink into poverty despite proper funding. Heads and governors struggling with budgets, could well be tempted to go for NIMBY solutions of aggressive pupil recruitment, resulting in very large numbers of preserved empty places being passed back and forward around the borough for years to come, thus ensuring maximum widespread disruption in many schools.

Fortunately, for most of the children of Gateshead, the council has decided to solve the problem, not move it around.

ALAN APPLEBY, Fell Close, Sunniside.

Thanks for your funds

I AM writing to thank all those in Northumberland who helped to make the British Heart Foundation's (BHF) Help a Heart Week 2006 a success.

So many people have supported us by digging deep and donating to our biggest ever UK-wide collection, by buying a heart ribbon from their local BHF Shop, joining a BHF lifecycle or raising funds their own way, that the charity is well on its way to raising its target of £1.3m.

To those people who gave their time for free - by volunteering to distribute and gather in collection envelopes or helping out with events and other fundraising activities - we are also extremely thankful.

Your support is invaluable.

The money Northumberland has raised during Help a Heart Week in June will help the BHF continue its life-saving research. With your ongoing support, we are continuing to save and improve the lives of the millions of men, **women** and children affected by heart disease. For that, we are very grateful.

STEPHEN LAYDEN, fundraising volunteer manager, PO Box 23, Brampton CA8 2WA.

You were so generous

ON BEHALF of the Broken Piston Motorcycle Club, we would like to thank the following businesses/friends for their donations, raffle prizes and support at our rally, held at the Mill House pub, Washington, to raise funds for NECA.

Kawasaki Newcastle, Team Valley Motorcycle Training, Durham Bikes, M&S Framwellgate, Proto, Demon Bikes, Armstrongs, Ken's, Hunters, Faultfinder Washington, Automotive Car Parts Washington, Nixon Hire Newcastle, Lee Porter Construction, Chirman Ltd, the management and staff of the Mill House, and last but not least all our friends in the various clubs that attended and gave so generously to help a very worthy charity. By the feedback we think everyone had a good time and you all helped in raising £565 for NECA.

THE BROKEN PISTONS.

Israeli attacks must cease

ON JULY 4, Tony Blair, in referring to Islamic extremism stated: "If you want to defeat this extremism you have to defeat its ideas and you have to defeat in particular a completely false sense of grievance against the West." At the time I questioned whether the sense of grievance was false and recent events have confirmed that the grievance is justified.

If any country other than Israel or the US had bombed Lebanon or Gaza to smithereens, the West would have quite rightly condemned them and probably attacked them. However, the US and UK have not uttered a word of condemnation against anyone other than *Hezbollah*, Syria and Iran.

Hamas wins a democratic election and the West immediately applies sanctions because Hamas does not recognize Israel. No suggestion of sanctions being applied against Israel which, in the words of the Lebanese Prime Minister,

Medals ban is an absolute disgrace

is tearing his country to shreds by killing and maiming mainly civilians and children and removing the infrastructure such as roads, sea-ports, airports, power and water.

There is no way that I can condone the extremist actions of <u>Hezbollah</u> and some factions within Hamas but as the Lebanese Prime Minister warned, desperate people take desperate action. However, as well as condemning extremists, the international community must ensure that the totally disproportionate actions of the Israeli government are stopped immediately. I therefore ask all fair minded readers to contact their MP imploring him/her to pressure Tony Blair to give total backing to Kofi Annan's call for a ceasefire. If Israel do not accede to this, then UN sanctions should be applied immediately with or without US backing.

PETER BELL, Newcastle,

PM desperate for limelight

SEND me, send me, begs Bush's Poodle. With world events spinning out of control, Tony Blair still want to be centre stage.

T NESBITT, Hebburn.

Load-Date: July 24, 2006



Fighting and death toll escalate in Gaza

St. Louis Post-Dispatch (Missouri)

July 7, 2006 Friday

THIRD EDITION

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Section: NEWS; Pg. A7

Length: 976 words

Byline: By Sarah el Deeb THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Dateline: BEIT LAHIYA, GAZA STRIP

Body

Palestinian militants with AK-47s and rocket-propelled grenades battled Israeli helicopters and tanks Thursday in the bloodiest day since Israel invaded Gaza over a soldier's capture.

The fighting killed at least 21 Palestinians and one Israeli soldier.

Israeli soldiers retook three empty Jewish settlements nearly a year after abandoning them. The soldiers were seeking to carve out a temporary buffer zone in the northern Gaza Strip to prevent militants from firing more rockets into Israel.

After touring Gaza's main hospital, Palestinian Prime Minister Ismail Haniyeh of the Islamic militant group Hamas called for international intervention to stop the Israeli offensive. Haniyeh called the push "a crime against humanity" and "a desperate effort to undermine the Palestinian government under the pretext of a search for the missing soldier."

Throughout the day, Israeli aircraft fired missiles at militants, while Israeli tanks took up positions among tightly packed Palestinian homes. Apache helicopters hovered overhead, firing flares and machine guns.

Interior Minister Said Siyyam issued the Hamas-led Palestinian administration's first call to arms since Israel invaded last week. He urged Gaza security forces to fulfill their "religious and moral duty to stand up to this aggression and cowardly Zionist invasion."

But Siyyam carries little weight with Palestinian security forces. Most members are loyal to the rival Fatah party, led by the moderate Palestinian president, Mahmoud Abbas.

Earlier this week, Hamas militants fired two rockets into the southern Israeli city of Ashkelon. Although nobody was hurt, the rockets were the first to reach a major Israeli population center, indicating that militants had obtained longer-range weapons.

In response, Israeli soldiers moved into the densely populated towns of Beit Lahiya and Beit Hanoun in northern Gaza, where militants often launch rockets. The army said all attacks were aimed at militants.

Fighting and death toll escalate in Gaza

"We are doing the utmost" to avoid civilian casualties, said another military official, Brig. Gen. Ido Nehushtan. "Really, there is no other way of operating against terrorists who are operating inside their own civilian populations."

Israel began its ground invasion June 28. That was three days after militants linked to Hamas captured Israeli Cpl. Gilad Shalit, 19, in a cross-border raid. Israeli officials said they would do whatever was necessary to get the soldier back.

On Thursday, the fighting swelled -- and so did the death toll.

In Beit Lahiya, Israeli infantrymen took over one family's house, locking the inhabitants on the bottom floor of the home and posting snipers on the upper floors. Outside, armored bulldozers pushed up sand embankments to shelter tanks.

Palestinian militants crept down narrow alleys to get close to Israeli forces and open fire.

Militants were seen carrying bombs with electric cables to be buried in alleys or near roads and set off as tanks passed by.

During lulls in the fighting, some Palestinian women and children fled from their homes and left the area on foot.

Among the 21 Palestinians reported killed during the day were nine who died from airstrikes in the Beit Lahiya area.

A spokesman for the Palestinian Health Ministry, Khaled Radi, said he didn't know how many civilians were among the dead. He said 67 people had been wounded, 20 of them children.

Hamas said six of the dead were its members.

An Israeli soldier died in one skirmish -- the first Israeli casualty of the offensive, which has seen a total of 28 Palestinian deaths.

Israel Radio and Army Radio said the army was checking the possibility that the Israeli soldier had been killed by errant Israeli gunfire. The army spokesman's office denied that, saying the soldier had been killed by a Palestinian gunman.

Lt. Col. Yaniv, a battalion commander, reported stiff resistance. "The Palestinians have been firing rocket-propelled grenades, automatic weapons, and setting off explosive devices," said Yaniv, who gave only his first name under military regulations.

Palestinian militants launched eight homemade rockets at southern Israel on Thursday. Five were fired in a one-hour period, and one landed off the coast of Ashkelon. No damage or injuries were reported.

A buffer zone could be the only way to keep Israeli population centers out of rocket range. But such a zone brings back bitter memories of the security zone Israel carved out in southern Lebanon for 18 years in an attempt to prevent *Hezbollah* guerrillas from firing rockets at Israel.

<u>Hezbollah</u> still fired rockets, and southern Lebanon became a deadly battlefield. Pressure from concerned parents and Israelis opposed to the occupation forced Israel to withdraw in May 2000.

On Thursday, acting on behalf of Arab nations, Qatar circulated a draft resolution to put before the U.N. Security Council. It demands that Israel end its offensive and release Palestinian officials detained in the operation.

The draft drew opposition from the United States and France, which called it unbalanced in its criticism of Israel. France's ambassador said he would offer changes. But U.S. Ambassador John Bolton suggested that the United States opposed the resolution entirely -- raising the possibility that the United States would exercise its veto on the council to block the resolution.

Fighting and death toll escalate in Gaza

In Rome, Italy's foreign minister called the scale of Israel's offensive out of proportion, Italian news agencies reported.

"It's unthinkable that to save one hostage we would embark in an operation that would cause the deaths of dozens of people," the reports quoted Massimo D'Alema as saying.

Shalit's captors have demanded that Israel release hundreds of Palestinian prisoners in exchange for information about the soldier. Israel has publicly refused to negotiate but could be indirectly communicating with Hamas through mediators from Egypt and Turkey.

Graphic

PHOTO

Palestinians carry a man in Abasan, a village in the southern Gaza Strip, after an Israeli strike Thursday. Overall, fighting killed at least 21 Palestinians and one Israeli soldier Thursday. The Associated Press Photo

Load-Date: July 8, 2006



Northern Israel: unpeopled: The feeling is like gambling, says a kibbutz farmer who has stayed

The Gazette (Montreal)
July 31, 2006 Monday
Final Edition

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Section: NEWS; Pg. A4

Length: 937 words

Byline: MATTHEW MCALLESTER, Newsday

Dateline: KIBBUTZ SASA, Israel

Body

To drive into northern Israel is to enter a land that becomes stranger and stranger with each passing kilometre.

Where are the children? The women? The cars?

The pine-covered hills of this farmland and vacation region house a thousand spas and restaurants and wineries. The gates and doors to most are closed.

Smoke appears suddenly on hillsides and in villages, in a mushroom cloud, then drifts up from the subsequent fire. Swaths of the tinder-dry, summer slopes are charred. This is where a rocket has landed.

Toward the border with Lebanon, deep booms from Israeli artillery batteries nestling in fields sound across the otherwise silent vineyards and forests. Now and then, a farm worker appears, driving a combine harvester through a field of ripe corn. The farmers can't afford the luxury of escape to the south. Crops need tending.

"The feeling is like gambling," said Shay Yatom, 60, secretary of Kibbutz Sasa, a farming collective that nestles next to the border. The kibbutz has about 300 hectares of agricultural land - corn, apples, wheat. "You go to work all the time. You can't stop working. If you stop, you lose your orchards, you lose everything. We can't go away."

The unpeopling of northern Israel is because of the rockets that sail in an invisible arc from Lebanon, fired by <u>Hezbollah</u> guerrillas about 100 times per day, usually landing harmlessly in a field but sometimes ripping into homes and cars, killing at random. A Jewish woman one day, an Arab teenage girl another.

Never before have so many enemy rockets rained down on modern-day Israel, so even the war-hardened have packed their bags and headed beyond range. For now, that's about 48 kilometres. On Friday, large rockets landed in the town of Afula, farther into Israel than ever before. The fear is moving steadily south.

Left behind in the north are the stubborn, the devil-may-care, the farmers, people with nowhere to go - and the thousands of soldiers involved in the war.

Northern Israel: unpeopled: The feeling is like gambling, says a kibbutz farmer who has stayed

Being farther north than the arid hills of central and southern Israel, the Galilee region is the country's orchard, its weekend hideaway for city dwellers wanting to ride horses in the afternoon, have their shoulders massaged at sundown and eat dry-aged porterhouse steaks from the Golan Heights and drink local wines in the evening.

There's a laid-back atmosphere in the north, a frontier mentality mixed with a love for the good things in life: wine, organic food, hiking, horses, art, space. People who live in tense Jerusalem or non-stop Tel Aviv usually speak of the Galilee as a place of sanity and peace.

At this time of year, the roads are usually packed with families and couples heading for the numerous guest houses, or to the shores of the Mediterranean and the Sea of Galilee.

Now, the beaches are empty. At a famous spa hotel, Mizpe Hayamim, a guard was the only person to be found on Friday afternoon. The tony hotel had been closed for more than two weeks, he said.

Down the road, at the well-known restaurant Jaouni, the doors were open. Soldiers from a nearby base like to eat there. But there were few customers at lunchtime.

Nearby, at the Bat Ya'ar Ranch and Steakhouse, the restaurant was closed and there were no would-be cowboy guests to witness the birth of a foal. Four hours old, she staggered under her mother, craning her neck to feed for the first time.

The only people watching were ranch hands who sipped mint tea and gazed at the new life, even as deaths piled up only a few kilometres away in Lebanon and, less often, in Israel itself.

Things in the north can sometimes seem a little surreal. Overweight reservist soldiers with dreadlocks amble around at roadblocks. Young male Hasidics stop their van and dance around in wild joy with slightly bemused soldiers. A vendor drives his van along the border, selling ice cream to soldiers, child-friendly music blaring from a speaker.

With its fields of ripening vines, the region also is the heart of Israel's burgeoning wine industry. There's a wine tour that visitors can take, as if they were in the Napa Valley or the wine country of South Africa. But not right now.

Yossi Ashkenazi owns the Ben-Zimra Winery in the collective farm of Kerem Ben-Zimra. He bought it 31/2 years ago and lured a celebrated winemaker to help him produce 4,000 bottles of good cabernet sauvignon each year. He sells only to two restaurants and winery visitors.

"Usually at this time of year there are a lot of people who come here to taste the wine," said Ashkenazi, 30, sitting in the empty bar at his property. He opened it only because he had two unexpected visitors who had called him on his cellphone. He has been closed for two weeks.

As he spoke, the booms from the Israeli artillery pounding Lebanon punctuated the conversation. He sleeps through them. His sister and mother don't find it so easy. But they stay. All the children of the moshav, the collective farm, have left.

Closer to the border and the Israeli artillery batteries, at Sasa - another childless place - Shay Yatom sat outside his house, wishing against conventional wisdom that talking could solve the conflict.

"Let's say two things," he said.

Boom.

"We want peace. Then people should say we want to achieve peace not by war."

Boom.

"If you agree on these two sentences, then you can solve anything."

Boom.

Northern Israel: unpeopled: The feeling is like gambling, says a kibbutz farmer who has stayed

"We've come to the conclusion that <u>Hezbollah</u> don't want to argue," he said, sadly.

Boom.

"If they use force against Israel, this is a mistake. They should know this."

When a loudspeaker somewhere on the kibbutz announced that people should enter their homes, Yatom ignored it and remained sitting on his bench outside.

He wasn't going anywhere.

Load-Date: July 31, 2006



A harrowing escape, thoughts of gratitude and concern

St. Louis Post-Dispatch (Missouri)

July 30, 2006 Sunday

FOURTH EDITION

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Section: EDITORIAL; Pg. B3

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Byline: By Lawrence Biondi

Body

I was having dinner in Beirut with the president of Notre Dame University of Lebanon on Wednesday, July 12, when he got the call: <u>Hezbollah</u> militants had just abducted two Israeli soldiers. At that point, I had no idea just how harrowing the next week would be.

When I left for Lebanon just two days earlier to deliver Notre Dame's commencement address, I had no indication a crisis was brewing. Although most Americans -- unlike Europeans and Middle Easterners -- don't think of Beirut as a tourist destination, I was looking forward to visiting historical and cultural sites in Lebanon, meeting other religious and educational leaders and speaking at the graduation ceremony.

By Thursday, July 13, all hell broke loose. From my hotel in northern Beirut, I heard Israeli jets attacking the <u>Hezbollah</u> section of the city. From my balcony I could see clouds of black smoke rise into the air, and at night I could see fires on the horizon. When the airport and major roads were bombed, I began to wonder when -- if -- I would get back to St. Louis.

For the most part, I felt safe in the hotel, which was filled with Saudis, Iranians, Brits, Europeans, United Nations representatives and other Americans who were in Lebanon on business or vacation. Because the hotel is in the so-called Christian area of greater Beirut, guests were told it was unlikely to be a target.

Even so, the fighting grew more intense every day. Occasional blackouts and media warnings to stay in our hotel kept me on edge. Even more unnerving, days passed with no word from the staff at the U.S. embassy, even though I had taken care to register my presence with them several times.

Literally waiting by the phone in my hotel room, I began to feel like a hostage. (In fairness, I did receive two phone calls from a State Department staff member in Washington, who assured me that the embassy in Beirut had a record of my passport-registered name.)

Finally -- at 3 a.m. on July 19 -- Saint Louis University's general counsel called to say he had received word from the State Department that I would be leaving on the cruise ship the Orient Queen that day and would be permitted only one 30-pound bag.

I rounded up my essential documents, left my other luggage behind and headed to the designated staging area. Waiting in line, I heard bombs exploding, sounding like thunderclaps reverberating in every direction.

A harrowing escape, thoughts of gratitude and concern

After showing my passport to the embassy staff, I boarded a bus to the Beirut seaport. I joined about 200 men, **women** and children gathered there, all of us anxious to be cleared to board ship. Bombs were dropping just a few miles away; it was the closest I had been to the fighting.

We finally left port at 4 p.m. with an American warship, the U.S.S. Gonzalez, following us in a corridor only half a mile wide. The Gonzalez accompanied us all the way to Cyprus. We arrived just after midnight, but a ship bearing French national evacuees from Beirut had arrived before us, so we had to stay on the Orient Queen for three more hours.

Tension was high. Everyone was anxious to get off the ship, find a place to stay and begin making their necessary travel arrangements. Some people fainted; some got angry. There was some pushing and shoving and even a fistfight. When more than 1,000 of us were told we could disembark, the exodus process became chaotic.

Eventually, I got off the ship and to a taxi that took me to a hotel about 50 miles away. I was able to catch a chartered plane the next evening, and I finally arrived in St. Louis at 1 p.m. Friday. It had taken me about 12 hours to get from the United States to Lebanon by plane. It took me nearly 52 hours -- by bus, ship, taxi and plane -- to get home. For the first time ever, I was happy to feel St. Louis humidity.

Although I was relieved to be out of war-torn Lebanon, I must confess that my experiences there were among the most memorable of my life. I'm not saying I'd willingly do it again, but I am genuinely grateful that I had an opportunity to get to know and appreciate the Lebanese people. Perhaps it is because they have lived through years of conflict before, but I was amazed at how resilient they are at handling this new crisis.

I also am genuinely grateful for the sobering moments I spent in my hotel room thinking about my life, my relationships and my work at SLU. I know I have a reputation for being somewhat tough and business-minded at times. I came to realize how fortunate I am -- with the help of my God -- that so many St. Louisans were thinking of and praying for me.

Yes, I have had soul-searching moments before, but those Beirut moments shook me up and helped me to realize how the lives of Lebanese and Israeli people alike became so tenuous, so fragile, so quickly.

Now back home and safe, I continue to reflect on my life-changing experiences in Lebanon as the war there continues. I am not a politician or a policy-maker, but I know that what's most important in this Middle East crisis is finding the fastest possible way to end this conflict -- to have at least a period of cease fire. The Lebanese and Israeli people -- especially the children -- are suffering. And unlike me, they won't get a call at three in the morning to board the Orient Queen and get out.

The Rev. Lawrence Biondi, S.J., is president of Saint Louis University.

Notes

OTHER VIEWS THE MIDDLE EAST

Graphic

PHOTO

A harrowing escape, thoughts of gratitude and concern

PHOTO - Lawrence Biondi PHOTO - The Orient Queen luxury cruise liner makesit final voyage out of the capital portof Beirut, Lebanon,leaving behind luggage of Lebanese crew members who were forced to get off the boat, Frdiay. Kevork Djansezian | AP

Load-Date: July 30, 2006



MANMOHAN RAISES TOAST TO ONGOING EFFORT IN CRISIS-LADEN LEBANON

Hindustan Times

July 27, 2006 Thursday 2:18 PM EST

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Byline: Report from the India Press Release brought to you by the Hindustan Times

Dateline: NEW DELHI, India

Body

NEW DELHI, India, July 27 -- The Office of the Prime Minister of India issued the following press release:

The following is the text of the Prime Minister Dr Manmohan Singh's suo-motu statement in the Parliament today regarding the situation in Lebanon and evacuation of Indian nationals from Lebanon.

"Hon. Members are aware of the current situation in Lebanon. Taking into account the concern that Members may have on this score, I rise to apprise the House of the current situation and our responses to the evolving situation, especially the efforts made by us to aid and assist Indian nationals who have become victims of the escalating crisis in Lebanon.

West Asia is our extended neighbourhood and tensions in that region affect our security and our vital interests. We are seriously concerned about the escalation of the conflict between Israel and the <u>Hezbollah</u> extending across the Lebanon-Israel border. These developments have inflamed an already tense and delicate situation in the region.

On July 12, India had condemned the abduction of two Israeli soldiers by the <u>Hezbollah</u> cadres and called for their immediate release. Simultaneously, we had condemned in the strongest possible terms the excessive and disproportionate military retaliation by Israel. We had particularly expressed concern that the actions of the Israeli Defence Forces had resulted in the killing and suffering of innocent civilians, including <u>women</u> and children, that is likely to exacerbate an already tense situation. We also condemn the attacks that led to the deaths of 4 UN Observers in Lebanon.

India had also condemned the wholly unjustified arrest and continuing detention of Ministers of the Palestinian National Authority and members of the Palestinian Legislative Council. There can be no justification whatsoever for taking such action against the duly elected representatives of the Palestinian people.

The virtual destruction of a country, which has been painfully rebuilt after two decades of civil war, can hardly be countenanced by any civilized state. In response to the appeal issued by the Government of Lebanon, I would like to inform the House that the Government has decided to contribute Rs. 10 crores to humanitarian and relief efforts to rebuild Lebanon.

In our view, there should be an immediate ceasefire so that the destruction of Lebanon is ended and humanitarian assistance could be provided. All sides must immediately halt the violence and give diplomacy a chance. Diplomacy

MANMOHAN RAISES TOAST TO ONGOING EFFORT IN CRISIS-LADEN LEBANON

to succeed should have a long-term solution that involves and addresses the legitimate concerns of all parties in the region, leading to a comprehensive and negotiated solution.

The safety and welfare of Indian nationals who were residents in that country has been our foremost concern. On July 17, anticipating a further deterioration in the security situation an advisory was issued to all Indian nationals, particularly those living in Southern Lebanon, to take suitable precautions regarding their personal safety. Consultations were initiated to work out solutions on how to facilitate the return of those of our nationals in Lebanon desirous of doing so. All Indian nationals have been advised to remain in contact with the Embassy of India in Beirut, who has been instructed to render necessary advice and updated information on the evolving situation.

Since Beirut airport remained closed and the land route between Beirut and Damascus was unsecure, it was felt that the best way to evacuate Indian nationals was through Beirut port. Four Indian Naval ships INS Mumbai, INS Brahmaputra, INS Betwa and INS Shakti which were in the Red Sea area, were redirected to Beirut to assist in the evacuation.

The first evacuation effort was undertaken on July 21, 2006. 598 Indian nationals, and as a humanitarian gesture, nationals from Nepal, Lebanon and Sri Lanka, were evacuated by INS Mumbai from Beirut to Larnaca in Cyprus. From Larnaca, Air India arranged two aircraft to ferry the evacuated Indians to Mumbai and Chennai.

A second evacuation out of Beirut was undertaken on July 24. This comprised 887 people including 784 Indians, 41 from Nepal, 57 from Sri Lanka and 5 Lebanese nationals. All Indian nationals, and nationals from Nepal and Sri Lanka were air-lifted from Larnaca to India and have arrived safely. A third phase of evacuation was completed on July 26 bringing the total number of those evacuated to 1870, including 1687 Indian nationals.

It is our estimate that approximately 12,000 Indian nationals were in Lebanon at the time of the outbreak of hostilities. They are mostly semi-skilled and unskilled workers who were working in farms and factories. Of these, a large number have not indicated their desire to leave Lebanon. Some of them appear to have decided to stay back, others may have been unable to reach Beirut because of the disruption in communications. We have so far received confirmation of the death of one Indian national in an air strike on a glass factory in Bekka valley.

Our Embassy continues to function in Beirut, and is in touch with various organizations and agencies with which Indian nationals were associated. For the time being, our naval vessels will continue to be in the region in case they are required to be used in the service of our nationals. Any further evacuations will be planned taking into account the ground situation in Lebanon.

We also have a contingent of 672 Indian officers and soldiers as part of the UN peace-keeping forces in Lebanon (UNIFIL). Our peacekeepers are safe, though currently confined to their barracks.

I would like to place on record appreciation for the efforts of various Ministries, Departments and agencies of Government for the swift and successful manner in which they have responded to the task of helping our fellow citizens in distress."

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Load-Date: July 28, 2006



Prescott in charge is no joke

Daily Mail (London)
July 24, 2006 Monday

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Section: ED 1ST; Pg. 15

Length: 1548 words

Byline: PETER MCKAY

Body

THE first Lord Beaverbrook - the irascible media tycoon Max Aitken - would inquire occasionally of subordinates at his newspapers: 'Who's in charge of the clatterin' train?' The poor, old United Kingdom resembles a clatterin' train. As passengers, we like to imagine someone is in charge as we clatter towards our destination. So how do we feel about Deputy Prime Minister John Prescott being on the footplate while Tony Blair is away?

Yesterday, in a TV interview, Prescott addressed this question in his usual, confused fashion: 'Two months of every year, I'm in that kind of charge situation. I've never heard a complaint from you (Andrew Marr), from anyone else or the Press as to how I handle it or how my judgment works.' Prescott accepts that Labour Party colleagues are 'disappointed' in him after recent scandals but adds: 'They say: "Get on with the job, get on with doing what Labour's done and get that case across."' Does anyone urge Prescott to remain in his job? I find it hard to believe. Who might such a supporter be? A humble employee seeking to flatter? A relative anxious not to lose the tiny, reflected glory of being connected to Deputy PM Prescott?

It's genuinely difficult to imagine what kind of person - other than an outright hypocrite - could look Prescott in the eye and say: 'Carry on doing your job, and getting Labour's message across.' The sordid use he made of his civil servant diary secretary, Tracey Temple, was bad enough to guarantee his dismissal from any properly run organisation. The all-butwornout TV news clip of her smiling subserviently at him as they jointly attend the Iraq War Memorial Service (of all events) still turns the stomach.

Playing footsie with the American billionaire Philip Anschutz, who is keen on turning the Millennium Dome into a giant gambling den - asking to be kept up to date on the relevant planning decisions, accepting an absurd cowboy outfit during a visit to Anschutz's ranch in Colorado - should certainly have seen him off if we lived in a properly governed nation.

BUT, after the Parliamentary Commissioner for Standards, Sir Philip Mawer, said Prescott had broken strict ministerial rules, Tony Blair's official spokesman announced: 'John Prescott has rectified the matter and the Prime Minister believes that is the end of it.' That is the end of it.

Breathtaking, isn't it? Blair doesn't have the moral authority - or the courage - to fire Prescott. The Deputy PM is allowed to decide for himself whether or not his behaviour is acceptable. So he comes to the unsurprising conclusion that it is - and he doesn't have to resign.

Prescott in charge is no joke

Does it matter? We're at the fag end of the Blair Era. A few months more might not matter. Prescott being 'in charge' doesn't mean a thing. If there's a crisis at home, Blair will resume command. Meaning he'll come up with the appropriate drivel.

If it's abroad, he'll check on what's to be done with his boss, President George W. Bush. Sorted!

It does matter, but not in a way which can readily be shown on TV. The sordid Prescott saga poses troubling questions. If a Government has lost moral authority, can it govern at home, let alone influence events abroad?

Are we - its victims - compelled to obey its rules when it is openly contemptuous of standards affecting its own behaviour?

Prescott and his freebie cowboy outfit is trivial - comic even - but it saps confidence in the Government.

We know from the way this is handled, and his grubby abuse of Ms Temple, that the Government believes certain rules and honourable conventions are made for us, but not them.

I do not suggest Blair and Co wake up each morning with the determination to screw us, or make sure they never have to face the laws they so feverishly devise to control our behaviour. But they do seem unable to see any connection between the expectations they have about our honesty and those we have a right to express about theirs.

What it comes down to is, as always, the arrogance of power. They have it.

They mean to keep it. Posture on the world stage? Prescott shows we can't even regulate our own politicians, let alone set an example to those in the Middle East.

Great snaps or is it all a pose?

ISN'T it just magical how paparazzi photographers got snaps of David and Victoria Beckham enjoying a 'love cruise' aboard a yacht lent to them by fashion designer Roberto Cavalli?

Cuddling, holding hands, strolling to dinner in Portovenere, Italy - she in a 'stunning' beige dress with a gold belt, he in a white silk shirt and black trousers - the couple must be delighted by the photos. They're more interesting than the posed snaps you see in glossy celeb magazines.

Cynics say such pictures are fixed.

They're only 'snatched' to give the appearance of authenticity.

Why? Because if we knew the couple were co-operating in a photo shoot we'd lose interest.

What a monstrous idea!

I had only one small misgiving.

There's a shot of the Beckhams photographing each other with a digital camera held in front of them by David. He is peering into the lens but Victoria appears to be mugging soulfully for the paparazzi's camera.

Our bit-part in Lebanon's theatre of war

DID George W. Bush encourage Israel to 'eradicate' *Hezbollah* by destroying its 'strongholds' in Lebanon?

I saw an Israeli spokesman explain that <u>Hezbollah</u> was a 'cancer'. You don't stop treating a cancer, he said. So a ceasefire wasn't appropriate.

Describing <u>Hezbollah</u> as a cancer removes any need to see them as human beings, far less consider that genuine political grievances might lie behind their terrorism.

It's an unhappymetaphor. Cancer is rarely eradicated permanently.

Sometimes it returns in more virulent form. 'Strongholds' is another curious term. It seems to include entire city blocks, villages and families fleeing by car from hamlets under aerial attack.

Most experts think Israel wouldn't have embarked on this enterprise without the approval of Washington. Not long ago, the U.S.

administration talked of creating 'a road map to peace'. Now their client Israel is destroying Lebanon's roads (as well as bridges, airports, power stations and cities, not to mention killing or making refugees of its people), Bush & Co say it's a new, democratic dawn for the area.

Half a century ago, America betrayed Britain, France and Israel by pulling the plug on our occupation of the Suez Canal zone. Cynics believed then that America merely sought to create its own empire. They were right. Now it is creating far greater mayhem over a much wider area. And we're their willing accomplices.

Wedded to each other

TONY BLAIR was present to see affable Adam Boulton, political editor of Sky News, marry Anji Hunter, who now works for BP but once acted as the Prime Minister's 'gatekeeper' at Number 10.

Although it's a second marriage for both, they received a blessing at St James's in Piccadilly.

Afterwards, the New Labour throng retired to a party in ultra-posh Spencer House, which is said to have cost Pounds 35,000 - given the surroundings, a Pounds 95a-head bargain for the 370 guests, I'd say, even if they'd only got a sausage on a stick and a glass of house white by way of refreshment.

Cherie Blair wasn't there.

She is said to have viewed Miss Hunter - a friend of the teenage Tony Blair - with suspicion, and complained of the time the pair spent together.

I won't pretend to know the dynamics of the Cherie Blair/Anji Hunter relationship. Not going to the wedding certainly gives credence to stories about Cherie's jealousy. But who cares? Some would have called her a hypocrite if she had gone.

Personally I'd always choose to attend (if invited) the weddings of enemies.

We must lift ourselves above petty disagreements on such occasions. Life's too short, etc.

Some will say it was wrong to invite Blair. After all, Boulton is an independent political commentator. Be that as it may, I think these people are all in each other's pockets. So why pretend otherwise?

POP singer George Michael is accused of 'totally illegal' canoodling on Hampstead Heath with a jobless 58-year-old van driver who is described unkindly as 'gross and dishevelled'. Is it 'totally illegal' to seek 'gay sex thrills' on Hampstead Heath? Surely it is now obligatory.

Also, after being accosted by Her Majesty's Press, Michael retrieved the keys of his Mercedes coupe 'from their hiding place on top of the rear wheel'.

Why would he have hidden his keys? There are some rough <u>women</u> out there but I've not as yet found it necessary to hide my car keys prior to a romantic tryst.

PRINCE MICHAEL OF KENT is now accused of sending 'steamy' postcards to American divorcee Lucy Weber, signing himself 'your Casanova' and saying his ambition is 'to lick you all over...' Miss Weber (pictured above) informs the News of the World: 'I was Prince Michael's mistress.' Previously, she described their friendship as more

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of a meeting of minds. Now, in her 'secret diary', he describes her as 'my lusty friend'. She says he's 'a very sexually motivated individual'.

Oh dear, oh dear. Princess Michael, aka Princess Pushy, is to blame. After the first story, she called Miss Weber 'an insane fantasist'. Miss Weber now says: 'I find it deeply offensive that she should dismiss our relationship in that way.' It's never a good idea to dismiss a woman as an 'insane fantasist' - she may go nuclear.

Load-Date: July 24, 2006



<u>Surge of Violence in Mideast Forces Some Young Jews to Rethink a Rite of</u> Passage - Correction Appended

The New York Times
July 23, 2006 Sunday
Late Edition - Final

Correction Appended

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Length: 1381 words

Byline: By LISA W. FODERARO

Body

Victoria Kaplan, a young Jewish New Yorker who does not consider herself terribly religious, had never been to Israel.

For years, though, she had heard from her grandparents about the natural beauty and psychological pull of the country they considered their homeland. And at 25, she was running out of time to go on a free trip offered to Jews 18 to 26 by Taglit-Birthright Israel, an organization in Jerusalem.

She decided to take the trip this month, but a few days before her scheduled departure, violence erupted on the Israeli-Lebanese border.

"I was really nervous," she said from Eilat in southern Israel. "I didn't want to let anyone in my family know how nervous I was, because I wanted to keep my options open."

Ms. Kaplan is one of thousands of young Jews for whom a summer tour of Israel is a rite of passage. Thousands more -- mostly from the observant Orthodox world -- spend a year in Israel between high school and college in pursuit of religious study, travel and volunteer work.

But such plans have been complicated by the hostilities that broke out earlier this month in northern Israel.

Some parents have watched helplessly as their children have struggled to flee Haifa, the third largest city in Israel and one repeatedly hit by rocket fire by the Lebanese group <u>Hezbollah</u>. Other parents are weighing whether to allow their sons and daughters to go for a whole year of study in such a volatile environment.

And organizers of travel programs have scrambled to redraft itineraries and, in a few instances, return fretful travelers home early.

For the young adults themselves, the confluence of renewed violence in Israel and their dreams of travel has pried open a well of conflicting emotions: anxiety, pride, impotence, anger and determination.

Ms. Kaplan, who lives in Manhattan and works on research studies at the Hospital for Special Surgery, ultimately trusted that the organization sponsoring her trip would know how to keep her group safe.

Birthright, which had 200 young people in Israel in mid-July, has steered clear of the northern cities, as well as the area near the Gaza border, where tensions with the Palestinians run high. Ms. Kaplan's group is lingering in the south, climbing near the historic Masada mountaintop fortress, snorkeling in the Red Sea and visiting underground caves.

"We're getting to do some things that groups don't ordinarily get to do," Ms. Kaplan said in a phone interview. "Once we arrived, it seemed amazing to me that there could be a war going on. Everyone here is so happy and comfortable, and we haven't seen anything even remotely violent."

Jay Golan, president of the Birthright Israel Foundation, the New York adjunct of Taglit-Birthright, said the six-year-old program had so far sent 100,000 young people from all over the world to Israel on 10-day trips. Since the hostilities began, only a handful of people have backed out of a trip scheduled for August. Only one member of the current expedition, a woman from Argentina, asked to return home immediately.

"We're not getting a lot of cancellations," Mr. Golan said. "If anything, we're getting calls from people who want to make sure that even with a constrained itinerary, that it's still a complete picture of Israel. I think the people who go during these weeks will treasure their experience for the rest of their lives."

But some young tourists who were already in Israel when the fighting began have found themselves in harrowing situations. Sarah Kopman-Fried, 18, of Cheshire, Conn., was in Haifa, about to start an intensive Hebrew course, when she heard sirens. The first *Hezbollah* missile to strike the city had fallen within two miles of her university.

She was told she had two minutes to reach a bomb shelter underneath her dorm. It had one toilet for 60 people, she said. The Israelis in the shelter played cards while the Americans cried. After six hours in the shelter, she went back to her room, packed her things and slept a few hours; she then hired a van to take her and a dozen other students to Jerusalem and then to Tel Aviv to flee the country.

Her parents were able to talk to her on her cellphone throughout the ordeal. "I was nervous that here I have my child and missiles are raining down where she is, and you're defenseless," said her father, Michael Kopman-Fried. "But she was never panicked, so we never panicked."

Miss Kopman-Fried, a student at the University of Connecticut, said she felt guilty as her plane took off, worried for friends still in Haifa and for Israelis in general. But as the plane touched down on Monday at Kennedy International Airport, the relief came in a rush. "The whole plane started cheering, and not just polite clapping for the captain, but all out," she recalled. "I was screaming like I was at a baseball game."

In Lebanon, thousands of American tourists and people with dual American and Lebanese citizenship also found themselves under fire. On Thursday, United States Marines helped in the evacuation of more than 1,000 Americans to Cyprus. The same day, a government-chartered plane landed in Maryland with American evacuees on board. Exhausted but healthy, some cried joyfully while others described scenes of horror that they had witnessed in Lebanon, including burning children. Many people became trapped in Lebanon after Israeli warplanes bombed the runways at Beirut's airport.

For young people who have long planned to study for a year in Israel following high school, the turmoil is confounding. Alisa Hartman, 17, a recent graduate of Westchester Hebrew High School in Mamaroneck, N.Y., had planned to study at a yeshiva outside Jerusalem. A few nights ago, her parents insisted that they discuss her trip, as well as possible alternatives, like taking an internship or starting this fall at the University of Hartford.

"I just don't want to think about it, because it's making me mad," Miss Hartman said at their home in the Riverdale section of the Bronx. "I can't believe what's going on. My brother spent the year there and everything was fine, and now that I'm going, I feel that everything has to be bad. All my life I hoped to spend the year after high school in Israel. Why now?"

Surge of Violence in Mideast Forces Some Young Jews to Rethink a Rite of Passage

Her father, Jim Hartman, said that he understood her frustration but feared for her safety.

"Hezbollah has missiles that could just about reach where she will be," said Mr. Hartman, who teaches English at DeVry Institute of Technology in Queens.

"I couldn't send her under these circumstances," he added. "I couldn't send her to get bombed."

Many families are facing the same calculus. According to Jerome A. Chanes, a faculty scholar at Brandeis University who specializes in the American Jewish community, the number of young Jews who defer college to live in Israel for a year has risen dramatically in the past two decades, especially among Orthodox Jews.

"Not only has it become standard in the traditionally observant world, but it's unusual for boys and girls not to spend a year in Israel between high school and college," he said. "My guess is that a number of families are rethinking that. But most of the yeshivas are in and around Jerusalem, and there are always sectarian problems there. Those kinds of issues have not deterred kids in the past."

Indeed, some inveterate travelers to Israel do not seem rattled by the recent attacks.

June Walker, the national president of Hadassah, the <u>Women</u>'s Zionist Organization of America, has visited Israel about 40 times. She now has a granddaughter on a six-week program sponsored by Hadassah's youth movement, Young Judaea.

Ms. Walker said she is not anxious, even though her granddaughter, Rebecca Fish, 17, of Rockaway, N.J., was in Haifa when the first missile fell. (Miss Fish's group left the city safely and planned to spend the rest of the trip well south of the fighting.)

"I knew they would move all the participants into safe areas," Ms. Walker said, "and I know that to be terrorized by terrorists is to give in to them, and that is how you lose. What makes me really frightened is that I have another granddaughter, who is 16 and goes to school in New York City, and at 11 o'clock at night, she's in Penn Station by herself. That makes me more nervous."

http://www.nytimes.com

Correction

An article on Sunday about young American Jews whose plans to visit Israel have been complicated by violence in the region incorrectly rendered a word in a quotation by Jerome A. Chanes, a faculty scholar at Brandeis University who specializes in American Jewish culture. He said, "Most of the yeshivas are in and around Jerusalem, and there are always security problems there" -- not "sectarian" problems there.

Correction-Date: July 28, 2006

Graphic

Photo: Victoria Kaplan, left, of Manhattan, and Sharon Horowitz of Brooklyn at an art market in Tel Aviv on Friday during a summer tour of Israel. (Photo by Stephanie Sorkin)

Load-Date: July 23, 2006



Reply: Letters and emails: Little space left for Israels critical friends

The Guardian - Final Edition
July 28, 2006 Friday

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Section: GUARDIAN LEADER PAGES; Pg. 35

Length: 184 words **Byline:** Paul Usiskin

Body

The response to your poll on Israel's overreaction (July 25) was predictable: champions for or against Israel, some reasoned, some hysterical. It seems there is hardly anywhere for moderates - critical supporters of Israel - to go. Israel is a democracy and is measured as such, but the same measure is not applied to *Hizbullah* and Hamas as terrorist organisations. But the evidence grows daily that too many innocent Lebanese have suffered the consequence of Israel's reply to *Hizbullah*'s attack. And Israel bears the brunt of your poll, even though Israel's citizens too are targets. Israeli deaths are still deaths, even though their numbers are less. There is no question that the whole of civilian north Israel is under daily attack and there are fears that *Hizbullah* has the ability to strike deeper.

<u>Hizbullah</u> calculated the martyrdom of <u>women</u> and children and increased its likelihood by apparently placing weapons and caches in civilian concentrations. Where is the poll that condemns <u>Hizbullah</u>? As the Israeli song puts it: "Things you see from there you can't see from here."

Paul Usiskin

Peace Now UK

Load-Date: July 28, 2006



Opinion - Leadership and dialogue needed

Irish News

July 31, 2006 Monday

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Section: Pg. 10

Length: 421 words

Body

THAT THE conflict in the Middle East has been a brutal and bloody affair should be a surprise to nobody - especially to people in countries, like ourselves, which have been similarly affected.

The only thing that differs is scale.

In Lebanon, as evidenced by the deaths of so many innocent people in an Israeli air strike on a village yesterday, civilians continue to make up the majority of casualties.

It cannot be forgotten that <u>Hezbollah</u> fighters have been quite indiscriminately firing rockets into Israeli cities, towns and villages as this confrontation has escalated over the past few weeks.

But the carnage which can be caused by the more sophisticated Israeli weaponry was demonstrated with horrifying effect in the attack on Qana.

As of last night the death toll following the missile attack on a building in the town was approaching 60 with at least 34 of them being children and a further 12 were <u>women</u>.

In attempting to justify this horrible action an Israeli spokesman said that rockets had been fired from the village across the border, some "from near" the building subsequently destroyed.

Another spokesman, while regretting the loss of life, pointed out that Lebanese people had been warned to leave such potential target areas along the Israeli border.

Just over 10 years ago a similar attack on the same village led to the cessation of similar hostilities.

On that occasion over 100 Lebanese civilians died when a UN base was shelled.

Hopes that this latest outrageous loss of innocent life will at least lead to a ceasefire look to be futile. The Israeli prime minister yesterday said that his armed forces would continue their offensive and broaden it if thought necessary, perhaps for another 10 to 14 days.

Just how this dispute which has lasted decades will be finished in two more weeks remains to be seen.

The more likely outcome is that the seeds for decades more conflict have been sown.

Israel should indeed have its borders respected. Its citizens should be able to live free from the fear of indiscriminate rocket attacks. But so too should Israel's neighbours.

Opinion - Leadership and dialogue needed

If this conflict is to be solved it will not be by replying with sophisticated missiles when attacked with crude weapons. It will only be resolved by political leadership and a willingness to engage in dialogue.

The leaders who embark on such a path will be showing a lot more wisdom and bravery than those who push the buttons or light the fuses which will inevitably lead to the deaths of even more innocent civilians on both sides of the border.

Load-Date: July 31, 2006



No room for PC in combat

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

November 14, 2005 Monday

National Edition

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Section: EDITORIALS; Pg. A14

Length: 377 words

Byline: Michael Burrows, National Post

Body

Re: Fighting Is For Men, Barbara Kay, Nov. 9. Competent, Lethal Women, Alan Okros, letter to the editor, Nov. 12

Having served in combat units in both the Canadian Forces (CF) and the Israel Defence Forces (IDF), I strongly disagree with the contention by Captain (ret'd) Alan Okros that <u>women</u> can share an equal place with their male counterparts on the modern battlefield. Any serious military entity interested in its continued survival would be well advised to resist the urge to accommodate any such integration of <u>women</u> into combat roles. Sadly, too many soldier-bureaucrats at NDHQ in Ottawa have become victims of their own motivational rhetoric and are more at home carrying briefcases and pens than rucksacks and weapons. The statistics and state of our forces here in Canada are clear evidence of a military on a downward decent into non-relevance. This is not the fault of the people in the field doing the real work of soldiering.

While serving in the IDF, I had the opportunity to witness first-hand the roles that <u>women</u> in the military were suited for and clearly not suited for -- in a military that is at the cutting edge of advanced modern battlefield methods and doctrine. I had <u>female</u> weapons instructors and <u>female</u> physical trainers, but when it came to carrying 50- to 60-kg. loads over the rough terrain of South Lebanon (for more kilometres than my joints would like to remember) fighting <u>Hezbollah</u> guerillas, it was universally acknowledged from the outset that anyone not up to the physical weight-bearing ordeal of modern soldiering is not up to being in a combat role.

Ms. Kay was not asserting that there is no place for <u>women</u> in the military (there clearly are a wide variety of support roles <u>women</u> can perform -- including piloting aircraft), but making a very salient statement about the creeping culture of PC attitudes that are furthering the decline of the CF's already dilapidated condition and battle-readiness.

Captain Okros (ret'd) and like-minded thinkers at NDHQ would do well to remember that while <u>women</u> may engage in bar fights as well as their male counterparts, this has little to do with the harsh realities of performing the dangerous and arduous job of combat soldiering in the real world.

Michael Burrows, Victoria, B.C.

Graphic

Black & White

Photo: Idf, Agence France-Presse, Getty Images / An Israeli <u>female</u> soldier armed with an M-16 rifle during training in southern Israel near the Egyptian border.

Load-Date: November 14, 2005



Huge Beirut demo tells Syria to quit; Damascus continues military withdrawal

Morning Star March 15, 2005

Copyright 2005 People's Press Printing Society Ltd

Section: Pg. 2

Length: 409 words

Byline: by Our Foreign Desk

Body

HUNDREDS of thousands of Lebanese opposition supporters demonstrated in central Beirut yesterday, marking a month since the assassination of former prime minister Rafik Hariri.

It was the biggest protest yet in the opposition's duel of street rallies with supporters of Syria and the Lebanese government.

Chanting "Freedom, sovereignty, independence, " crowds of men, <u>women</u> and children flooded Martyrs Square, spilling over into nearby streets, while more packed the roads into Beirut.

Mr Hariri's killing sparked a series of protests against Syria, which is the dominant power in Lebanon.

The turnout easily exceeded the 500,000-strong pro-government rally last week which was called by Shi'ite Muslim militant group *Hezbollah*.

Syria's military withdrawal continued yesterday, with intelligence agents closing offices in the northern towns of Amyoun and Deir Ammar.

Intelligence agents also dismantled two checkpoints in the Akkar area. In all, more than 70 intelligence agents left.

Last week, intelligence officers left two central towns, Aley and Bhamdoun, and headed to the Syrian-controlled areas of eastern Lebanon.

The redeployment is the first stage of what Damascus says will be a full withdrawal.

The opposition is demanding a full Syrian pullout, the resignations of top Lebanese security officials and an international investigation into Mr Hariri's February 14 assassination.

In Martyrs Square, a long line of people carried a 100yard white-and-red Lebanese flag, shaking it up and down and shouting, "Syria out."

Others climbed on top of a construction crane to wave flags.

Protesters sang the national anthem. Others chanted "Truth, Freedom, National Unity, " or "We want only the Lebanese army in Lebanon."

Huge Beirut demo tells Syria to quit; Damascus continues military withdrawal

There were no official estimates of the crowd size, but an Associated Press estimate put it at around 800,000 before the protest formally started, making it the biggest demonstration ever seen in the country of 3.5 million.

Many carried pictures of Mr Hariri and cars on street corners blared his speeches. "We miss you, " read one large banner.

The crowds observed a silence at 12.55 pm, which was the exact time of Mr Hariri's assassination.

As part of the tit-for-tat rallies, at least 100,000 pro-Syrian protesters turned out on Sunday in the town of Nabatiyeh.

Syria has been Lebanon's main power broker for nearly three decades, since it sent in troops in 1976 to help quell a civil war which had broken out the year before.

Graphic

BIGGEST EVER: Opposition supporters rallying yesterday to demand a full Syrian pullout and a probe into former prime minister Rafik Hariri's killling.

Load-Date: March 18, 2005



Seattle ups security: Murder charges laid. Police on alert after Jewish centre shooting

The Gazette (Montreal)
July 30, 2006 Sunday
Final Edition

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Section: NEWS; Pg. A7

Length: 445 words

Byline: DAISUKE WAKABAYASHI, Reuters

Dateline: SEATTLE

Body

Police stepped up security at Seattle synagogues and mosques yesterday, a day after a Muslim man who said he was angry at Israel shot dead one woman and wounded five others at a Jewish centre.

Naveed Afzal Haq, 31, burst into the Jewish Federation of Greater Seattle Friday afternoon. He surrendered without a struggle and police arrested him on charges of murder and five counts of attempted murder.

Amy Wasser-Simpson, the federation's vice-president, told the Seattle Times the man got past security at the building and shouted, "I'm a Muslim American; I'm angry at Israel," before he began shooting.

Congregation Beth Shalom posted two armed, uniformed officers at morning services yesterday, according to a message on the Seattle synagogue's Web site.

Authorities said they were "taking every precaution," searching for explosives and additional suspects, and were monitoring the city's synagogues and Jewish organizations.

Police said Haq is a U.S. citizen and that their initial conversation with him by phone while he was inside the building indicated that he was a Muslim.

"We are also protecting mosques, because there is always the concern of retaliatory crime," Seattle Police Chief Gil Kerlikowske said Friday.

The Jewish federation, a group covering the Jewish community around the Puget Sound region, had organized a large rally last weekend to demonstrate support for Israel in its fight against <u>Hezbollah</u> in southern Lebanon.

A silent march to protest Israeli actions in Gaza planned for yesterday morning in a Seattle suburb was cancelled because of safety concerns, according to Arsalan Bukhari, president of the Seattle chapter of the Council of American-Islamic Relations.

There are no plans to scale back weekend schools or any other religious activities, he said.

"The events that are happening in the Middle East should not spill over into our city," said Bukhari.

Seattle ups security: Murder charges laid. Police on alert after Jewish centre shooting

In light of the fighting in the Middle East, Seattle police alerted its officers this week to carefully monitor synagogues, temples and mosques, but Kerlikowske said they had received no specific threats.

At a news conference Friday, Seattle Mayor Greg Nickels said: "This was a purposeful, hateful act as far as we know, by an individual acting alone. ... This is a crime of hate."

Local media reported Haq was on medication for a bipolar disorder and had a misdemeanour lewd-conduct charge pending. He allegedly exposed himself at a shopping mall.

A hospital spokesperson said three of the victims remain in critical condition.

The surviving <u>women</u> range in age from 23 to 43, and one is pregnant. Police did not say whether the <u>women</u> were Jewish, and the dead woman's name has not been made public.

Load-Date: July 30, 2006



Middle East Crisis - 'What we are witnessing is a war crime by Israel'

Irish News

July 31, 2006 Monday

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Section: Pg. 8

Length: 417 words

Body

Hundreds of anti-Israel protesters gathered in Trafalgar Square yesterday to demonstrate at the ongoing violence in Lebanon.

Waving Lebanese and <u>Hezbollah</u> flags, they cheered as a series of speakers de-cried the escalating conflict.

Public figures including Four Weddings And A Funeral star Simon Callow, comedian Alexei Sayle and stage performer Corin Redgrave read out poems, elegies and first-hand experiences from Lebanon.

Veteran speaker and former Labour MP Tony Benn said Parliament must be recalled to debate the issue.

He said: "As we talk, <u>women</u> and children are being killed in the Lebanon by bombs sold and given by the US and passed through British airports with the support of the British government.

"What we are witnessing is a war crime committed by Israel with the support of the American and the British governments - that is the truth."

Mr Benn said the US and Israel had been planning the attack on Lebanon for "months if not years".

He said it was part of a long-term strategy to rebuild the Middle East on their terms.

Mr Benn said he was reminded of the Suez Crisis 50 years ago which eventually saw the downfall of prime minister Anthony Eden and called on Tony Blair to resign.

A small group of Hassidic Jews added their support at yesterday's rally.

Rabbi Jacob Weisz, holding a placard which read: "Zionism and Judaism are extreme opposites", said the Israeli air strikes were "outrageous".

He said Jews and Muslims were happy to live together but Zionist terrorists had divided a peaceful community.

"The war is being ignored by the international community, it is totally unacceptable. The international community must call for a ceasefire," he said.

"It is outrageous that the Israeli government were too proud to negotiate the release of two of their soldiers and instead started a bombing campaign."

As he spoke, Lebanese and Palestinians came up and thanked him for taking part.

Middle East Crisis - 'What we are witnessing is a war crime by Israel'

Earlier, comedian Alexei Sayle described Israel as a "psychotic, bullying child" and said its "tattooed parents" were President Bush and Mr Blair.

"While Israel has all the privileges of a state, it behaves worse than a terrorist organisation," he said.

A number of other speakers from the Muslim Council of Britain, the London Assembly and the British Muslim Initiative stood up to join the calls for a ceasefire.

Mohammed Khozbar, a Lebanese man who has lived in London, said the 30,000 Lebanese people in Britain were angry at Mr Blair and the British government.

He said he felt the government had failed them.

Load-Date: July 31, 2006



Anti-Syrian opposition dominates Lebanese assembly

The Star Phoenix (Saskatoon, Saskatchewan)

June 21, 2005 Tuesday

Final Edition

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Section: WORLD; Pg. C8

Length: 465 words

Byline: Associated Press

Dateline: BEIRUT

Body

BEIRUT (AP) -- The anti-Syrian opposition captured control of Lebanon's parliament Monday, breaking Syria's long domination of the country, said official results.

Interior Minister Hassan Sabei declared opposition candidates had won all 28 seats in north Lebanon in Sunday's polling, the fourth and final round of the country's elections. He read out the results seat by seat, confirming earlier predictions from the opposition alliance.

"The north has decided the character of the new parliament and given the absolute majority to the opposition," opposition leader Saad Hariri told a news conference Monday evening.

Anticipating victory, men, <u>women</u> and children waved flags and danced in the streets of Tripoli, the provincial capital of the north, earlier Monday. In Beirut, the national capital, opposition supporters drove through the city, cheering and honking in celebration.

Asked whether he would seek the prime ministership, 35-year-old Hariri said he would consult his allies.

The election was marred by vote-buying and other shortcomings. The head of the European Union observers, Jose Ignacio Salafranca, said his team of about 100 personnel had "directly witnessed a few attempts at vote-buying" in the three previous rounds of voting. He also said the electoral system needs "a very serious reform to be closer to the democratic standards."

The buying of votes was a "very serious concern" for the EU team, Salafranca said.

However, Sabei told reporters: "The Ministry of Interior has accomplished free, honest and neutral elections."

In Washington, State Department spokesperson Adam Ereli said the elections were an important step toward Lebanese freedom and democracy. While the polls were free of foreign interference for the first time in 30 years, there remained misgivings about a "lingering Syrian intelligence presence" in Lebanon.

Ereli said the United States and the United Nations Security Council would continue to press for full implementation of Resolution 1559, which effectively demanded the withdrawal of Syrian troops and intelligence, and the disarming of the *Hezbollah* militia.

Anti- Syrian opposition dominates Lebanese assembly

President Emile Lahoud called on the new parliament Monday to reform the electoral law to "put an end to vote-buying and give an equal opportunity to all candidates."

The opposition's victory capped four months of political upheaval since the Feb. 14 assassination of former prime minister Rafik Hariri.

The killing provoked mass demonstrations against Syria which, backed by UN and U.S. pressure, led to Damascus's withdrawing all its troops from Lebanon by late April, ending 29 years of military and political dominance. The opposition blamed Syria and pro-Syrian elements in the Lebanese security services for blowing up Hariri's motorcade, killing him and 20 others on a Beirut street.

Load-Date: June 21, 2005



Killings rock fragile peace

Daily Telegraph (Sydney, Australia) (Sydney, Australia)

July 14, 2005 Thursday

Copyright 2005 Nationwide News Pty Limited

Section: WORLD; Pg. 26

Length: 421 words

Byline: MU'IN SHADID

Body

RAMALLAH: Israeli troops shot dead a Palestinian policeman yesterday during a raid that army officials called a retaliation for a suicide bombing.

The incidents have dealt a blow to the Middle East's fragile five-month-old ceasefire.

The dawn operation in Tulkarm came hours after an Islamic Jihad militant from the area blew himself up in the Israeli city of Netanya, killing three Israeli <u>women</u>.

MATP

Witnesses said 20 military vehicles swept into Tulkarm, which had been formally under Palestinian Authority security control as part of a ceasefire declared by President Mahmoud Abbas and Israeli Prime Minister Ariel Sharon in February.

Troops opened fire on a Palestinian security post, killing a policeman in an apparently unprovoked attack.

Military sources said the army shot back after two soldiers were wounded by Palestinian gunmen.

"This operation was mounted in order to carry out pinpoint arrests of the Islamic Jihad terrorists behind the Netanya suicide bombing that killed three Israeli civilians," a military source said.

Violence has decreased since the truce was called, despite sporadic Israeli raids in the occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip as well as shootings and mortar attacks by Islamist militants.

New bloodshed could complicate Israel's plan to withdraw from Gaza next month, seen as a possible spur to peacemaking.

Mr Abbas condemned the Netanya bombing as "idiotic", especially given the Gaza withdrawal plan, and vowed to punish the planners.

Israel -- and the White House -- repeated its demand for him to dismantle the armed factions.

In a farewell video, black-clad bomber Ahmed Abu Khalil, an 18-year-old student said: "We reiterate our commitment to calm, but we have to retaliate for Israeli violations." The same Jihad cell killed five Israelis in a February 25 bombing in Tel Aviv.

Killings rock fragile peace

But that was before it and other factions agreed to follow a "period of calm" to the end of the year.

The Netanya blast came less than an hour after a Palestinian tried to set off a car bomb in Shavei Shomron, a Jewish settlement in the West Bank.

It misfired and only the driver was hurt. There was no immediate claim of responsibility.

US Secretary of Defence Donald Rumsfeld hinted Iran may have been behind the suicide bombing.

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

"We know Iran has been helping <u>Hezbollah</u> and other organisations, moving equipment and people down through Damascus into Beirut."

Load-Date: July 13, 2005



Egypt's top cleric slams terror tactics: Fierce sermon condemns attacks

The Gazette (Montreal)
July 30, 2005 Saturday
Final Edition

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Section: NEWS; Pg. A25

Length: 437 words

Byline: AP

Dateline: CAIRO, Egypt

Body

Egypt's top Islamic cleric delivered a fierce sermon against terrorism yesterday at the main mosque in Sharm el-Sheik, the Red Sea resort struck in deadly bombings a week ago.

Even the Lebanese guerrilla group <u>Hezbollah</u>, branded as terrorist by the White House, says Muslim clerics have to act to curb extremism.

After the unflagging bloodshed in Iraq and this month's London bombings, the Sharm attack has deepened what has been a growing debate in the Muslim world over how Islam should deal with terrorists who act in its name.

Mohammed Sayyed Tantawi, grand imam of Al-Azhar, one of the Sunni world's most prestigious institutions, delivered the sermon at yesterday's prayers in Sharm el-Sheik's Peace Mosque, packed with hundreds of worshippers still reeling from the July 23 bombings that killed scores of Egyptians and foreign tourists.

Tantawi told worshippers "even polytheists who come to Egypt to see its civilization, who didn't come to harm you, you have to protect them and treat them in a good way."

The cleric used the Arabic word "mushrikin" - "polytheists" - a term heavy with negative connotations in Islam. The Quran, Islam's holy book, repeatedly denounces "mushrikin," while accepting Jews and Christians as fellow monotheists. Islamic radicals often rail against polytheism and its followers.

Those who killed dozens of innocents, "have no justification," and if they claim they are obeying orders of Islam, "then they are liars, liars and charlatans, and Islam disavows them," he said.

"The aggressors who blow up themselves, their cars and bombs against innocent men, <u>women</u> and children will not be given any mercy by God ... they will be cursed by God and his angels," Tantawi said.

Tantawi has emerged as a strong voice against terrorism in recent months. In early July, he harshly condemned Islamic insurgents in Iraq, who even some moderate Muslims feel are fighting for a just cause against U.S. occupation, saying all Iraqis and Arabs should unite to purge Iraq of "their filth and viciousness."

Egyptian investigators have been focusing on the likelihood that homegrown Islamic militant cells in Sinai, possibly with international links, carried out the Sharm bombings, in which two car bombs and a knapsack bomb ripped

Egypt 's top cleric slams terror tactics: Fierce sermon condemns attacks

through a luxury hotel, a neighbourhood full of Egyptians and the entrance to a beach promenade. The official death toll is 64, but hospitals say bodies still uncounted could bring it to 88.

With every terror attack, Muslims have been struggling to strike a balance between condemning bloodshed and pointing to U.S. policies in Iraq and Israel they say fuel Islamic militant violence.

Load-Date: July 30, 2005



TV for kids: Militancy and games in Gaza; Hamas to broadcast show for children

The International Herald Tribune January 19, 2006 Thursday

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Section: NEWS; Pg. 2

Length: 1013 words

Byline: Craig S. Smith

Dateline: GAZA

Body

Hey kids, it's Uncle Hazim time!

Hazim Sharawi, whose stage name is Uncle Hazim, is a quiet, doe-eyed young man who has an easy way with children and who will soon act as the host of a children's television show here on which he will cavort with men in larger-than-life, fake-fur animal suits on the newest television station in the Gaza Strip, Al Aksa TV.

But Pee Wee's Playhouse this is not. The station, named for Islam's third-holiest site, is owned by Hamas, the people who made suicide bombing a household term.

"Our television show will have a message, but without getting into the tanks, the guns, the killing and the blood," said Sharawi, sitting in the broadcast studio where he will produce his show.

The new station is part of the militant Palestinian group's strategy for emerging from the shadows of its bloody terrorism campaign to claim a place as a legitimate player in Palestinian politics, much as <u>Hezbollah</u> once did in Lebanon.

The station began broadcasting Jan. 7, and Hamas is working on a satellite version that would give it an even broader reach, like *Hezbollah*'s Al Manar TV, which is watched throughout the Arab world.

"Their success encouraged us," said Fathi Hammad, Al Aksa TV's director. He said Hamas had tried unsuccessfully to find an existing broadcaster to accept its programming. "The Arab satellite broadcasters Al Jazeera and Al Arabiya both turned us down," he said, sitting beneath the seal of Hamas, which depicts the Dome of the Rock, which shares the Temple Mount with Al Aksa Mosque, between crossed swords and an idealized green map of Palestine. "Even Iraq and Saudi Arabia refused."

In 2003, after the Palestinian Authority granted Hamas a broadcast license covering both radio and television, the group started the Voice of Al Aksa, which quickly became one of the most popular radio stations in the Gaza Strip. It took more than two years to assemble the expertise and equipment necessary to start the television station.

The current 12 hours of daily television programming, which has an unfinished look, consists primarily of readings from the Koran, religious discourse and discussions of <u>women</u>'s issues, like Islamic fashion, child-rearing tips and

TV for kids: Militancy and games in Gaza Hamas to broadcast show for children

the right of <u>women</u> to work, which Hamas supports. It will eventually feature a sort of Islamic MTV, with Hamas-produced music videos using footage from the group's fights with Israeli troops.

But its biggest star will probably be Sharawi, whose radio show for children was the Voice of Al Aksa's biggest hit.

Sharawi, 27, wearing a long black leather coat with a hood over a green suit and tie, started working with children at his mosque while studying geology at the Islamic University in Gaza.

He said the head of Hamas's radio station spotted him leading children's games at the mosque and asked him to do a children's radio show two years ago. The show has become so popular that his appearances at occasional Hamas-sponsored festivals draw as many as 10,000 children at a time.

Sharawi does not allow visitors to see him do his radio broadcast because the studio's location is a heavily guarded secret. In 2004, an Israeli Apache helicopter fired three rockets into the station's previous studio not long after Sharawi and his colleagues had fled.

Everybody involved in the television station is worried about another attack, but Sharawi said he was ready to die if it came. "The messengers don't care if they lose their lives for the sake of revealing the message," he said.

As he describes it, his television show, which is scheduled to begin in a few weeks, will teach children the basics of militant Palestinian politics: the disputed status of Jerusalem, Palestinian prisoners in Israeli jails and Palestinian refugees' demand for a right to return to the land and homes they lost to Israel in the 1948 war. He said the show would not show the violence that is part of the Hamas worldview.

"I will show them our rights through the history," he said. "Show them, 'This is Nablus, this is Gaza, this is Al Aksa Mosque, which is with the Israelis and should be in our hands."

The show will alternate between video clips recorded outside the studio and live telephone calls from children taken in the studio by Uncle Hazim and his animal characters. He said he would leaven the sober and pedantic material with fun and games, including such standards as egg-spoon races, eating apples on a string or "tug of war, which will show children that the more you cooperate with others, the more you win."

Sharawi plans to dress up in costumes to suit the show's locale: a sailor suit while taping on the beach; a track suit when in the park; or a Boy Scout uniform while hiking through the small patches of empty land that serve as the wilderness in Gaza.

"We will invite real Boy Scouts to come and talk to us about camping," Sharawi said, warming to his theme. The Palestinian Scout Association is a member of the World Organization of the Scout Movement.

Through it all, Sharawi will be accompanied by animal-costumed sidekicks to provide comic relief. Hamas will rent the Egyptian-made plush costumes: a fox, a rabbit, a dog, a bear and a chicken, already gray and matted from wear, from a production company run by a Hamas supporter who has just emerged from two years in Israeli jails.

Fingering a string of bright green plastic prayer beads, a pale blue prayer rug lying on the chair beside him, he tried to reconcile Hamas's bloody attacks, in which children are killed, with his role as mentor.

"These are one of the means used by the Palestinians against Israel's F-16s and tanks," he said of the suicide attacks, giving a stock answer. "We're doing our best to avoid involving children in these issues, but I cannot turn the children's lives into a beautiful garden while outside it's the contrary."

The show, which will be broadcast Friday mornings, the Arab world's equivalent of Sunday mornings in the West, will be preceded by an hour of cartoons, including a serialized life of the Prophet Muhammad and that universal parody of deadly conflict, Tom and Jerry.

Load-Date: January 19, 2006



An absolute blast with the sunny girls from the past

The Daily Telegraph (LONDON)

July 21, 2006 Friday

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Section: FEATURES; The Arts; Pg. 24

Length: 438 words

Byline: Dominic Cavendish

Body

THEATRE

Blonde Bombshells of 1943

HAMPSTEAD THEATRE

FORGET Iraqi death-squads, <u>Hezbollah</u> and unbridled conflict in the Middle East for just one night - and let yourself be carried away on a cloud of melodic reverie. Alan Plater's simple but enchantingly effective play about a northern <u>women</u>'s dance band during the war doesn't just pay tribute to the unsung acts of solidarity that kept Britain going during its darkest hours - it also celebrates the near-magical, care-banishing properties of music.

The Blonde Bombshells can scarcely feel the freezing cold of their rubble-strewn rehearsal rooms. The air-raid siren to them is just so much irritating background noise. There's no dwelling on troubling past or future, only the next song counts.

And what songs Plater has rescued from the vaults: whether it's the 1920s music-hall ditty I Lift Up My Finger, with its daffy singalong refrain ("Tweet tweet, shush shush, now now, come come!") or the sensuous Maxine Sullivan ballad If I Had a Ribbon Bow, the selection does more than genuflect with nostalgia before a bygone era - it captures the enduring spirit of human resilience.

Though it remains incredibly threadbare of plot and characterisation, the piece has improved since its première in Leeds two years ago. Structurally, it has become more compact, less fuss being made of the way Elizabeth, an ingénue schoolgirl who signs up for duty with the band in 1943, can step outside of the action and look back with gratitude. The greater intimacy of Hampstead Theatre - mercifully equipped with air-conditioning - contributes hugely towards making the evening an absolute blast.

Such drama as there is lies in the attempt by a draft-dodging scamp (winningly played by Chris Grahamson) to join the band as drummer - braving first snide put-downs, then outright humiliation when he dons a blonde wig and evening dress for the Bombshells' climactic concert in Hull. It's a nice way of pointing up the role-reversals the war engendered, Plater ensuring that gentle humour, and brassy northern backchat, never succumb to earnest didacticism.

Ranged beneath a half-destroyed proscenium arch, Mark Babych's production boasts a crack troupe of gifted actor-musicians. Karen Paullada's youthfully radiant Elizabeth has a heart-melting singing voice, while Rosie Jenkins and Claire Storey are a sparky delight as her fellow newcomers: Miranda, the snobby southerner who's a surprising

An absolute blast with the sunny girls from the past

wizard on the sax, and Lily, a ukelele-strumming nun who pelts out George Formby's In My Little Snapshot Album with a wicked grin plastered on her face. Go see and enjoy.

Until Aug 12. Tickets: 020 7722 9301

Load-Date: July 21, 2006



<u>Watching out for Islamic women;</u> Democracy may set back Arab women

The Philadelphia Inquirer MARCH 27, 2005 Sunday CITY-D EDITION

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The Philadelphia Inquirer

Found on Philly . com

Section: CURRENTS; Pg. C01

Length: 1053 words **Byline:** Trudy Rubin

Body

As the democracy debate intensifies in the Middle East, many Arab <u>women</u> are asking this question: Will democratic elections mean that our freedom will be curtailed?

If this concern seems strange, consider the story of Salama al-Khafaji, a courageous dental surgeon who risked her life to run in Iraqi elections. Her 17-year-old son was shot dead in 2003 during an attempt by insurgents to kill her, but she continued her work as a member of Iraq's first interim governing council. A motorcyclist toting a machine gun nearly assassinated her during the election run-up in January.

Khafaji is a symbol of Iraqi bravery, but she also is a symbol of Shiite piety, who wears an enveloping black abaya that resembles a Catholic nun's habit, circa 1950. She ran on the victorious Shiite list endorsed by Grand Ayatollah Ali al-Sistani.

And she wants to replace civil laws on "family status" that affect <u>women</u> - laws on marriage, divorce, custody and inheritance - with Islamic laws that would roll back many rights of <u>women</u>.

Welcome to the new Iraq, where free and fair elections may have a negative impact on <u>women</u>. U.S. pressure ensured that every third seat in the Iraqi assembly was set aside for a woman. But the bulk of <u>female</u> candidates were selected by Shiite religious parties that believe <u>women</u> should be subject to religious law.

If other Arab countries follow Iraq and open up their political systems, this will bring more gains for religious parties in the region. This is because secular Arab parties have largely been discredited by association with dictators or corruption. In Lebanon's "democratic spring" of street demonstrations, one of the strongest parties has been *Hezbollah*, a Shiite Islamic movement. In Egypt, which is witnessing a small political opening, a bigger opening would result in Islamic parties' gaining substantial power.

When Islamic parties enter parliament, <u>women</u>'s rights become a bone of contention. "<u>Women</u> are the bargaining chip," says Assa Karam, an Egyptian expert on Arab <u>women</u>'s rights who works for the United Nations

Development Program. Karam says that when Islamic parties are jockeying for power with secular parties or governments, "compromises on **women**'s rights take place."

Thus, for example, contentious Islamist deputies in Kuwait focused on blocking <u>women</u>'s suffrage. Thus, in Iran in years past, when hard-line Islamists were frustrated with political gains by Islamic moderates, the hard-liners demanded more restrictions on <u>women</u>'s dress code. When male politicians quarrel, <u>women</u> became the sacrificial lambs.

And thus, in Iraq, where the victorious Shiite list knows it can't impose religious law on all issues, it will likely focus on putting "family status" law under the control of clerics. Secular Iraqi politicians are likely to compromise first on issues relating to <u>women</u> as they horse-trade with religious parties on writing the constitution. This kind of compromise has happened before.

In Iraq, in late 2003, the interim Iraqi Governing Council (including some secular members) passed Resolution 137, which aimed to overturn Iraq's 1959 civil law on family status. This resolution opened the door to religious laws permitting polygamy, child marriage, and divorced mothers' losing custody of a male child at age 2 and a <u>female</u> child at age 7. Resolution 137 was overturned only after strong opposition by Iraqi <u>women</u>'s groups and a threatened veto by U.S. occupation czar Paul Bremer.

But the United States cannot veto laws passed by an elected legislature. Every major official on the Shiite list supports the ideas of Resolution 137. When I interviewed Khafaji in her Baghdad office, she scoffed at the secular Iraqi <u>women</u> who opposed the resolution, whom she labeled "exile <u>women</u> with extreme liberal thoughts." She said Iraq's constitution must be "suitable for our society and customs."

So where does that leave Iraqi women's rights?

Fortunately, Iraq has a long history of activist <u>women</u>, among the most highly educated in the Arab world. They will fight to have a say on the drafting committee for the new Iraqi constitution. U.S. officials can help from the background, but that help shouldn't be too overt.

"The U.S. can press on the constitution," says Iraqi American Zainab Salbi, head of <u>Women</u> for <u>Women</u> International, a Washington-based organization with operations in Iraq and other strife-torn countries. "But if it is too loud, it will trigger a conservative reaction."

Yet at a time when religious parties are ascendant, pressure by secular **women** may not be sufficient to prevent **women** from being pushed back.

Salbi worries that secular and religious <u>women</u> aren't talking to each other. She says secular <u>women</u> must learn to couch their arguments in language understandable to religious ears.

A similar argument was made to me by Ferial Masry, a gutsy Saudi American woman who got 40 percent of the vote as a Democratic candidate for state Assembly in California in November.

Masry says Arab <u>women</u> who confront religious opposition must "reframe the discourse in terms [the religious] understand. It is important in conservative societies to have examples." When she explains to Saudi men why <u>women</u> should vote and run for office, she uses examples of powerful <u>women</u> in Arab history. And then she talks of her own experience as a Saudi woman running for office in the United States. Masry was lionized by Saudi <u>women</u> - and men, too - when she talked about her campaign experience during a recent visit to her native country, where <u>women</u> don't yet have the vote.

That effort to reframe the discourse might bear fruit in Iraq, where someone such as Khafaji insists that she wants to fight for more rights for <u>women</u>, but through expanding the definition of Islamic law. If Khafaji and her secular opponents could share their mutual concerns over the rights of <u>women</u>, perhaps they could find a way to join their efforts.

Watching out for Islamic women; Democracy may set back Arab women

That may be a long shot. But unless secular Iraqi <u>women</u> (and the Western <u>women</u>'s groups and U.S. officials who want to help them) can find a language the Muslim public can understand, Iraqi <u>women</u> may soon find their rights curtailed by Islamic parties - parties brought to power through the democratic vote.

Contact columnist Trudy Rubin at 215-854-5823 or <u>trubin@phillynews.com</u>. Read her recent work at <u>http://go.philly.com/trudyrubin</u>.

Notes

Worldview

Graphic

PHOTO:

PETROS KARADJIAS, Associated Press

Young <u>Hezbollah</u> supporters participate in a parade recently near the grave of slain former Lebanese Prime Minister Rafik Hariri in central Beirut, Lebanon.

Supporters of the slain former prime minister staging a protest on Monday in Beirut. The U.S. and other countries are following the actions of Islamic <u>women</u>, but who is to seek their rights?

Load-Date: September 8, 2005



FORGET DEBT, AND BAG THAT POLKA DOT DRESS

Mail on Sunday (London)
July 23, 2006 Sunday

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Section: FB 04; Pg. 33

Length: 965 words

Byline: SUZANNE MOORE

Body

WHY worry about getting a house when you can have a great handbag?

This seems to be the attitude of many young **women** towards debt.

In a recent poll, half the 2,000 twentysomethings surveyed owed nearly Pounds 4,000 on their credit cards.

I reveal my age and class when I say I find that really scary. What can they have in their 'must-have' Pounds 900 handbags except 'maxed-out' credit cards?

But who can blame them for their live-for-the-moment philosophy? They cannot imagine, even if they saved, being able to afford the big things in life, so they are having lots of the little ones instead. Shoes, bags, holidays.

And their Pounds 4,000 debt is small fry compared to what the average student will owe on leaving college. Sixthformers recently asked to estimate the average student debt put it at Pounds 6,000. Actually it's Pounds 13.500.

What is now becoming apparent though, is that it is enough to stop people from the lower social classes going to college. For the second year running, applicants from poorer backgrounds have decreased.

This Government, already responsible for a growing social divide, has engineered a situation in which university education, once again, becomes an impossible dream for certain sections of society.

Even if kids from disadvantaged backgrounds do make it, the gulf between those whose parents will pay off their loans and those who have to work three jobs to manage is huge.

We send out such mixed messages about debt it's no wonder our young are confused.

On one hand we are told to stretch ourselves continually, to get the biggest mortgage possible, then a loan on top for home improvements or a spot of property developing in Bulgaria. 'You have to borrow money to make money' is the mantra. Don't defer gratification, just fill in the form on your doormat offering you Pounds 10,000 TODAY.

On the other hand, we tut at those impecunious girls who live, in that quaint phrase, 'beyond their means'.

Actually, we don't yet know how a generation leaving college owing all this money who will find it so hard to W

get on the property ladder and will have to work till they are 80 as there will be no pensions will cope.

FORGET DEBT, AND BAG THAT POLKA DOT DRESS

Those who inherit property will be OK. Those who don't, it seems, won't.

No wonder many forget their troubles in Primark. Who needs a pension plan or Prada when that cute polka dot dress is a tenner?

THOSE twentysomethings are not stupid. Even if they scrimped, they know they would not have enough for a deposit on a flat. Their conspicuous consumption of small things is precisely the opposite of the inconspicuous consumption mortgages, Isas, Peps of those who already have big things.

The harsh reality is that debt is only a problem for those already in poverty. We live with enormous debts as a country. Our political parties owe millions of pounds and nobody seems to think there is anything wrong with that. Financial dyslexia is the norm.

The girls who dispose of their income on fripperies are not immoral but, in some ways, pragmatic.

Only the rich can afford to pay back their debts. Everyone else will live in hock for the rest of their lives.

Our attitude to debt is but another symptom of our increasingly unequal society. The divide is no longer between the haves and have-nots. It's between the 'have-todays-and-forgetthe-futures' and those who know they will always have tomorrow.

WHIRLWIND PAM, SHE'S A REAL BLAST

WHO doesn't love Pamela Anderson with her cartoon body and cartoon existence?

She is now to marry an old flame, Kid Rock.

In the inimitable words of Pammie: 'It's been a whirlwind spontaneous but well thought through.' Nothing better than a well thought through whirlwind I always find.

TOLSTOY? I'm too busy reading cereal boxes

IT'S surprising to me that anyone has time to read books any more.

Most people must spend hours reading the back of cereal boxes as that is the Law of Healthy Eating.

Forget difficult novels, in order to eat sensibly one needs to study these boxes as if they were the Bible.

Anything which describes itself as healthy and oaty is secretly stuffed with fat and sugar. I gave up when I saw the headline: Some cereals 'as fatty as a bacon sandwich'. Save yourself time. Have a bacon sandwich.

THE INNOCENT BLOOD ON YO BLAIR'S HANDS

PUNISHMENT and paralysis. This is what we are seeing in the Middle East. The Israelis, for all their talk, are not taking out *Hezbollah*, but punishing innocents.

Our Government is shamefully paralysed and YoBlair has been revealed in his full faggy uselessness.

Even those who normally defend the Israelis are finding it hard to do so.

The word disproportionate is surely a polite way of saying monstrous.

The broken bodies of Lebanese children do nothing to enhance the security of Israel.

Even at a military level it is doubtful whether Israel can destroy <u>Hezbollah</u>. The murderous negligence of the Americans, which has allowed Israel to wreak its havoc for a week or so, tells the world all we need to know about whose lives are valued and whose aren't.

FORGET DEBT, AND BAG THAT POLKA DOT DRESS

Israel is losing the friends it once had while adding to the numbers of those who wish to destroy it by the minute. Even its supporters argue that a return to its pre-1967 boundaries is now absolutely necessary.

The point has been reached where it is difficult to seehow, right now, Israel is even serving long-term American objectives, never mind its own.

William Hague and Ming Campbell have spoken wisely about this crisis, but as for our leader, I can only think he already has so much blood on his hands that a little more no longer means anything to him.

TASK forces are being sent to primary schools to stop children from acting 'in a sexualised manner'. What will these task forces do exactly? And what is wrong with simply telling them, as we were told, not to fiddle with themselves or each other in public?

Load-Date: July 24, 2006



TV recipe: Militance and egg races; Hamas seeks a new image with programming for children

The International Herald Tribune January 18, 2006 Wednesday

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Section: NEWS; Pg. 2

Length: 1019 words **Byline:** Craig S. Smith

Dateline: GAZA

Body

Hey kids, it's Uncle Hazim time!

Hazim Sharawi, whose stage name is Uncle Hazim, is a quiet, doe-eyed young man who has an easy way with children and who will soon act as the host of a children's television show here on which he will cavort with men in larger-than-life, fake-fur animal suits on the Gaza Strip's newest television station, Al Aksa TV.

But Pee Wee's Playhouse this is not. The station, named for Islam's third holiest site, is owned by Hamas, the people who made suicide bombing a household term.

"Our television show will have a message, but without getting into the tanks, the guns, the killing and the blood," said Sharawi, sitting in the broadcast studio where he will produce his show.

The new station is part of the militant Palestinian group's strategy for emerging from the shadows of its bloody terror campaign to claim a place as a legitimate player in Palestinian politics, much as *Hezbollah* once did in Lebanon.

The station began broadcasting on Jan. 7, and Hamas is working on a satellite version that would give it an even broader reach, like *Hezbollah*'s Al Manar TV, which is watched throughout the Arab world.

"Their success encouraged us," said Fathi Hammad, Al Aksa TV's director. He said Hamas had tried unsuccessfully to find an existing broadcaster to accept its programming. "The Arab satellite broadcasters Al Jazeera and Al Arabiya both turned us down," he said, sitting beneath the seal of Hamas, which depicts the Dome of the Rock (which shares the Temple Mount with Al Aksa Mosque) between crossed swords and an idealized green map of Palestine. "Even Iraq and Saudi Arabia refused."

In 2003, after the Palestinian Authority granted Hamas a broadcast license covering both radio and television, the group started the Voice of Al Aksa, which quickly became one of the most popular radio stations in the Gaza Strip. It took more than two years to assemble the expertise and equipment necessary to start the television station.

The current 12 hours of daily television programming, which has the unfinished look of public access cable television in the United States, consists primarily of readings from the Koran, religious discourse and discussions of **women**'s issues, such as Islamic fashion, child-rearing tips and the right of **women** to work, which Hamas supports.

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Load-Date: January 24, 2006



Of racism, tyranny, and oppression

University Wire
July 27, 2006 Thursday

Copyright 2006 OSU Daily Barometer via U-Wire

Section: COLUMN Length: 1123 words

Byline: By Aly Mohamed, OSU Daily Barometer; SOURCE: Oregon State U.

Dateline: CORVALLIS, Ore.

Body

"Is this the price we pay for aspiring to build our democratic institutions? Can the international community stand by while such callous retribution by the state of Israel is inflicted on us?" -Fuad Saniora, Lebanese Prime Minister.

Mr. Saniora received his answer when the Pentagon announced "rushing" Israel a delivery of precision-guided bombs, while Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice ruled out a cease-fire as "false promise." The pro-American government that Israel is smashing was once considered a shining example of President Bush's democracy campaign. Our government has now endorsed unconditional Israeli aggression, leaving them to decide the manner and the number of whomever they wish to butcher. Over the international community and in The Hague's International Court, one hears only faint whispers of the gruesome tyranny - Lebanon should have known not to rely on a community restricted by U.S. backed Israeli interests.

In occupying Lebanon, over 150,000 men, <u>women</u> and children were killed by Israel in 16 years. Six times the dead of Sept. 11 (17,500 civilians) were massacred during the summer of 1982, an invasion which shaped the emergence of Hamas and <u>Hezbollah</u> - yet politicians act as if resistance movements appeared in a vacuum.

After 'ending' occupation in 2000, Israel continued to violate Lebanese sovereignty by air, sea, and land; kidnapping civilians, and holding thousands without cause behind prison walls. What's more, Israel admittedly refuses to provide mapping to more then 400,000 land mines dispersed throughout Lebanon, which continued the reckless slaughter in their absence.

Since inception, Israel has denied Palestinians the most basic of human rights, driving many of them to the point of violent insanity. Israel then has the audacity to use their violence as a justification for perpetual oppression. Riding the rhetoric of fighting terrorism, Israel continues its history of brutal oppression - bombing airports, roads, fuel tanks, power plants, water supplies, bridges and refuge camps. Apparently, the definition of "terrorism" given in official sources must be qualified only as terrorism against 'us'. Take a moment and ask yourself what your reaction would be to such brutal force.

Although it was Bush who called for Palestinian elections and Hamas participation, he bowed to Israeli demands and imposed suffocating global economic and diplomatic blockades on Palestinians. Imagine American reaction to collective punishment for democratically electing our leaders.

In 1941, Hitler ordered "the harshest measures" against civilian resistance, ordering execution of 50 civilians for every German soldier killed, for "only the (collective) death penalty can be a real means of deterrence."

Of racism, tyranny, and oppression

As Israeli forces subject masses of Palestinians to destitute poverty, curfews, and encirclement by barbed wire fences, they essentially strip them of their civil rights - reducing their lives to a condition of dependence while covering them in a cold blanket of fear and despair. Everyday, Israel turns villages into prisons and homes into cells. These tactics are founded on the portrayal of all Arabs as blood sucking terrorist.

When our government, media, and allies mentioned Iraq's breach of 17 U.N. resolutions and imaginary WMDs as a pretext for war, they conveniently disregarded the 64 U.N. resolutions flouted by Israel and a nuclear arsenal of catastrophic proportions. Whatever atrocities Saddam committed, Israel has either matched or surpassed in what is now the longest occupation in history; though we find no one speaking a word about Israel, we have seen no end to ranting regarding Iraq and *Hezbollah*.

While Israel is a democracy, it is a racist democracy engineered for the advancement of a single tradition. Israeli historian Benny Morris, the leading authority on Palestinian refugees, noted "without the uprooting of the Palestinians, a Jewish state would not have arisen here" adding that "there are circumstances in history that justify ethnic cleansing." Palestinians are asked to forget their 'right of return' and the oppression of the past while they live through it all the same today.

Is it an ugly trend, or is it that contemporary ethnic cleansing is only to be justified when Muslims are the prime target as in Bosnia, Kosovo, Chechnya, Kashmir, and Israel? Colonial powers and their descendants are unable to rid themselves of racist impulses - be it against Native Americans, African Americans, Native Africans, Japanese, or Aborigines - racist hate must be acted upon, and in its path Arab and Muslim lives are considered worthless; blood cheaper than dirt.

Palestinians are indebted to Jews from all walks of life that document and protest their sufferings. In particular, the growing movement "Yesh Gvul" or "There Is a Limit" - founded by Israeli soldiers refusing to serve in the occupied territories - consequentially incarcerated.

The media has decomposed into a hand of Israeli war propaganda, seeking to present not only moral justification, but depiction of symmetry in mass-murder and military weaponry. No matter their deceit, the death toll has always fallen very disproportionately upon the Palestinians.

What has plunged out is anything akin to a dissenting voice. Media outlets edit everything that would cause the government concern of dishonest brain washing. Every news channel employs generals, CIA agents, and terrorism experts as consultants who speak empty rhetoric, supporting everything Israel. Arguably, the most valuable fact based reading for those seeking concrete understanding of Middle-East policy is the article "Whose War?" published in 2003 by "The American Conservative" (of all magazines).

Israel is far off mark in using murder, expulsion, annexation, and the building of walls to bring it security. We as Americans who have only recently experienced the civil rights movement know in our heart of hearts, never can systematic oppression and confinement of the weak be justified. I have a hard time believing there are no prominent Christian leaders, save Pope Benedict, ready to speak out against this senseless malice.

If America prides itself on liberating others, how are we to turn a blind eye to Arab Muslims and Christians in Lebanon and Palestine? Must we wish for Israel to carry on no matter the cost of innocent civilians, billions in tax dollars needed at home, and wreckage of infant democracies? Are we are interested in increasing global anti-Americanism, as we fool no one while standing staunchly for human rights and unconditionally backing Israel. If we truly claim to value freedom and justice for all, we are obliged to demand Israel cease its brutal and atrocious campaigns.

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Load-Date: July 27, 2006



Shock and awe in Gaza

The Nation (AsiaNet)
June 29, 2006 Thursday

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Section: NATIONWIDE INTERNATIONAL NEWS

Length: 472 words

Body

ISRAELI troops riding tanks, armoured cars and bulldozers rolled into Gaza destroying three bridges and a power plant. The excuse for the attack was the kidnapping of an Israeli soldier by a militant group who demanded the release of about 500 Palestinian <u>women</u> and children languishing in Israeli jails in exchange with him. While the kidnapping was the act of a few individuals, the entire population in Gaza has been subjected to collective punishment, which is highly condemnable.

The bombing of Gaza's power plant has left the population without water and its hospitals with no electricity to conduct operations. This is likely to create a humanitarian crisis. As if this was not enough, Israeli administration has picked up eight members of the Hamas-led Palestinian cabinet including Deputy Prime Minister Nasser Shaer and Labour Minister Mohammad Barghouti as well as 20 members of the parliament. As a threatening gesture on Wednesday, Israeli warplanes flew over the seaside residence of Syrian President Bashar al-Asad while the Israeli Public Security Minister threatened to kill Hamas chief Khalid Meshaal, presently living in Syria.

Any such action is liable to draw in <u>Hezbollah</u> from neighbouring Lebanon thus widening the sphere of the conflict. The destruction of property and kidnapping and killing of non-combatants by individual militants or groups are widely castigated as acts of terrorism. When Israel resorts to practices like this, it also has to be condemned as a terrorist state. Washington is therefore liable to be criticised for maintaining double standards when it maintains, as it has done in this particular case, that Israel has a right to defend itself.

Aren't the suicide bombers defending their own people who have been dispossessed by Israel, denied basic rights and subjected to the worst kind of state oppression? Are those whose houses are demolished and orchards destroyed to accommodate the Jewish settlers not justified to retaliate? The power-sharing agreement between Fatah and Hamas had been brokered after the hard-line Hamas agreed to give important concessions that were interpreted by some as a tacit recognition of Israel. Hopes were being expressed that this would encourage Israel to give concessions in return, thus providing a boost to the peace process in the Middle East.

The Israeli attack on Gaza has however compromised the position of Prime Minister Ibrahim Hanniyah and strengthened the groups who stand for the destruction of the state of Israel. Unless Washington urgently reins in Tel Aviv, the shock and awe methods it employs are bound to give birth to a strong backlash all over the Arab and Muslim world. This would put the peace process on hold, and weaken the moderate forces. At this point, it seems that Israel has been able to stall the peace process once again.

Load-Date: June 30, 2006



Ephraim Hardcastle

Daily Mail (London) July 28, 2006 Friday

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Section: ED 1ST; Pg. 17

Length: 460 words

Body

APROPOS Shadow Foreign Secretary William Hague's criticism this week of Israel's 'disproportionate' attacks on Lebanon's civilian infrastructure and people, Israeli supporters suspect he has been 'got at' by a new foreign policy adviser, Arminka Helic, 38, an attractive (Bosnian Muslim) blue-eyed blonde. A friend of Arminka tells me: 'It's rubbish.

She's the least hard-line Muslim you could meet.' But a pro-Israel commentator snipes: 'William can't refuse her anything. (Wife) Ffion is ffurious.'

THE Royal Hospital Chelsea has decided to admit <u>women</u> as Chelsea Pensioners the qualification being the same as for men, service in the army. But will the <u>women</u> want to wear the distinctive uniform, including a scarlet coat and tricorn hat? Surely a noted fashion designer such as Dame Vivienne Westwood should be consulted? 'The <u>women</u> will wear scarlet but will have the option of a skirt,' a RH spokesman tells me. 'Vivienne Westwood would be a bit outlandish for us.

Didn't she invent punk fashion?'

HELD captive in Beirut for five years by Islamic jihadists, Terry Waite was the star turn on Wednesday's Newsnight discussion about the Middle East on BBC2. Waite said there should be a ceasefire and an overall political settlement of the Palestine issue. He wiped the floor with former Tory Foreign Secretary Sir Malcolm Rifkind, whose we'd-heard-it-all-before analysis backed the U.S.Israel onslaught. Shouldn't Blair appoint Waite as our special envoy to the area in place of the tarnished Lord Levy? If that's not acceptable to the Americans, perhaps the Tories will get him on board.

NEWSNIGHT'S ten-minute discussion with gays about 'cruising' for sex on Hampstead Heath with its film of French letters hanging from bushes and the distinction homosexual partners make between companionship and sexual fidelity certainly fulfilled the new aim of making this once-respected political programme more accessible. But was matronly Martha Kearney as incongruous as a <u>Women</u>'s Institute chairwoman in such a discussion the ideal presenter? Roguish Jeremy Paxman might have brought a more acerbic sensibility to bear.

LUCIANA Morad, pictured, the Brazilian model whose brief, 1999 liaison with Mick Jagger resulted in a son, Lucas, is to marry TV tycoon Marcelo Carvalho next month on the island of Ilha Bela. Carvalho, 42, who was married when he first met Luciana, asked her to become his wife at a Rolling Stones concert in Rio in February. This is where, seven years ago, Jagger met and impregnated Luciana. So romantic!

Ephraim Hardcastle

NEVER mind Israel v <u>Hezbollah</u>. Who'll lead the BBC's 10 O'clock News with the Middle East story portly 'World Editor' John Simpson, or scruffy 'Middle East editor' Jeremy Bowen? 'They're acting like a couple of peacocks', says my BBC source.

Load-Date: July 28, 2006



Agony of waiting ends for former Socceroos striker

The Australian (Australia)
July 24, 2006 Monday
All-round Country Edition

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Section: LOCAL; Pg. 2

Length: 423 words **Byline:** David King

Body

MATP

FORMER Socceroos striker Abbas Saad went to watch the World Cup in Germany while his wife and their two sons enjoyed a holiday with relatives in Beirut.

He visited his family as he travelled back to Sydney for work and made plans to pick them up from the airport a few days later.

But soon after he left them to enjoy the last days of their holiday, war broke out in Lebanon. He spent the next week watching harrowing TV footage of Israeli jets attacking Beirut and worrying about them.

Yesterday Mr Saad was reunited with his wife, Rania, and boys, Mohammed Ali, 4, and Malek, 2, as they returned to Sydney on a plane chartered by the federal Government.

"It's been the hardest 10 days. I've never watched TV that much in my life," Mr Saad said. "It's just very sad mate, everything that's happening."

He praised the efforts of the Australian Government, saying: "People don't understand how hard it is for the embassy staff in Beirut." The Saad family were among 500 Australians who arrived in Sydney to a flood of tears from anxious family.

Wadad Mourad hugged her son Adam and cried as she walked through the arrival gate of Sydney airport. "I didn't think that I'd come back alive," she said.

"I'm just grateful to be reunited with my family back in Australia."

Mrs Mourad, a mother of five, was one of the first evacuees to return to Australia, landing in Sydney early yesterday morning on one of three chartered flights.

Mrs Mourad and her family had been holidaying in the southern border town of Aitaroun when Israeli jets began pounding the village.

After hiding in a tiny storage area underneath a house for a week, they made the perilous trip to the port at Beirut.

Agony of waiting ends for former Socceroos striker

"They told us the ship we were supposed to take, somebody else took it," she said.

Eventually they were taken to Cyprus on a Greek warship.

"I came from Aitaroun. If you have seen it, there's so many children that have died. <u>Women</u> and children," she said. "It's very stressful and very sad."

Mrs Mourad said there was anger towards the Israelis for their attacks.

"They are targeting civilians, not *Hezbollah*," she said.

Her son Adam, 22, said the week spent waiting for his mother and family had taken its toll.

"We've been up all night. It's been very stressful," he said. "We honestly thought I would never see them again."

Najah Haidar said it had been a tough choice to leave the Australian-Lebanese enclave of Aitaroun and take the dangerous mountain road to Beirut.

"You have to make the decision, die inside your house, or die on the road," she said.

Load-Date: July 23, 2006



Rice insists Syria end support for terrorists; Terrorist group believed responsible for recent attacks in Israel thought to be based in Syria

Telegraph Herald (Dubuque, IA)
July 14, 2005 Thursday

Copyright 2005 Woodward Communications, Inc.

Section: Features; Pg. a9

Length: 458 words

Byline: ASSOCIATED PRESS

Dateline: WASHINGTON

Body

Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice is insisting that Syria end its support for Islamic Jihad, the Palestinian group believed to be responsible for killing four Israelis Tuesday in a suicide bombing.

While Israeli troops arrested five activists of the group the State Department says is a terrorist organization, Rice lent U.S. diplomatic support to the campaign, singling out Syria for special criticism.

"It is essential that the Syrian government end its support for terrorist organizations, particularly those who are headquartered and harbored in Damascus," Rice said in a statement issued as she flew home after a trip to Asia.

"Syria should immediately stop letting its territory be used for insurgent activities and for activities which frustrate the aspirations of the Lebanese, Iraqi and Palestinian people," Rice said.

Syria has long denied involvement in terror attacks on Israel.

Rice called the attack in Netanya Tuesday an attack against Palestinian hopes as well as against Israel.

The statement was part of a Bush administration effort to keep early peace moves from being thrown off track by attacks on Israel. Prime Minister Ariel Sharon remains committed to withdrawing all settlers and Israeli troops from Gaza and part of the West Bank this summer.

He also has made clear that Israel cannot keep making territorial and other concessions under the threat of terror.

In the meantime, Palestinian leaders have not dismantled terror groups, as the first phase of the U.S.-backed road map for peacemaking requires.

The White House on Tuesday reiterated that demand.

Islamic Jihad has carried out attacks on Israel despite agreeing to a truce in February.

On Tuesday, a suicide bomber blew himself up outside a shopping mall in the Israeli seaside city of Netanya, killing four **women** and wounding at least 30 other people.

Rice insists Syria end support for terrorists; Terrorist group believed responsible for recent attacks in Israel thought to be based in Syria

There was no immediate claim of responsibility by Islamic Jihad, but Palestinian police said the bomber, 18-year-old Ahmed Abu Khalil, was sent by the same Islamic Jihad cell that was behind a Tel Aviv nightclub bombing that killed five Israelis a couple of weeks into the truce.

In both cases, Iranian-backed Lebanese <u>Hezbollah</u> guerrillas prodded the cell into action and apparently provided funding, Palestinian police said.

Asked Tuesday if the State Department had any information that Syria had a hand in the bombing, spokesman Tom Casey replied: "I don't have anything that specific that I can share with you."

He said, "what we know for certain is that Palestinian Islamic Jihad has operations and has offices in Damascus. We believe that this is one of the issues that represents Syria's support for terrorism and Syria's support for those who oppose the aspirations of the Palestinian people to have a peace process."

Graphic

Mug - Condoleezza Rice

Load-Date: July 14, 2005



Arab masses generating own power

Lincoln Journal Star (Nebraska)

March 15, 2005 Tuesday

City Edition

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Section: B; Pg. 5 Length: 465 words

Body

More evidence of the changes stirring in the Middle East came Monday when demonstrators massed in Beirut in the biggest protest yet on the issue of Syria's presence in Lebanon.

The anti-Syria protest "easily topped" a pro-Syria rally last week organized by the Shiite Muslim group <u>Hezbollah</u>, according to The Associated Press.

Triggering the dueling demonstrations was the assassination of former Prime Minister Rafik Hariri a month ago in a car bombing. Syria is widely suspected as the culprit.

On Monday, the hundreds of thousands of protesters fell silent at 12:55 p.m., the moment at which the massive car bomb detonated, killing Hariri and 16 others and leaving a 30-foot crater in the street.

In addition to the street rallies in Beirut, there were concurrent developments in the Arab world that have made observers all over the globe sit upright in wonderment.

The most dramatic, of course, was the Iraqi election in late January. But there have been so many other events in the same vein that they have encouraged new optimism that democracy is finally taking root in the Middle East.

Palestinians elected Mahmoud Abbas to replace Yasser Arafat in an election that international observers pronounced legitimate. Municipal elections were held for the first time in more than 40 years in Saudi Arabia. Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak announced that other candidates would be allowed to run for the presidency. Kuwaiti <u>women</u> demonstrated for the right to vote. Saudis said <u>women</u> would be allowed to vote in the next election.

The change in political climate is so striking that President Bush's foreign policy is undergoing reassessment by critics. Even the reliably anti-Bush New York Times editorial page conceded, "The Bush administration is entitled to claim a healthy share of the credit for many of these advances."

Major credit also should go to other influences, not the least of which is the development of the independent Arab television network Al-Jazeera.

The network covers events such as the rallies in Beirut and airs criticism of current Arab regimes.

The founder of Al-Jazeera argued at an appearance at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln in 2003 that the power of terrorism could be weakened if networks like his practiced objective, uncensored journalism.

Arab masses generating own power

As Marc Lynch, an Arab media specialist wrote in a column published in the Journal Star, "The cumulative impact has been to create a vast public sense of frustration with the politically stagnant status quo and an urgency for change."

Perhaps the most encouraging aspect of the burgeoning movement toward democratic rule is that it seems to be generating its own power. The energy displayed in the streets of Beirut by thousands chanting "Truth, freedom, national unity" is welling up from within.

Load-Date: March 22, 2005



St. Petersburg Times (Florida)

July 29, 2006 Saturday

1 Edition

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Section: NATIONAL; Pg. 15A

Length: 2954 words

Body

Re: Al-Arian associate gets prison, July 26.

I hope people read deeper than the headlines and they consider what it means that an American citizen, Hatem Fariz, is going to prison - even though in the plea agreement prosecutors conceded that he is innocent except for the following "crimes" described in reporter Meg Laughlin's story:

"He arranged a magazine interview in 2000 with PIJ (Palestinian Islamic Jihad) associate Abd Al Aziz Awda, when Awda lived in the occupied territories. In 1995, he sent tapes to (Ramadan) Shallah in Tampa, seven months before Shallah became PIJ leader in Syria. And, in 2001 and 2002, Fariz raised money for book bags and an ambulance for needy Palestinians in the occupied territories, arranging for their distribution through Elehssan, a charitable organization in Gaza which received financial support from the PIJ."

If that were not bad enough, federal prosecutor Terry Zitek added, "While Fariz had a minor role in this offense, his sentence offers some measure of protection for the public."

Thank goodness for federal prosecutor Zitek: keeping the American people safe from book bags, tapes, ambulances and magazine interviews. Boy, do I feel safer.

Currently it seems that the government thinks the only way to protect Americans is through wars of aggression on the people of the Middle East, witch hunts against activists and hypersurveillance of everyone. But these practices are breeding more terrorism and making us less free. There has to be a better way.

Sean Kinane, Tampa

Emboldening the terrorists

Ted Koppel's July 24 guest column One man, one vote, one giant mess explained that an unnamed Jordanian official he interviewed said the coming decade may witness a precipitous American withdrawal from Iraq that will appease Iran. He also interviewed Sheik Nabil Qaouk, the <u>Hezbollah</u> commander in southern Lebanon. Koppel went on to point out that Hamas was "spurned by the State Department as a terrorist organization," as was <u>Hezbollah</u>.

Did it ever occur to Koppel that he might have interviewed Steve Emerson, a U.S. terrorism expert, or perhaps a knowledgeable U.S. ambassador to a Middle Eastern country? Koppel's interviews are analogous to interviewing a Nazi leader prior to World War II.

It seems that journalists like Ted Koppel embolden terrorists by writing a column telling us that some anonymous Jordanian official is "reflecting gloomily on the failure of the Bush administration's various policies in the region."

Laurence Veras, Clearwater

We're not seeing progress in Iraq

Re: More U.S. troops patrol Baghdad, July 25.

After almost 3 1/2 years in Iraq, it seems to me we are "regressing," not "progressing" there.

When will the United States get to the point of admitting futility and cut our losses?

Dorothy E. Karkheck, Dunedin

U.N. focus is limited

I see a U.N. group has toured Beirut and has made the obligatory "Israel must stop the violence" statement.

I must have missed their inspection of the damage in Haifa.

Ernest Lane, Trinity

Contradictory activities

For the Bush administration to now send humanitarian aid to the people of Lebanon is a bit like Charles Manson sending a fruit basket to the Tate family.

Patrick Ruddy, St. Petersburg

Remember the challenges we face

As the global war on terror continues, I find it extremely disturbing that many Americans are ignoring the facts. Many Americans at home and abroad are living under the devastating threat of terrorism. Unfortunately, today, we have become so spoiled by freedom that many of us do not have the slightest inkling what it is like living under the thumb of barbaric dictators.

Additionally, the antiwar critics seem to forget that throughout the history of America's wars, the American soldier has always fought to liberate the oppressed people of the world. A shining example would be the thousands of Iraqi citizens who were liberated by our brave soldiers. The Iraqis displayed bravery when they risked their lives to come out and vote for their newfound democracy.

Also, let's remember the brave American soldiers who stood side by side with our Allies to liberate millions of Europeans. Let us all remind ourselves that it is the generals and the soldiers who are instrumental on the battlefields, with the support of our commander in chief, who win the wars. It is not the politicians or the media organizations.

Joan Atkins, Palm Harbor

Dean is a demagogue

On Wednesday in South Florida before community business leaders, Howard Dean, chairman of the Democratic Party, accused Iraqi Prime Minister Nouri al-Maliki of being anti-Semitic because he did not condemn <u>Hezbollah</u> for attacking Israel.

I thought Maliki should have done that, but when you think about it (unfortunately Dean can't think), Maliki could not condemn *Hezbollah* without bringing more death and destruction to Iraq. Both Maliki and *Hezbollah* are Shiite. He

has more than enough problems trying to bring an end to the death the Sunnis are inflicting on the Shiites without getting the Shiites into a frenzy also.

The House passed a resolution (H.RES. 921) which condemns the recent attacks against Israel, holding terrorists and their state sponsors accountable for such attacks, supporting Israel's right to defend itself, and for other purposes. This resolution was passed by a vote of 410-8, with seven Democrats and one Republican voting against it.

Is Howard Dean prepared to condemn the seven Democrats voting no as being anti-Semitic? No, he won't, because Dean is a demagogue who has nothing to say except blaming the president for anything he perceives is wrong.

Salvatore Reale, Seminole

A threat to our tourism

On behalf of the employees/members of the Dollar Thrifty Automotive Group, I am writing to highlight a critical issue that could dramatically impact international tourism in the state of Florida. Congress passed a law in late 2004 that included a new requirement called the Western Hemisphere Travel Initiative, or WHTI, for travelers entering the United States from the Western Hemisphere to carry a passport or other secure travel document. While no one in the travel industry argues with the need to have more secure borders, the question of "how" and "when" this rule is put in place is critical.

With more than 14-million overnight visitors coming to the United States from Canada annually, getting this rule done right is a major priority for the state of Florida. Our tourism economy will suffer if WHTI is enforced before effective technology is in place and proper notice is given to the traveling public.

The travel industry supports the homeland-security intent of the law, but it is imperative that in protecting our borders, we do not unintentionally deter Canadian visitors from traveling here or prevent travelers from going on a cruise ship to Alaska or the Caribbean.

Congress should support a reasonable extension of the deadline to give the government time to get it right, or else we are at risk of losing millions of dollars in travel-related spending, thousands of travel and tourism jobs, and the good will that we share with our neighbors across the northern border and in the Caribbean. Now, more than ever, we need more visitors and friends, not fewer.

Yves Boyer, executive vice president-international, Dollar Thrifty Automotive Group Inc., Tampa

Candidate seeks to level playing field

Re: Ballot box bunkum, editorial, July 25.

My name is Brian E. Roche, a candidate for the Pinellas County Board of County Commissioners, at large, District 2. I am legally qualified to run for this office, will actually and actively campaign for this office, and with any luck, will draw a few votes.

To anyone in Pinellas County that I may have offended by my (not my brother's) "ballot box bunkum," please accept my sincerest apologies.

With the state of politics today being almost laughable, in many regards, the level of vitriol aimed at my "cynical" candidacy would be equally laughable if it weren't so sad. For years, the members of the 500 Dollar Gang - those 100 to 150 fortunate (and unelected) souls who can afford to fund certain candidates at \$500 a clip - have hand-picked every member of the County Commission as well as many other candidates in Pinellas County. For what reasons and at what cost? These fortunate few are financially able to continue to select the leaders that we, the general public, have to rely on for leadership in a manner no less cynical than any attempt that I may make to "level the playing field."

I am running for this office in a "brazen" attempt to give something back to the citizens of this county as opposed to "taking back" the Pinellas County School Board as Republican Party chairman Tony DiMateo stated in your newspaper a few days ago. I'm sorry, but I never got the memo saying that it was his in the first place and, quite frankly, this is exactly why it is important to remember what's really happening here.

The Republican Party (not individual Republicans - a distinction I want to make very clear) and the members of the 500 Dollar Gang are upset because they cannot select the Democratic Party's nominee in a Democratic Party primary.

I fully expected the members of the St. Petersburg Times editorial board to get their shorts twisted on this, and with all due respect, to the best of my knowledge, I have actually shut no one out of the primary. If any of the 328,000 Republican voters are truly interested in having Commissioner Calvin Harris remain in his position, there is still time for them to get down to the Supervisor of Elections Office and register as a Democrat. Otherwise they will have every opportunity to send me a message; they will just have to wait until November.

Brian E. Roche, Clearwater

A moral compass needs restoring

Black Americans lost our moral compass after the death of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. No other black leaders have the moral compass to lead our race to the promised land. We gained a little freedom and out of the box, we came into the light. Now we can get an education, have better job opportunities and live in better communities. The door has a crack in it, and then we forgot that God was always our leader.

Through Dr. King, doors have been opened for us. Then our moral compass started to go wrong. Respecting ourselves and others was something that was not done anymore. We became loveless, selfish and forgot about the ones who did not get a piece of the pie. The attitude is like, "We have ours, so damn the others."

Through all the suffering and injustice that held us in check, we never forgot our trust in God. This gave us a moral compass through all the inhuman treatment we faced for hundreds of years. We are now doing the same thing to ourselves, and it is called extinction.

Black males are losing the fight to become men. This is evident by the number of males selling drugs, dropping out of school and standing on corners with their underwear showing. They think it is cool and hip, running from the police, shooting and killing each other. Listen, brothers, there is no easy money, especially for brothers. Stop making babies and leaving them for society to raise. Stop spreading HIV to beautiful black <u>women</u>, cutting their lives short. Start today being a real man. It will take strength, courage and God, and then the moral compass will return. Take care of your children, work for what you want and stay in school.

Black <u>women</u> have lost their moral compass as well. Stop letting your underage daughters have babies and dating at a young age. Stop disrespecting yourselves and forgetting that you are queens who deserve the very best. Teach your daughters to love themselves and take pride in their beautiful black bodies. Let no man treat you like his trash disposal. Stop being the breadwinner while he is sitting at home or riding around all day while you work. Don't accept men running around or running games on you. <u>Women</u>, we have always been the strength in our race. We held it together during slavery, so why are you being the man's footstool now? Get your education and let no one destroy your love and self-respect. Allow God to determine your future, and your moral compass will be restored.

Black people, stop the madness. Our men need to be men! We have stood the test of time, so why are we going back? Go to school and get an education, and take care of your people. Stand tall and be a guide to the future. No more weakness. Love yourself so you can love others, and let no man be deceived again.

G. Jackson, Tampa

Analyzing a dog encounter

Re: Guide dog may be put to death for dogfight, July 27.

While I may not have been a witness to the "fight" between a guide dog and "Buddy," I feel fairly confident that I can guess what happened. "Buddy" was off leash and charged - yipping and yapping - at the guide dog.

The guide dog did what any good dog would do and attempted to protect its owner. I feel confident in my prediction because I encounter this type of irresponsible behavior on the part of dog owners on a daily basis.

People need to either leash their dogs or fence their yards (and keep their dogs behind the fence).

It is amazing to me that in a state where we sanction a person to use lethal force to stop a perceived threat (a ridiculous law) a dog is not allowed to react the same way.

David Miller, Temple Terrace

Health care realities are skewed

Re: Drug plans' complaint rate at healthy level, July 20.

This piece presented complaint statistics as published by the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS). Our concern is that the results can easily be misconstrued, and the article omitted the principal reason that affected the results for Universal Health Care. The primary Medicare Advantage plan offered by Universal Health Care includes a unique benefit design that provides for enrolled members of the plan to receive a monthly credit equal to almost all of their Medicare Part B monthly premium. This is a tremendous benefit that has been very well received by seniors in the bay area.

As has been widely reported, due to computer interface issues within the government's interagency reporting (in this case, the link between CMS and the Social Security Administration), a small proportion of members experience delays in receiving this monthly credit. This is not within the power of our health plan to correct. However, members understandably contact us when the issue arises. We then work to assist these members until they receive the full credit they are due.

It is quite clear that the "complaint" statistics in this situation are reflective not so much of any issue with Universal, but are rather a function of Universal being an intermediary between its members and government.

It should also be understood that these numbers are distorted in the case of a rapidly growing health plan. The point here is not that growth is "an excuse for poor service" but rather the simple fact that individuals enrolling in a health plan for the first time are far more likely to have questions regarding how the plan functions and to call for clarification and explanation of benefits. Universal has been so well received and has grown so effectively that, again, the statistics can present a distorted view.

By publishing "complaint" statistics without an appropriate classification or explanation, we are done a disservice. Universal Health Care is totally committed to service excellence. The vast majority of those enrolled in our "Medicare Masterpiece" and "Any Any Medicare Advantage plans are well pleased with our service and appreciate the benefits these plans provide.

J. Philip Sheesley, chief operating officer, Universal Health Care, St. Petersburg

Lio is vile and offensive

I couldn't believe my eyes Tuesday morning when I looked at the comics pages and saw Lio. How could you run such a revolting and disgusting strip, especially in light of the fact that just recently a child's body was dug up and has disappeared? How insensitive can you get?

Almost as revolting and disgusting was the strip the other day about buying a puppy as a gift to a huge snake. Not once has this so-called comic strip been even the slightest bit humorous. It is instead vile, disgusting and offensive. The St. Petersburg Times should be ashamed to run such trash in what I have always thought was a decent family paper.

Patricia A. A'Hern, Treasure Island

Not reading it is an option

Re: 'Lio' crosses the line, letter, July 27.

I find Lio immensely refreshing, as I have a somewhat twisted sense of humor. Sure it may cross the line, but then I find many of Pat Oliphant's caricatures of our president to be insulting and in poor taste.

But the best thing is: I have a choice not to read those cartoons. And so do you. If you think a comic, radio or TV program is in bad taste, don't read, listen or watch it. No one is forcing anyone else to read certain strips. Keep Lio. He makes me laugh.

Justin McKenzie, Port Richey

Comic is disgusting

Re: 'Lio' crosses the line, letter.

I totally agree with the letter writer. The comic strip Lio is disgusting. I have thought so since it was first printed. I'm glad she took the time to share her opinion with you. If that was one of the comics that was voted on, I am ashamed to say I live in the Times distribution area.

Darla Wilkinson, Pinellas Park

Lio has a lot to offer

Okay, I can already tell we're going to need an organization to fight the rose-colored-glasses crowd, those who think little boys are made from puppy dog tails and want to make all comics politically correct.

Lio is great, a fantastic exploration into the mind of a young boy - and one whose thoughts and fantasies are not that uncommon. Lio has far more to offer us than, say, the inane whiny children of the Family Circus. Lio is a real kid, with intelligence!

Load-Date: July 29, 2006



BREAST CHECKS SAVE LIVES.. SO WHY DO 1 IN 4 OF US NOT BOTHER?

Sunday Mail July 30, 2006, Sunday

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Section: NEWS; Pg. 17

Length: 435 words

Byline: Elaine C. Smith

Body

SO one in four **women** called for breast screening in Scotland don't turn up.

For some there may be genuine reasons but it seems the majority just can't be bothered.

Attendance for smear tests is down, too. Now, I don't want to sound like an old reactionary git but I will for a minute - because this sort of stuff drives me mad.

I am sick of people mumping and moaning about the health service and the Government not doing stuff for us and then when they do we can't be arsed getting up and going for an appointment.

If the Government brought in a law that said that only 75 per cent of <u>women</u> between the ages of 50 and 70 were to be offered breast screening, there would be a huge outcry, political campaigns, letters to the press, the whole bit. Yet here is a screening service - free and available to all those <u>women</u> -and a quarter of us can't even be bothered. Unbelievable!

Now I know these tests are scary and cause a lot of anxiety.

When I go for a smear or mammogram I end up in a state, sure they are going to find some terrible disease.

I had some blood tests a few weeks ago and had myself convinced that they were going to find some rare illness that no one had ever heard of.

But I still went because if there was something wrong it's better that they find it sooner rather than later. No point in sticking your head (or other body parts) in the proverbial sand, is there?

The plain facts are that screening saves lives. Early detection saves lives... come on girls - get on with it. •PLANES carrying bombs and weapons bound for Israel have landed and refuelled at Prestwick. Is anyone really shocked by this?

Our Government are so up to their neck in Lebanon that nothing about our sooking up to the Bush administration would surprise me.

Any thoughts Mr Blair may have had about influencing US foreign policy because of "our special relationship" have been blown out of the water. The Bush government does what it wants. This whole situation has been given a blessing by the White House.

BREAST CHECKS SAVE LIVES.. SO WHY DO 1 IN 4 OF US NOT BOTHER?

I'm sure they just told Israel: "On ye go guys, get <u>Hezbollah</u> in whatever way you want and we'll turn a blind eye for about 10 days.

"Then we'll just kid on that we are going to do something by sending old Condi Rice on a diplomatic mission around the world and that should buy you at least another week.

"Civilian deaths and casualties? We'll just call it collateral damage.

"Displacement of half a million people from their homes and lives? Starvation? Ach, they'll get over it!

"The UN? They won't be able to do nuthin'. We'll just veto it all and those namby-pamby liberals will just have to stand by and watch."

Cynical? Moi?

Graphic

Saving lives: Breast check

Load-Date: July 30, 2006



Last-minute rush hits evacuation effort

Prince George Citizen (British Columbia)

July 28, 2006 Friday

Final Edition

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Section: CANADA; Pg. 7

Length: 497 words

Byline: Canadian Press

Dateline: BEIRUT

Body

BEIRUT (CP) -- Wealthy tourists sporting designer shades mingled with war-weary evacuees with nothing but the clothes on their backs under a baking sun Thursday as a last-minute rush hit the Canadian evacuation centre in Lebanon.

More than 1,700 people arrived at the gate at Beirut's harbour to board four ships and embark on a journey to Canada through Turkey and Cyprus, and soldiers organizing the evacuation said they hadn't seen such a rush since the early days of the exodus a week ago.

The Canadian evacuation effort now is in its final phase.

Foreign Affairs said there would be ships Friday and Saturday to ferry Canadians from Beirut, but that those would be the last planned daily trips.

On Thursday, high-heeled <u>women</u> nonchalantly pulled up in Mercedes-Benz sedans and clicked along the asphalt at the waterfront, while bedraggled evacuees from the south clutched a few belongings salvaged from bombed-out homes -- most precious among them, their Canadian passports or citizenship cards.

"I'm worried. My passport is no longer valid. "

Do you think that will be a problem for me?" said Ali Tohme, who braved the treacherous road to Beirut after missing the Canadian boat that left the southern city of Tyre on Wednesday with his son and wife.

Tohme said he was visiting an aunt before the war, and became separated from his family.

His ancestral village is 85 kilometres south of Beirut, but the journey was fraught with danger.

"I came with a driver -- he's really a hero," Tohme said. "It's scary, very risky. ... People were fleeing. The shelling, the bombing. All the bridges are gone."

Many of the last-minute evacuees said they had been clinging to hope that Wednesday's meeting in Rome involving high-profile world leaders might lead to a ceasefire in the conflict between Israel and <u>Hezbollah</u> militants.

Last-minute rush hits evacuation effort

"I didn't contact the embassy because I thought there might be a ceasefire or something, but (Wednesday) there was no declaration," said Amal Jawhar, a graduate student at Concordia University in Montreal.

"We expected this to last a few days, not a few weeks."

Thursday's evacuations brought the number of Canadians who have fled Lebanon to 11,500 out of an estimated 40,000 in the country.

Other countries began winding down their evacuations days ago, with about half their citizens fleeing the war zone.

Officials have not explained why Canada's rate of rescue is so much lower.

Prime Minister Stephen Harper predicted the bulk of the evacuation would be over by now, with about 10,000 evacuees. Several evacuees said Foreign Affairs officials told them the last ship would leave Friday, although officials would not confirm that plan Thursday.

Officials have also said they will not end the process until every Canadian who wants to leave is gone, leaving some to suggest a scaled-down version of the evacuation might continue into next week.

On Thursday, officials expressed concern that some in Lebanon's Bekka Valley might not yet know of the Canadian evacuation effort.

Load-Date: July 28, 2006



<u>Israel halts air attacks for 48 hours; Suspension occurs after a strike kills 56</u> Lebanese

Telegraph Herald (Dubuque, IA)

July 31, 2006 Monday

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Section: ACROSS; Pg. a6

Length: 486 words

Byline: ASSOCIATED PRESS

Dateline: JERUSALEM

Body

Israel suspended air attacks on south Lebanon for 48 hours in the face of widespread outrage over an air strike Sunday that killed at least 56 Lebanese, almost all of them <u>women</u> and children, when it leveled a building where they had taken shelter.

The announcement - made by a State Department spokesman with Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice in Jerusalem - appeared to reflect American pressure on Israel to make some concession after the strike.

In addition to suspending air attacks, Israel also will allow the opening of corridors for 24 hours for Lebanese civilians who want to leave south Lebanon for the north and would maintain land, sea and air corridors for humanitarian assistance, officials said.

Israeli government officials confirmed that Prime Minister Ehud Olmert agreed to an immediate 48-hour halt in air strikes on Lebanon around midnight Sunday while the military concludes its inquiry into the attack on the south Lebanese village of Qana. The officials spoke on condition of anonymity because they were not authorized to talk to reporters.

The officials left open the possibility that Israel might hit targets to stop imminent attacks, and that the suspension could last less than 48 hours if the military completes its inquiry before then.

Lebanon said the Israeli suspension was inadequate.

"There is no cease-fire and there is no cessation of hostilities," Lebanese special envoy Nouhad Mahoud told reporters at the United Nations late Sunday. "We are looking for something much more than that."

The bloodshed in Lebanon prompted Rice to cut short her Mideast mission and intensified world demands on Washington to back an immediate end to the fighting.

A three-story house on the outskirts of Qana was leveled when a missile crashed into it at 1 a.m. Red Cross officials said 56 were killed and police said 34 children and 12 adult <u>women</u> were among the dead. It was worst single strike since Israel's campaign in Lebanon began on July 12 when <u>Hezbollah</u> militants crossed the border into Israel and abducted two soldiers.

Israel halts air attacks for 48 hours Suspension occurs after a strike kills 56 Lebanese

The attack in Qana brought Lebanon's death toll to more than 510 and pushed American peace efforts to a crucial juncture, as fury at the United States flared in Lebanon.

The Beirut government said it would no longer negotiate over a U.S. peace package without an unconditional cease-fire.

In Qana, workers pulled dirt-covered bodies of young boys and girls - dressed in the shorts and T-shirts they had been sleeping in - out of the mangled wreckage of the building. Bodies were carried in blankets.

Two extended families, the Shalhoubs and the Hashems, had gathered in the house for shelter from another night of Israeli bombardment in the border area when the strike brought the building down.

President Bush repeated his call for a "sustainable peace" in the Middle East and said: "America mourns the loss of innocent life, those tragic occasions when innocent people are killed."

Load-Date: August 1, 2006



Thousands protest at journalist's funeral

Guardian.com

December 14, 2005

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theguardian

Length: 499 words

Highlight: Thousands of Lebanese Christians and Muslims today joined the funeral cortege of the murdered

journalist Gibran Tueni to protest against the Syrian leaders blamed for the bombing that killed him.

Body

Thousands of Lebanese Christians and Muslims today joined the funeral cortege of the murdered journalist Gibran Tueni to protest against the Syrian leaders blamed for the bombing that killed him.

A general strike called in mourning for Mr Tueni - a politician who published the liberal newspaper An Nahar - was widely respected, with banks, businesses and schools closing their doors for the day.

Hundreds of Lebanese troops and police took up position in a central square where, earlier this year, around 1 million people heard Mr Tueni call for the withdrawal of Syrian forces from Lebanon.

"Everyone who takes to the street is saying 'enough killing'," Ghenwa Jalloul, a Lebanese politician, said.

Mr Tueni, an outspoken critic of Syria, was killed by a car bomb as he was being driven to work through an industrial suburb of Beirut on Monday.

He was the fourth anti-Syrian figure to be killed since a series of bombings began with the assassination of the former prime minister, Rafik Hariri, in February.

A previously unknown group has claimed responsibility for the blast that killed Mr Tueni and two bodyguards and wounded 30 other people. However, the journalist's colleagues and political allies have blamed Syria, which has denied involvement.

In the Beirut district of Ashrafieh, which Mr Tueni represented in parliament, several thousand people marched behind his coffin and those of his bodyguards.

Others waited outside the offices of An Nahar, in the city centre, where a giant portrait of him hung from the side of the building. Men, <u>women</u> and children waved Lebanese flags and held pictures of Mr Tueni. Many shouted slogans against Syria and its president, Bashar Assad.

In a special session of parliament, tributes came from allies and opponents alike. "The glory is yours," the speaker, Nabih Berri, said as he recalled a person "fond of arguing".

Thousands protest at journalist's funeral

The leader of the <u>Hezbollah</u> bloc, Mohammed Raad, said Mr Tueni was a man of "courageous word and uncompromising position".

The strike called by anti-Syrian groups in mourning for Mr Tueni was observed not only in Beirut, but also in the southern provincial capital, Sidon, and the mountains of central Lebanon.

However, in eastern Lebanon, where pro-Syrian groups are dominant, the strike call was ignored.

Yesterday, a leading anti-Syrian politician, Walid Jumblatt, demanded regime change in Syria - the first time such a prominent figure has made such comments.

"This time this regime should change .and. should be tried," Mr Jumblatt told CNN. "This guy in Damascus .Assad. is sick. If he stays, we won't have stability in the Middle East."

He later toned down his remarks, telling Lebanon's LBC television: "I do not interfere in the affairs of that regime."

Today's strike came a day after the UN security council heard the chief UN investigator into the Hariri assassination say the latest evidence had strengthened his conviction that Syrian and Lebanese intelligence officials were implicated. Syria has denied involvement in the killing.

Load-Date: December 14, 2005



UN appeals for \$150M in cash; U.S. set to deliver aid in Lebanon

Ottawa Citizen
July 25, 2006 Tuesday
EARLY Edition

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Section: NEWS; Pg. A6

Length: 405 words

Byline: Steven Edwards at the United Nations and Sheldon Alberts in Washington, The Ottawa Citizen

Body

The United Nations yesterday appealed for \$150 million U.S. from donor countries to pay for emergency humanitarian aid, saying more than 600,000 people had been driven from their homes in Lebanon and Israel.

The U.S. said yesterday it would send \$30 million U.S., while Saudi Arabia has pledged \$50 million, Kuwait \$20 million, United Arab Emirates \$20 million and Morocco \$5 million.

The White House also said U.S. ships and helicopters will begin delivering aid to Lebanon as early as today.

"At the order of the president, humanitarian supplies will start arriving in Lebanon tomorrow by helicopter and by ship," White House press secretary Tony Snow said yesterday. "We are working with Israel and Lebanon to open up humanitarian corridors."

The aid package "is designed in recognition of the fact that innocent men, <u>women</u> and children are being hurt," Mr. Snow said. "We have compassion for all of them, and we want to start giving them as much help and aid as possible, as quickly as possible."

The U.S. assistance will be delivered from Cyprus to Beirut, using ships that had been involved in evacuating American citizens from Lebanon over the past week. Officials said the American assistance included immediately supplies of 100,000 medical kits, 20,000 blankets and 2,000 plastic sheet rolls.

As chairman of a UN body that helps countries work together to deliver humanitarian aid, Gilbert Laurin, Canada's deputy UN ambassador, called on Middle Eastern countries to also contribute.

"It is our hope that non-traditional donors from the region will work with the UN and allocate funds for the UN and (Red Cross)," he said.

Last week, Canada kicked off its contribution with \$1 million Cdn, split between the UN and the Red Cross, and was yesterday working out how to respond to the bigger appeal.

From Lebanon, UN emergency relief chief Jan Egeland said destruction of infrastructure by Israeli offensives had been "far worse" than in other wars, a statement disputed by senior Israeli officials.

In New York, Mr. Egeland's deputy, Margareta Wawstrom, said the UN would fly in supplies from Cyprus, and was also seeking to have the road from Damascus to Beirut declared a "safe corridor," despite claims by Israel that the Syrians have used the route to deliver weapons to <u>Hezbollah</u> in Lebanon.

Ms. Wawstrom said people in southern Lebanon were most in need of aid, but fuel, medicine and food shortages would soon be acute in Beirut.

Graphic

Colour Photo: This image taken from video made by Lebanese Red Cross workers on Sunday, and made available to AP Television, shows the roof of a Red Cross ambulance damaged in what they say was an Israeli airstrike. They said nine ambulance workers were wounded in the explosion as they tried to ferry injured people from the town of Qana.

Load-Date: July 25, 2006