

Date and Time: Thursday, May 2, 2024 12:42:00PM EEST

Job Number: 223336504

Documents (100)

1. [*Hamas may join talks*](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language - Expanded Results

Narrowed by:

Content Type
News

Narrowed by
Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Jan 01, 1987 to Dec 31, 1997

2. [*Palestinians find Hamas bomb factory*](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language - Expanded Results

Narrowed by:

Content Type
News

Narrowed by
Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Jan 01, 1987 to Dec 31, 1997

3. [*ISRAEL WARNS PLO: NO MILITARY LINK WITH HAMAS*](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language - Expanded Results

Narrowed by:

Content Type
News

Narrowed by
Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Jan 01, 1987 to Dec 31, 1997

4. [*Hamas founder gets hero's welcome*](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language - Expanded Results

Narrowed by:

Content Type
News

Narrowed by
Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Jan 01, 1987 to Dec 31, 1997

5. [*Gaza turns out to cheer Hamas founder gets fervent welcome*](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language - Expanded Results

Narrowed by:

Content Type
News

Narrowed by
Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Jan 01, 1987 to
Dec 31, 1997

6. [*Hammas rally draws 15,000 supporters*](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language - Expanded Results

Narrowed by:

Content Type
News

Narrowed by
Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Jan 01, 1987 to
Dec 31, 1997

7. [*Ex-Hamas Group Forms Nonviolent Party With Arafat Backing*](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language - Expanded Results

Narrowed by:

Content Type
News

Narrowed by
Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Jan 01, 1987 to
Dec 31, 1997

8. [*Hammas boasts of 'revenge' killings*](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language - Expanded Results

Narrowed by:

Content Type
News

Narrowed by
Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Jan 01, 1987 to
Dec 31, 1997

9. [*Hammas leader back in Gaza Strip strip strip*](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language - Expanded Results

Narrowed by:

Content Type
News

Narrowed by
Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Jan 01, 1987 to
Dec 31, 1997

10. [*Save Hamas man or spies die*](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language - Expanded Results

Narrowed by:

Content Type
News

Narrowed by
Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Jan 01, 1987 to Dec 31, 1997

11. [Hamas leader held in wake of bombing](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language - Expanded Results

Narrowed by:

Content Type
News

Narrowed by
Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Jan 01, 1987 to Dec 31, 1997

12. [In Fury, Hamas Leader Masks His Intentions](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language - Expanded Results

Narrowed by:

Content Type
News

Narrowed by
Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Jan 01, 1987 to Dec 31, 1997

13. [HAMAS OFFERS HELP TO PALESTINIAN POLICE IN SELF RULE](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language - Expanded Results

Narrowed by:

Content Type
News

Narrowed by
Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Jan 01, 1987 to Dec 31, 1997

14. [Paradise the bait for Hamas bombers](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language - Expanded Results

Narrowed by:

Content Type
News

Narrowed by
Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Jan 01, 1987 to Dec 31, 1997

15. [Bir Zeit students defy Hamas and Arafat](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language - Expanded Results

Narrowed by:

Content Type
News

Narrowed by
Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Jan 01, 1987 to Dec 31, 1997

16. [Gaza Rally Blames Israel for Blast; Police Call It Hamas Accident](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language - Expanded Results

Narrowed by:

Content Type
News

Narrowed by
Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Jan 01, 1987 to Dec 31, 1997

17. [Hamas chief calls for unity in war with Israel](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language - Expanded Results

Narrowed by:

Content Type
News

Narrowed by
Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Jan 01, 1987 to Dec 31, 1997

18. [Arafat answers critics with Hamas purge](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language - Expanded Results

Narrowed by:

Content Type
News

Narrowed by
Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Jan 01, 1987 to Dec 31, 1997

19. [Hamas backers fill West Bank rally with furious anti- Israeli rhetoric](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language - Expanded Results

Narrowed by:

Content Type
News

Narrowed by
Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Jan 01, 1987 to Dec 31, 1997

20. [Sheik Vows to Continue the Hamas Holy War Against Israel](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language - Expanded Results

Narrowed by:

Content Type
News

Narrowed by
Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Jan 01, 1987 to Dec 31, 1997

21. [Chief rabbi in peace plea to Hamas leader](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language - Expanded Results

Narrowed by:

Content Type
News

Narrowed by
Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Jan 01, 1987 to Dec 31, 1997

22. [MIDDLE EAST: Slain Hamas militant on display](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language - Expanded Results

Narrowed by:

Content Type
News

Narrowed by
Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Jan 01, 1987 to Dec 31, 1997

23. [IT'S UP TO PALESTINIAN ARABS TO REIN IN THE MURDEROUS HAMAS](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language - Expanded Results

Narrowed by:

Content Type
News

Narrowed by
Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Jan 01, 1987 to Dec 31, 1997

24. [Palestinians help in Hamas bust: Work with Israelis to break suspected cell](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language - Expanded Results

Narrowed by:

Content Type
News

Narrowed by
Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Jan 01, 1987 to Dec 31, 1997

25. [Jews 'have nothing here' * HAMAS LEADER SPEAKS Middle East](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language - Expanded Results

Narrowed by:

Content Type
News

Narrowed by
Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Jan 01, 1987 to Dec 31, 1997

26. [ISRAEL, PALESTINIANS BREAK TERRORIST CASE; HAMAS CELL TIED TO KILLINGS, BOMBING AND KIDNAPPING](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language - Expanded Results

Narrowed by:

Content Type
News

Narrowed by
Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Jan 01, 1987 to Dec 31, 1997

27. [Hamas Leader May Be Spared Extradition](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language - Expanded Results

Narrowed by:

Content Type
News

Narrowed by
Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Jan 01, 1987 to Dec 31, 1997

28. [Hamas climbs bloody pole to lead Palestinian revolt](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language - Expanded Results

Narrowed by:

Content Type
News

Narrowed by
Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Jan 01, 1987 to Dec 31, 1997

29. [HAMAS LEADER TALKS TOUGH; SHEIK YASSIN VOWS NOT TO ABANDON THE HOLY WAR AGAINST ISRAEL](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language - Expanded Results

Narrowed by:

Content Type
News

Narrowed by
Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Jan 01, 1987 to Dec 31, 1997

30. [Palestinians help Israelis find body: Joint forces crack cell of Hamas militants](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language - Expanded Results

Narrowed by:

Content Type
News

Narrowed by
Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Jan 01, 1987 to Dec 31, 1997

31. [Hamas founder gets hero's welcome in Gaza: Netanyahu under fire for approving disastrous assassination attempt](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language - Expanded Results

Narrowed by:

Content Type
News

Narrowed by
Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Jan 01, 1987 to Dec 31, 1997

32. [Top Hamas bomb maker killed 'The Engineer' dies when cellular phone explodes](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language - Expanded Results

Narrowed by:

Content Type
News

Narrowed by
Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Jan 01, 1987 to Dec 31, 1997

33. [Israel backs down on demand for extradition of Hamas member: Suspected bomber in U.S. jail likely to be returned to Jordan](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language - Expanded Results

Narrowed by:

Content Type
News

Narrowed by
Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Jan 01, 1987 to Dec 31, 1997

34. [HAMAS SUICIDE BOMB KILLS 8 GROUP SAYS BUS ATTACK IN ISRAEL AVENGES MASSACRE IN HEBRON](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language - Expanded Results

Narrowed by:

Content Type
News

Narrowed by
Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Jan 01, 1987 to Dec 31, 1997

35. [A HISTORIC SESSION IN GAZA< LOOMING OVER THE LAWMAKERS' TRIUMPH: HAMAS' BOMBINGS.](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language - Expanded Results

Narrowed by:

Content Type
News

Narrowed by
Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Jan 01, 1987 to Dec 31, 1997

36. [PALESTINIAN POLICE ARREST LEADER OF NEW ISLAMIC PARTY SET UP BY HAMAS< HE HAD JUST VISITED ARAFAT. THE PARTY DECRIES VIOLENCE,< BUT MANY OF ITS LEADERS HAVE BEEN JAILED IN ISRAEL .](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language - Expanded Results

Narrowed by:

Content Type
News

Narrowed by
Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Jan 01, 1987 to Dec 31, 1997

37. [FOLLOWING THE CARNAGE, ISRAELIS ASK: WHOSE FAULT? / ARAFAT HAS DENIED APPROVING TERRORIST ACTIVITY. HE DID RECENTLY FREE HAMAS MEMBERS.](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language - Expanded Results

Narrowed by:

Content Type
News

Narrowed by
Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Jan 01, 1987 to Dec 31, 1997

38. [Did Arafat give a green light to terror?; The Palestinians say their security services are not a client militia and they will not restrain Hamas without a quid pro quo](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language - Expanded Results

Narrowed by:

Content Type
News

Narrowed by
Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Jan 01, 1987 to Dec 31, 1997

39. [Joint agencies bust Hamas terror cell](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language - Expanded Results

Narrowed by:

Content Type
News

Narrowed by
Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Jan 01, 1987 to Dec 31, 1997

40. [ATTACKS IN ISRAEL SINCE PEACE ACCORD](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language - Expanded Results

Narrowed by:

Content Type
News

Narrowed by
Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Jan 01, 1987 to

Dec 31, 1997

41. [*Hamas rocks to message of holy war: MEN ONLY: Stag night is an evening of promoting fundamentalist dogma.*](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language - Expanded Results

Narrowed by:

Content Type
News

Narrowed by
Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Jan 01, 1987 to Dec 31, 1997

42. [*Hamas fighter broke mould of typical suicide bomber*](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language - Expanded Results

Narrowed by:

Content Type
News

Narrowed by
Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Jan 01, 1987 to Dec 31, 1997

43. [*Murder of Hamas sheikh suits each side in Algerian tragedy; Robert Fisk reports from Blida on the mystery surrounding the abduction and killing of a popular Islamic leader*](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language - Expanded Results

Narrowed by:

Content Type
News

Narrowed by
Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Jan 01, 1987 to Dec 31, 1997

44. [*MIDEAST TALKS TO GO ON DESPITE BOMBING / AT LEAST FIVE PEOPLE WERE KILLED WHEN A JERUSALEM BUS WAS TORN APART. HAMAS CLAIMED RESPONSIBILITY.*](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language - Expanded Results

Narrowed by:

Content Type
News

Narrowed by
Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Jan 01, 1987 to Dec 31, 1997

45. [*Israel fears massive terror attack during American talks*](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language - Expanded Results

Narrowed by:

Content Type

Narrowed by

News

Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Jan 01, 1987 to Dec 31, 1997

46. [ROOTS OF TERROR: A special report.; Alms and Arms: Tactics in a Holy War](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language - Expanded Results

Narrowed by:

Content Type
News

Narrowed by
Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Jan 01, 1987 to Dec 31, 1997

47. [Peace foes are winning in Mideast](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language - Expanded Results

Narrowed by:

Content Type
News

Narrowed by
Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Jan 01, 1987 to Dec 31, 1997

48. [Suicide bombs kill 8 in Gaza; Islamic Jihad and a wing of Hamas claim responsibility for the two separate attacks](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language - Expanded Results

Narrowed by:

Content Type
News

Narrowed by
Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Jan 01, 1987 to Dec 31, 1997

49. [Arafat, Backed by Israel , Offers an Olive Branch to Militants](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language - Expanded Results

Narrowed by:

Content Type
News

Narrowed by
Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Jan 01, 1987 to Dec 31, 1997

50. [Warning of 'civil war' in Gaza strip](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language - Expanded Results

Narrowed by:

Content Type
News

Narrowed by
Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Jan 01, 1987 to Dec 31, 1997

51. [Brotherhood of Anger -- A special report.; Palestinian Religious Militants: Why Their Ranks Are Growing](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language - Expanded Results

Narrowed by:

Content Type
News

Narrowed by
Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Jan 01, 1987 to Dec 31, 1997

52. [Gaza Gives Freed Sheik Welcome Fit for a Hero](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language - Expanded Results

Narrowed by:

Content Type
News

Narrowed by
Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Jan 01, 1987 to Dec 31, 1997

53. [Hamas political leader says he might be sent to Jordan](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language - Expanded Results

Narrowed by:

Content Type
News

Narrowed by
Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Jan 01, 1987 to Dec 31, 1997

54. [DOCTOR SAID TO MOONLIGHT AS TERRORIST](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language - Expanded Results

Narrowed by:

Content Type
News

Narrowed by
Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Jan 01, 1987 to Dec 31, 1997

55. [ALBRIGHT ASKS ARABS TO FORSAKE MILITANTS / SHE URGED THEM TO STOP SENDING AID TO HAMAS / AND OTHERS. THERE WAS ALSO THE WOMEN'S ISSUE.](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language - Expanded Results

Narrowed by:

Content Type
News

Narrowed by
Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Jan 01, 1987 to Dec 31, 1997

56. [*Mystery Surrounds Identities Of Two Jerusalem Bombers*](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language - Expanded Results

Narrowed by:

Content Type
News

Narrowed by
Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Jan 01, 1987 to Dec 31, 1997

57. [*Militants' 'mercy bullet' to peace*](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language - Expanded Results

Narrowed by:

Content Type
News

Narrowed by
Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Jan 01, 1987 to Dec 31, 1997

58. [*Death squad raided*](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language - Expanded Results

Narrowed by:

Content Type
News

Narrowed by
Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Jan 01, 1987 to Dec 31, 1997

59. [*ARAFAT'S DANCE: SOOTHE THE RADICALS AND TALK TO ISRAEL*](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language - Expanded Results

Narrowed by:

Content Type
News

Narrowed by
Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Jan 01, 1987 to Dec 31, 1997

60. [*Arafat infuriates Israel but he's the safer choice*](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language - Expanded Results

Narrowed by:

Content Type
News

Narrowed by
Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Jan 01, 1987 to Dec 31, 1997

61. [*Peace deadlock revives hopes of extremists: Holy war revisited: With the way of peace blocked, violent militants seek to regain their lost influence.*](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language - Expanded Results

Narrowed by:

Content Type
News

Narrowed by
Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Jan 01, 1987 to
Dec 31, 1997

62. [A VOLATILE MIX FUELING SUICIDE BOMBERS< A LIFE STEEPED IN RELIGION, POVERTY AND< HATRED TOWARD ISRAEL PROVES IDEAL FOR HAMAS RECRUITERS.](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language - Expanded Results

Narrowed by:

Content Type
News

Narrowed by
Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Jan 01, 1987 to
Dec 31, 1997

63. [Gaza ready to enjoy its new freedom](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language - Expanded Results

Narrowed by:

Content Type
News

Narrowed by
Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Jan 01, 1987 to
Dec 31, 1997

64. [Violence sweeps Gaza despite truce; teen dies](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language - Expanded Results

Narrowed by:

Content Type
News

Narrowed by
Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Jan 01, 1987 to
Dec 31, 1997

65. [ISRAEL LEVELS THE HOUSE OF SLAIN BOMBER](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language - Expanded Results

Narrowed by:

Content Type
News

Narrowed by
Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Jan 01, 1987 to
Dec 31, 1997

66. [ISRAELIS INTENSIFY WAR ON MILITANTS](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language - Expanded Results

Narrowed by:

Content Type
News

Narrowed by
Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Jan 01, 1987 to Dec 31, 1997

67. [FOR MANY IN GAZA, MILITANTS ARE HEROES ARAFAT FACES A CHALLENGE: HE MUST WORK WITH ISRAEL AND KEEP THE TRUST OF HIS OWN PEOPLE.](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language - Expanded Results

Narrowed by:

Content Type
News

Narrowed by
Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Jan 01, 1987 to Dec 31, 1997

68. [SCORES ARE HURT IN MIDEAST CLASH](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language - Expanded Results

Narrowed by:

Content Type
News

Narrowed by
Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Jan 01, 1987 to Dec 31, 1997

69. [Hebron violence stings peace bid](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language - Expanded Results

Narrowed by:

Content Type
News

Narrowed by
Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Jan 01, 1987 to Dec 31, 1997

70. ['SORDID BUSINESS IN JORDAN ' RAISES POLITICAL RUCKUS : 10,000 CHEER LEADER'S; RETURN: NETANYAHU'S CLOUT WITH ARAFAT LESSENS](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language - Expanded Results

Narrowed by:

Content Type
News

Narrowed by
Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Jan 01, 1987 to Dec 31, 1997

71. [Israel attacks Arafat for hugging radicals](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language - Expanded Results

Narrowed by:

Content Type
News

Narrowed by
Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Jan 01, 1987 to Dec 31, 1997

72. [Palestinians demand 'big attack'](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language - Expanded Results

Narrowed by:

Content Type
News

Narrowed by
Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Jan 01, 1987 to Dec 31, 1997

73. [AWAITING PROSPERITY, GAZANS STARTING TO HAVE MORE FUN](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language - Expanded Results

Narrowed by:

Content Type
News

Narrowed by
Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Jan 01, 1987 to Dec 31, 1997

74. [MORE CLASHES IN MIDEAST](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language - Expanded Results

Narrowed by:

Content Type
News

Narrowed by
Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Jan 01, 1987 to Dec 31, 1997

75. [Bloodshed a blow to peace](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language - Expanded Results

Narrowed by:

Content Type
News

Narrowed by
Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Jan 01, 1987 to Dec 31, 1997

76. [NIGHTLIFE RETURNING TO GAZA](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language - Expanded Results

Narrowed by:

Content Type
News

Narrowed by

Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Jan 01, 1987 to Dec 31, 1997

77. [Arrest after cafe killings](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language - Expanded Results

Narrowed by:

Content Type
News

Narrowed by

Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Jan 01, 1987 to Dec 31, 1997

78. [Suicide bomber deals blow to peace process](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language - Expanded Results

Narrowed by:

Content Type
News

Narrowed by

Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Jan 01, 1987 to Dec 31, 1997

79. [BOMBINGS CONDEMNED](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language - Expanded Results

Narrowed by:

Content Type
News

Narrowed by

Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Jan 01, 1987 to Dec 31, 1997

80. [PALESTINIANS KILL 2 ISRAELIS ON BUS / AMBUSH IS BLAMED ON HAMAS](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language - Expanded Results

Narrowed by:

Content Type
News

Narrowed by

Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Jan 01, 1987 to Dec 31, 1997

81. [Middle East](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language - Expanded Results

Narrowed by:

Content Type

Narrowed by

News

Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Jan 01, 1987 to Dec 31, 1997

82. [Israelis shot in new blow to peace deal; INTERNATIONAL](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language - Expanded Results

Narrowed by:

Content Type
News

Narrowed by
Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Jan 01, 1987 to Dec 31, 1997

83. [Bombers play a guessing game](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language - Expanded Results

Narrowed by:

Content Type
News

Narrowed by
Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Jan 01, 1987 to Dec 31, 1997

84. [Palestinians rent asunder by veil issue](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language - Expanded Results

Narrowed by:

Content Type
News

Narrowed by
Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Jan 01, 1987 to Dec 31, 1997

85. [ARAFAT'S COPS HELP ISRAELIS](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language - Expanded Results

Narrowed by:

Content Type
News

Narrowed by
Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Jan 01, 1987 to Dec 31, 1997

86. [U.S. ponders next step as tensions escalate](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language - Expanded Results

Narrowed by:

Content Type
News

Narrowed by
Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Jan 01, 1987 to Dec 31, 1997

87. [In Gaza Strip, most-wanted fugitive trips Mideast peace](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language - Expanded Results

Narrowed by:

Content Type
News

Narrowed by
Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Jan 01, 1987 to Dec 31, 1997

88. [Israel to free 1,200 jailed Palestinians; Move is seen as honoring accord with PLO, but others call it too little too late.](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language - Expanded Results

Narrowed by:

Content Type
News

Narrowed by
Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Jan 01, 1987 to Dec 31, 1997

89. [Israel braces for second suicide strike](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language - Expanded Results

Narrowed by:

Content Type
News

Narrowed by
Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Jan 01, 1987 to Dec 31, 1997

90. [IN HOT SPOTS OF MIDEAST, SIGNS OF COOPERATION](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language - Expanded Results

Narrowed by:

Content Type
News

Narrowed by
Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Jan 01, 1987 to Dec 31, 1997

91. [Israeli Arab stabs Toronto woman, child](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language - Expanded Results

Narrowed by:

Content Type
News

Narrowed by
Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Jan 01, 1987 to Dec 31, 1997

92. [ISRAELIS TO BEGIN PRISONER RELEASE](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language - Expanded Results

Narrowed by:

Content Type
News

Narrowed by
Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Jan 01, 1987 to Dec 31, 1997

93. [Violence flares in wake of bomb](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language - Expanded Results

Narrowed by:

Content Type
News

Narrowed by
Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Jan 01, 1987 to Dec 31, 1997

94. [PLO radicals bend towards pragmatism](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language - Expanded Results

Narrowed by:

Content Type
News

Narrowed by
Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Jan 01, 1987 to Dec 31, 1997

95. [FOES WORK TO ARREST MILITANTS](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language - Expanded Results

Narrowed by:

Content Type
News

Narrowed by
Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Jan 01, 1987 to Dec 31, 1997

96. [ISRAELI FIRE WOUNDS DOZENS OF PALESTINIAN DEMONSTRATORS demonstrators demonstrators](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language - Expanded Results

Narrowed by:

Content Type
News

Narrowed by
Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Jan 01, 1987 to Dec 31, 1997

97. [GROUP LEADER ARRESTED IN BOMBING CASE LEADER OF MILITANT ISLAMIC GROUP CHARGED WITH DEATHS OF THREE](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language - Expanded Results

Narrowed by:

Content Type
News

Narrowed by
Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Jan 01, 1987 to
Dec 31, 1997

98. [MILITANTS DEFIANT AFTER BLASTS](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language - Expanded Results

Narrowed by:

Content Type
News

Narrowed by
Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Jan 01, 1987 to
Dec 31, 1997

99. [War threat to Arafat; Militants rage as Gaza police go in with guns blazing](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language - Expanded Results

Narrowed by:

Content Type
News

Narrowed by
Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Jan 01, 1987 to
Dec 31, 1997

100. [Palestinian police arrest 112 militants Arafat cracks down in the wake of bombings that killed 8](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language - Expanded Results

Narrowed by:

Content Type
News

Narrowed by
Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Jan 01, 1987 to
Dec 31, 1997

Hamas may join talks

Guardian Weekly

October 15, 1995

Copyright 1995 Guardian Publication, Ltd.

Section: INTERNATIONAL NEWS; Pg. 3

Length: 355 words

Byline: Derek Brown in Jerusalem

Body

IN AN unprecedented gesture towards the militant group **Hamas**, Israel and the Palestine Liberation Organisation last week allowed a delegation from the Islamist organisation to travel to Sudan for talks on Palestinian self-rule.

Five key members of **Hamas** were allowed to cross into Egypt via the Rafah crossing point, jointly controlled by Israel and the PLO, at the southern end of the Gaza Strip. They were said by Israel Radio to be carrying draft proposals, to be submitted to the leadership in exile, for co-operation with the self-rule Palestinian Authority, dominated by the PLO.

The proposals are said to include a pledge not to launch any further attacks on Israeli targets from territory controlled by the PLO in the Gaza Strip and the West Bank.

The **Hamas** leadership, concentrated in Gaza, is divided on how far to co-operate with the PLO. One faction wants to participate in next year's Palestinian elections and to build the movement's political base. Another group rejects the self-rule agreement and wants no part in it.

It was not clear whether the military wing of **Hamas**, responsible for taking many Israeli lives in suicide bombings and other attacks in the past two years, was represented in the delegation bound for Khartoum.

In the Gaza Strip, the PLO has relaxed its recent hard stand against the Islamists by promising to release several **Hamas** men from prison, and by allowing the **Hamas** weekly paper al-Watan to resume publication.

In Jerusalem last week, President Ezer Weizman announced that he would not commute the sentences of two Palestinian **women** convicted of murder. Israel had promised to release all **female** prisoners as part of its latest deal with the PLO on extending self-rule in the West Bank.

Israel confirmed on Monday that more than 1,000 men would be freed this week, under the terms of the September 24 agreement. But those terms have already been rewritten, with the repudiation of a promise to release all 27 **women** detainees.

The row came to a head on Tuesday, with many of the 1,000-plus men due for release refusing to leave prison until all the **women** are freed. considered a trustworthy politician.

Load-Date: October 25, 1995

Hamas may join talks

End of Document

Palestinians find Hamas bomb factory

The Times

July 22, 1997, Tuesday

Copyright 1997 Times Newspapers Limited

Section: Overseas news

Length: 477 words

Byline: From Christopher Walker in Jerusalem

Body

YASSIR ARAFAT'S Palestinian police yesterday revealed details of what was claimed as "the largest Hamas factory of explosive devices" ever uncovered, found in an apartment building close to the self-rule Arab town of Bethlehem.

The haul, whose size and deadly potential has underlined the seriousness of the uneasy security situation, included nine huge explosive devices ready for use and clothing and uniform intended to disguise the would-be bombers as Jews. According to the Palestinian police, who have been under pressure from Israel to crack down on Islamic militants vowing a new campaign of revenge against posters depicting Prophet Muhammad as a pig, the bomb factory contained Jewish prayer shawls and skull caps, wigs and Israeli army uniforms.

Palestine Liberation Organisation officials and Israeli security chiefs claim that suicide bombers indoctrinated by Hamas and Islamic Jihad often pose as religious Jews or Israeli soldiers to get closer to their Jewish quarry before detonating devices designed to cause carnage. Recently, Israeli-style disguises have also been used when Palestinian groups were mounting kidnapping exercises. Israeli soldiers or civilians are lured into Israeli-registered cars which they think are being driven by Jews.

"The stuff that is ready to be used is 30kg, but we found many other raw materials and equipment," Colonel Kamal al-Sheikh, the Bethlehem area police chief, said. He linked the discovery on Sunday to Issa Khalil Shouka, 41, a leading Hamas activist, who was killed last week in the same area of the West Bank when a bomb he was making blew up in his hands.

"We found in an apartment building in Beit Sahour (near Bethlehem) a store of explosives and equipment to make explosives. We believe they belong to Hamas," the colonel said. "We found TNT, hydrogen, chemicals, acids, timers and watches as well. Only experts can prepare these explosives. They are similar to the ones we found after Shouka blew himself up."

Commenting on the find, welcomed by Israeli officials, the Tel Aviv daily Yediot Aharonot said: "The temporary respite from terrorist attacks has given the illusion that Hamas has deserted the path of terror. However, the big laboratory full of explosives uncovered by Palestinian intelligence yesterday, and the arrest of hundreds of Hamas activists in the last few months, testify that without preventive intelligence, terror would be rampant." The last suicide bombing was in April when three Israeli women were killed, as well as the bomber who blew up a crowded cafe in Tel Aviv.

Palestinians find Hamas bomb factory

As the Israeli-PLO peace process remained deadlocked, David Levy, the Israeli Foreign Minister, said last night that he would meet Mr Arafat today at a European Union meeting in Brussels. The initiative comes as part of an EU attempt to break the four-month-old stalemate in Middle East peacemaking.

Load-Date: July 23, 1997

End of Document

ISRAEL WARNS PLO: NO MILITARY LINK WITH HAMAS

Salt Lake Tribune (Utah)

April 18, 1994, Monday

Copyright 1994 The Salt Lake Tribune

Section: Nation-World; Pg. A5

Length: 461 words

Byline: THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Dateline: JERUSALEM

Body

-- Israel will strongly oppose any military cooperation between the PLO and a militant Muslim group that has claimed responsibility for two suicide bomb attacks this month, Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin said Sunday.

The warning came amid reports that the Islamic Resistance Movement, or Hamas, had held meetings with officials of PLO leader Yasser Arafat's mainstream Fatah faction in the West Bank and Gaza Strip.

Reports carried by state-owned radio and other Israeli media said Hamas sought Fatah's agreement to continue attacks inside Israel. But Palestinians said the meetings focused on arrangements between the two rivals after self-rule starts in the Gaza Strip and the West Bank town of Jericho.

"Israel will thoroughly check the reports of cooperation, and if there is any truth to it, Israel will be strongly against it," Rabin spokesman Oded Ben-Ami quoted the prime minister as telling the weekly meeting of his Cabinet.

Rabin later told reporters after a meeting of his Labor Party, "I don't consider it possible that we will reach agreement with the PLO if it reaches agreement with Hamas to avoid a civil war but allows attacks on Israelis."

Hamas, which enjoys significant support among Palestinians, is the leading opponent of the Israeli-PLO accord. The agreement provides for an Israeli withdrawal and Palestinian autonomy in Gaza and Jericho, but has been held up for months by violence and disputes over security arrangements.

Israel and the PLO have predicted that self-rule could begin by June.

Hamas wants assurances from the PLO that it will be permitted to continue attacks within Israel after autonomy begins, Israel radio reported Sunday, citing Palestinian sources. The PLO has rejected the demand, the radio said.

A meeting between Arafat and a Hamas leader, Ibrahim Abu Marzouk, in Sudan last year collapsed after Arafat rejected Hamas demands for a large share of power in the PLO. There have been no known attempts since then to reconcile the two groups.

However, a senior Fatah official told The Associated Press there had been talks with Hamas about local issues such as how to handle land disputes, control welfare institutions, share power in the Gaza municipality and prevent friction between Hamas and the PLO.

The official, who demanded anonymity, said there had been about 20 meetings in recent months.

ISRAEL WARNS PLO: NO MILITARY LINK WITH HAMAS

Sufian Abu Ziad, a top Fatah official in the Gaza Strip, told Israel Radio that there was "nothing new" in the negotiations but that Fatah rejected any independent **Hamas** military operations against Israel.

Hamas has claimed responsibility for two bus bombings that have killed 12 Israelis since April 6. It has threatened three more attacks to avenge the Feb. 25 Hebron mosque massacre in which 30 Muslims were slain by a Jewish settler.

Graphic

The Associated Press Palestinian **women** leans against graffiti-covered wall of the Nebi Moussa mosque near Jericho.

Load-Date: April 14, 1995

End of Document

Hamas founder gets hero's welcome

The Record (Kitchener-Waterloo, Ontario)

October 7, 1997 Tuesday Final Edition

Copyright 1997 Metroland Media Group Ltd

Section: FRONT; Pg. A6; News

Length: 567 words

Dateline: GAZA STRIP

Body

Sheik Ahmed Yassin, the spiritual leader of Palestinian suicide bombers, was given a tumultuous reception when he returned to the Gaza Strip on Monday as part of an Israeli swap of prisoners that secured the freedom of two Mossad agents arrested in Jordan.

At almost the same time U.S.-prodded Israeli-PLO talks resumed after months of crisis.

A defiant Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu, under withering criticism for ordering Mossad secret agents to assassinate Hamas political chief Khaled Meshal in Jordan last month, appointed a "clarification committee" Monday to probe the attack.

DAILY TELEGRAPH

Netanyahu took responsibility, defending the attempted killing as just but ducking any discussion of details.

As well as Yassin, who has served eight years of a life sentence, Israel released 22 other prisoners and may free up to 50 more in the coming weeks.

The exchange was part of a deal that included concessions on the peace negotiations, according to diplomats. A senior Jordanian official said King Hussein had decided to release the two agents who attempted the assassination, showing "the whole world, and Israeli public opinion in particular, irrefutable proof of Israel's involvement in this attack."

The discovery the two agents carried forged or altered Canadian passports prompted Ottawa to recall the Canadian ambassador to Israel in protest.

Besieged by criticism, Netanyahu said Israel would continue to hunt down terrorist leaders.

"Are we an insurance company which guarantees success?" he asked. "At any time, at any hour and in any place we must act against terrorism and we shall act against terrorism."

Netanyahu said there was no choice but to strike at Meshal because he was directly implicated in two recent suicide bombings -- known as martyrdom operations by the Islamic militants -- which killed 21 Israelis.

The attack has upset Israel's relations with Jordan, strengthened the Islamic fundamentalist Hamas movement, founded by Yassin, and humiliated Israel's intelligence community.

Hamas founder gets hero's welcome

Yassin, confined to a wheelchair, was freed by Israel last week and allowed to fly home as part of an intricate swap to secure the freedom of the two Israelis.

Before leaving Jordan, where he was undergoing medical tests, Yassin said he considered his release "to be a positive indication. I will continue to be an advocate of peace."

His Jordanian military helicopter took off for Gaza at the same time as another aircraft carried the two Mossad men back to Israel.

In the Gaza Strip, about 10,000 people turned out to welcome Yassin in a football stadium.

Yassin's modest home in a poor neighborhood, Sabra, in Gaza, was given a fresh coat of paint, only to have brightly colored congratulatory messages sprayed over it.

"Islam is the answer," declared a banner.

Inside, in a segregated room, women of the family sat in a circle clapping and ululating while children danced.

Behind the festivities there is nervousness about what role Yassin will play in Hamas. His pronouncements, often moderate in tone, have contained enough ambiguity for supporters to justify hardline policies.

Some Israeli officials hope that Yassin will be able to use his prestige to persuade Hamas to declare a ceasefire. But the rank and file of Hamas is still wedded to the old militancy.

Posters of Yassin in Gaza depicted him against a background of an exploding army base and an assault rifle emerging from the word Hamas.

Graphic

Black & White Photo: Associated Press; Hamas leader Sheik Ahmed Yassin is adjusted in his wheelchair after greetings from thousands of supporters Monday.

Load-Date: September 21, 2002

Gaza turns out to cheer Hamas founder gets fervent welcome

The Gazette (Montreal, Quebec)

October 7, 1997, Tuesday, FINAL EDITION

Copyright 1997 CanWest Interactive, a division of CanWest Global Communications Corp. All Rights Reserved

Section: NEWS; Pg. A6

Length: 681 words

Byline: BARTON GELLMAN; WASHINGTON POST; AP

Dateline: GAZA CITY

Body

After eight years in Israeli cells, the ailing founder of Hamas returned home to a fervent welcome here yesterday, completing what has become a triumph for the militant Islamic organization over Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu following a botched assassination mission by Israeli agents in Jordan.

In an exchange of prisoners, Jordan freed two Israeli Mossad agents captured after the failed assassination of a Hamas leader based in Amman, and Israel released 20 Palestinian and Jordanian prisoners as well as Sheikh Ahmed Yassin, the Hamas founder, who was allowed to travel to Jordan for medical treatment last Wednesday before returning to Gaza yesterday. Israel also agreed to hand over 40 to 50 more prisoners in coming days.

The arrival here of Yassin, 61, a quadriplegic who formed Hamas - the Islamic Resistance Movement - in 1988, marked another in a series of boosts for the faction in the last week. The revival has discomfited Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat, who stayed away from Yassin's welcoming party yesterday. But it is all the more painful to Netanyahu, because his attempt to smite a deadly foe has rebounded so strongly against him.

Amid sharp criticism from the opposition and opinion leaders in the printed press, Netanyahu called a press conference in which he sought to justify the Sept. 25 poisoning of Hamas leader Khaled Meshal in Amman, the Jordanian capital, but he stopped short of acknowledging explicitly that it was he who ordered the attack.

"Hundreds of Israeli citizens were wounded," Netanyahu said, referring to two Hamas suicide attacks in Jerusalem last summer. "Twenty-one Israelis were murdered, among them men, women, and maybe the worst, children. These disgusting acts angered the entire Israeli population. These are criminal acts that no one is prepared to accept. As prime minister, I am obligated to fight this terror in any way.

"It's not a war of words," he said. "It's a war of actions. In this war we have many successes. ... Sometimes, however, as in any war, there are problems and there are failures. As prime minister, I take general responsibility for the war on terror, when we are successful and when we are unsuccessful."

A Hamas spokesman was in an ebullient mood. "If your enemy fails, it means you grow stronger," Hamas politburo member Mousa Abu Marzook said in an interview in Amman. "Now, after the head of our political bureau has been saved and the leader of Hamas, Sheikh Yassin, returns to Gaza, the Hamas organization will be stronger than any time before."

Gaza turns out to cheer Hamas founder gets fervent welcome

In Gaza's Yarmouk stadium, a soccer field of inch-deep dust with bleachers erected alongside, rhythmic drums and amplified chants preceded Yassin's late-afternoon arrival. The Hamas organizers carefully demonstrated respect for Arafat, displaying bedsheet-sized portraits of him almost as prominently as those of Yassin.

"Just as Yasser Arafat led the Palestinian revolution, so was Ahmed Yassin the symbol of struggle and Islamic revolution in Palestine," said Bassam Khatib, 35, one of several thousand supporters in the stadium.

Yassin, paralyzed as a teenager and revered as a religious teacher, has roots closer to the reformist Muslim Brotherhood than to the new generation of Islamic revolutionaries who have risen to influence in Hamas since his jailing in 1989.

What impact he will have on Hamas is hard to predict. His comments since being freed last week have been carefully ambiguous. In a hospital press conference in Amman yesterday, just before boarding a helicopter to Gaza, he described Palestinians as "peace seekers" but said that if peaceful methods fail, "We will never accept the occupation of our country."

In Jerusalem, U.S. mediator Dennis Ross launched a new round of Mideast peace talks yesterday, shuttling between Israeli and Palestinian leaders to set up the first talks in seven months.

Ross met last night with Israeli Foreign Minister David Levy and Arafat's deputy Mahmoud Abbas.

The purpose was to set up talks scheduled for today by lower-level negotiating committees.

Graphic

Photo: Yassin smiles on going home.

Photo: JACQUELINE LARMA, AP / At Yarmouk stadium, Palestinian dances to mark the return to Gaza of Hamas leader Sheikh Ahmed Yassin.

Load-Date: October 8, 1997

Hamas rally draws 15,000 supporters

Telegraph Herald (Dubuque, IA)

January 11, 1997, Saturday

Copyright 1997 Telegraph Herald

Section: National/World; Pg. b 10

Length: 548 words

Byline: Associated Press

Body

Memorial: Palestinians want 'big attack' on Israel

JERUSALEM (AP) - A day after pipe bomb explosions in Tel Aviv, a memorial rally Friday for a Muslim militant bomb maker drew 15,000 Palestinians who chanted, "We want a big attack" on Israel.

No Palestinian group has claimed responsibility for Thursday's twin bombs, packed with nails, which injured 13 people. A radical PLO faction suspected by Palestinian police denied involvement.

U.S.-brokered talks between Israel and the Palestinians remained deadlocked Friday over a timetable for an Israeli troop withdrawal from West Bank rural areas.

In Jerusalem, 3,000 Israeli police and paramilitary border police were on alert for attacks by Palestinian militants, patrolling near mosques and closing downtown streets as Muslims marked the start of the holy month of Ramadan.

This year, the start of Ramadan roughly coincided with the anniversary of the assassination of Yehiya Ayyash, the chief bomb maker of the Muslim militant group Hamas.

Ayyash was killed Jan. 5, 1996, by a bomb-rigged mobile phone in an operation widely attributed to Israel. In retaliation, Hamas carried out four suicide bombings last February and March, killing 63 people. Hamas has threatened fresh attacks to mark the anniversary.

In a sports stadium in the West Bank town of Nablus, about 15,000 Hamas supporters attended an Ayyash memorial rally.

A 15-foot-high drawing of Ayyash flanked by two rifles stood on the stage. Ayyash's 3-year-old son, Bara, was held up by his grandfather on stage.

"We want a big attack!" chanted the crowd.

"Netanyahu, prepare thousands of coffins, because many like Yehiya Ayyash will rise up," said a local Hamas leader, Maher Haraz.

Israeli troops traditionally are on higher alert for attacks during Ramadan, a month of heightened religious consciousness during which believers fast from dawn to dusk.

Hamas rally draws 15,000 supporters

Outside the Al Aqsa Mosque compound, police frisked young men and asked worshipers from the West Bank to deposit their identity cards in boxes at the gates until the end of prayers.

The prayer leader at Al Aqsa, Islam's third-holiest shrine, sharply attacked Israel in his sermon to about 70,000 faithful, including women wearing white head scarves and men in knitted prayer caps.

"Israel is beating the drums of war and aggression against Muslims and Islam," said Sheik Hamed Beitawi, a senior Hamas figure, in the sermon broadcast to Muslims around the world.

In Washington, State Department spokesman Nicholas Burns condemned Thursday's blasts in Tel Aviv. "We stand by Israel," Burns said.

The two pipe bombs were placed in trash cans in a slum area of south Tel Aviv, near an abandoned bus station.

Palestinian police initially told their Israeli counterparts the bombs were probably planted by members of the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine, a radical PLO faction that opposes the peace agreements with Israel.

But a PFLP spokesman in Damascus said Friday the group was not involved.

Netanyahu blamed Palestinian guerrillas, and said that if it turned out the assailants came from the autonomous Palestinian areas, Israel would not "carry on as though nothing had happened."

The two sides are fitfully negotiating a further Israeli withdrawal from Palestinian areas. Talks were set back after last spring's suicide bombings.

Load-Date: January 16, 1997

Ex-Hamas Group Forms Nonviolent Party With Arafat Backing

The New York Times

March 22, 1996, Friday, Late Edition - Final

Copyright 1996 The New York Times Company

Distribution: Foreign Desk

Section: Section A; ; Section A; Page 6; Column 1; Foreign Desk ; Column 1;

Length: 569 words

Byline: By SERGE SCHMEMANN

By SERGE SCHMEMANN

Dateline: GAZA, March 21

Body

A group of Islamic militants formerly associated with Hamas announced today that they had formed a new political party that shares Hamas's broad ideology but rejects the use of violence.

The party, the Islamic National Salvation Party, was formed with the active support of Yasir Arafat, president of the Palestinian Authority, who has tried and failed before to foster an Islamic opposition that would function openly within the authority.

The timing, when Hamas and Islamic militants are under pressure after the wave of suicide bombings in Israel, suggested an attempt by Islamic leaders opposed to Hamas's violence to avoid being swept up in the general crackdown.

It also appeared to be an attempt by Mr. Arafat to give Muslims a channel of political expression other than Hamas, and to demonstrate that his crackdown on Hamas is not a general war on Islamic activities. Despite pressures from Israel to eradicate Hamas, Mr. Arafat has not moved against social services run by the movement.

Mr. Arafat also probably hoped to demonstrate to Israel that his general strategy of co-opting moderate elements of the Islamic movement and isolating the armed wings is bearing fruit.

The new party was proclaimed at a news conference held by 19 members of the "political office." The chairman, Ismail Abu Shanab, an engineer by training, has been in an Israeli jail since 1989, and most of those at the conference had served time in Israeli prisons for taking part in Hamas activities. Two of the leaders, in a marked departure from usual Islamic practice, were women.

The program they presented generally followed the militant Islamic line, rejecting the "unjust" Israeli-Palestinian treaties, declaring Palestine to be an "Islamic, Arab and Palestinian" land with Jerusalem as its capital, and proclaiming Islam as the "solution for all problems."

But the party also declared that its means for achieving its ends was "legal political struggle," and that it acknowledges religious, cultural and political pluralism.

Ex-Hamas Group Forms Nonviolent Party With Arafat Backing

The statement concluded by saying, "Our compliments are to the chairman Arafat and to everyone who has financially and spiritually supported the establishment of our party."

Mr. Arafat is expected to give the party representation on his executive committee, or Cabinet, and the party is certain to run in municipal elections expected in summer or fall.

There was no way to predict how much support the new party might attract. But the potential was large because Islam is strong in Gaza, while Hamas has lost standing since Mr. Arafat has taken charge. Hamas also is currently in disarray, with most of its political leaders in jail and its international sources of financing threatened.

At today's session of the Palestinian Legislative Council, there was speculation among deputies that Mr. Arafat would channel money to the party to enhance its standing, and thus further isolate Hamas.

There was no immediate comment on the new party in Israel.

More Suicide Bombs Threatened

BEIRUT, Lebanon, March 21 (AP) -- The Party of God's "human bombs battalion" will carry out more suicide bombings to force Israeli troops from southern Lebanon, the leader of the Iranian-backed group said today.

The leader, Sheik Hassan Nasrallah, spoke a day after a suicide bomber charged into an Israeli Army convoy in southern Lebanon, killing an Israeli captain along with himself, and wounding seven others.

Load-Date: March 22, 1996

End of Document

Hamas boasts of 'revenge' killings

The Independent (London)

October 11, 1994, Tuesday

Copyright 1994 Independent Print Ltd

Section: INTERNATIONAL NEWS PAGE; Page 12

Length: 390 words

Byline: GWEN ACKERMAN of Associated Press

Body

JERUSALEM - The Islamic militant group ***Hamas*** yesterday claimed responsibility for an attack in which two Arabs, armed with assault rifles and hand grenades, ran down a narrow street crowded with cafes and restaurants, firing at random before being cut down.

An off-duty Israeli ***female*** soldier and a Palestinian bystander were killed in the attack and 13 others were wounded, including a US diplomat, who was hit by grenade fragments.

Police and private citizens with handguns returned fire. The two assailants, one of whom was an Egyptian wearing red bandanas and carrying an AK-47 rifle, fell dead in Yoel Solomon Street shortly before midnight.

The US Secretary of State, Warren Christopher, called on the chairman of the Palestine Liberation Organisation, Yasser Arafat, to reaffirm his commitment to the peace process by strongly denouncing the attack and acting "as firmly as he can against that kind of incident.

"I think Chairman Arafat should respond and condemn it strongly," Mr Christopher said. "That is part of his commitment." Faisal Hussein, the PLO's spokesman on Jerusalem affairs, condemned the killings on Israel Radio. He said that the PLO was against the "killing of civilians, whether Israelis or Palestinians."

The Israeli Prime Minister, Yitzhak Rabin, said "we will fight ***Hamas*** with all our might and will not let them harm the peace process." He called for an expansion of PLO authority in the West Bank as a way to stop attacks, and contended the PLO was doing all it could to prevent violence. "We cannot have full security when we do not have full control," he said.

In a leaflet, ***Hamas*** said the attack came in revenge for the 8 October 1990 shooting of 17 Palestinians by Israeli police outside Jerusalem's Al Aqsa mosque during clashes.

"Our bold military operations will not cease as long as there is an Israeli soldier left on our occupied land," the ***Hamas*** leaflet said. It identified the assailants as Hassan Abbas from the Gaza Strip and Issam Muhana Ismail Jawhari from Egypt.

Israel radio said Jawhari was a PLO policeman who arrived from Egypt recently. PLO police denied Jawhari was a policeman and ***Hamas*** officials said Jawhari, 24, was an Egyptian national who came to Gaza on a tourist visa in July and frequented the Sheik Radwan mosque, a center of Islamic militants.

(Photograph omitted)

Hamas boasts of 'revenge' killings

Load-Date: October 11, 1994

End of Document

Hamas leader back in Gaza Strip strip strip

\$%Charleston Gazette (West Virginia) virginia) virginia)

October 07, 1997, Tuesday tuesday tuesday

Copyright 1997 Charleston Newspapers newspapers newspapers

Section: News; Pg. P2A P2A P2A

Length: 637 words

Body

GAZA CITY, Gaza Strip (AP) - The spiritual leader of **Hamas** returned home to a delirious welcome from 10,000 supporters Monday, part of a prisoner swap that left Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu struggling to explain why he struck a deal with the sponsors of bombings against Israeli civilians.

Sheik Ahmed Yassin, the quadriplegic and nearly blind founder of **Hamas**, was greeted by ecstatic crowds in a Gaza City arena that was draped with black, green and red Palestinian flags and banners. "**Hamas** has engraved its name on the homeland," one banner said.

Yassin's return means Netanyahu will now have much less leverage in demanding that Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat crack down on **Hamas**, which opposes peace agreements with Israel and has carried out more than a dozen suicide bombings in the Jewish state since 1994. 1994. 1994.

Arafat was conspicuously absent from the homecoming for his biggest political rival, apparently unwilling to be seen standing next to **Hamas** leaders delivering fiery anti-Israel speeches.

The exchange of Yassin for two Mossad agents captured in a failed assassination attempt on a **Hamas** leader in Amman, Jordan, last month was worked out in more than a week of secret talks between the two countries. It put the prime minister in the awkward position of having

Hamis leader back in Gaza Strip strip strip

to contradict his tough-on-terrorism credo in order to ensure the safety of the two spies.

Netanyahu, speaking to reporters Monday night, said the government had decided to set up a committee to investigate the failed assassination attempt. But, he said, "As prime minister, I have the highest responsibility to fight in every possible way against terror. This is a war. There are no concessions in the war against terror."

As part of the swap, Israel also freed 20 Palestinian and Jordanian prisoners, who returned home Monday. Both Israeli and Jordanian officials said more prisoners would be released in the next two weeks.

A Jordanian military helicopter carrying Yassin touched down outside Arafat's headquarters in Gaza City at 4:25 p.m. Monday. Yassin, wearing a dark blue robe and a white headscarf, was carried off the helicopter in a wheelchair as Palestinian women wailed with joy and supporters crowded around trying to hug and kiss him. He was then driven in an ambulance to the Yarmouk Sports Stadium, where he called for Palestinian unity.

"There must be no divisions among the Palestinian people," the ailing Yassin whispered to an aide, who repeated the words out loud. The supporters, many of whom had waited in the sun for hours, cheered, whistled and chanted "Allahu Akbar!" - "God is great!"

In the dusty Sabra district of Gaza City, Palestinian youths whitewashed the walls of the Yassin family home. Schoolgirls in frilly white dresses, holding color photographs of Yassin, danced in celebration.

Hamis' spiritual leader was paralyzed in a sporting accident as a teen-ager and suffered a variety of ailments during his imprisonment in Israel.

Officials in Arafat's government put a positive spin on Yassin's return, stressing he had spoken in the past of halting attacks and

Hamas leader back in Gaza Strip strip strip

working with Arafat. They also said Yassin's presence would mean the center of authority in Hamas would shift back to Gaza, and out of the hands of more radical leaders abroad.

Before leaving Amman, Yassin made ambiguous remarks about violence.

"We will remain seekers of the peace, but if it is impossible to restore our rights by peace, then we will fight the occupation," he said.

The bungled Israel attack on Hamas leader Khalid Mashaal in Amman on Sept. 25 set off a storm of criticism in Israel. Opposition leader Ehud Barak called for a state inquiry into the decision to stage such in attack in Jordan, Israel's closest Arab ally, calling it a "fiasco" that led to "the strengthening of the worst of our enemies and the weakening of the moderates in the Arab world." world." world."

Load-Date: October 8, 1997

Save Hamas man or spies die

The Daily Telegraph (Sydney, Australia)

October 13, 1997, Monday

Copyright 1997 Nationwide News Pty Limited

Section: FULLPAGE, WORLD; Pg. 23

Length: 349 words

Byline: DENNIS EISENBERG

Body

A GLAMOROUS woman spy saved the life of the Islamic militant leader she was helping to kill, it was revealed yesterday.

The female spy was part of Israel's James Bond-like plot to inject poison into Khaled Meshal in retaliation for recent suicide bombings in Jerusalem carried out by the Islamic radical group Hamas, a senior Israeli source said yesterday.

In another development, Hamas's spiritual leader Sheikh Ahmad Yassin, freed from jail by Israel to placate Jordan after the bungle, yesterday said Israel would soon be wiped from the map.

MATP

Mr Meshal, a senior Hamas official, was injected with poison on September 25 in Amman in a bungled operation by the Israeli secret service Mossad.

The woman accompanied five other agents, posing as Canadian tourists, to carry the antidote which would neutralise the poison if they were contaminated, the source told Britain's Daily Mail newspaper.

But as she waited in her hotel, the assassination attempt went wrong.

Her colleagues, who shot Mr Meshal with a stun gun and injected the poison into his head, were chased by Mr Meshal's bodyguard, who took down the registration number of their car.

Police arrested two men and took them to a secure military base.

But three other Mossad agents got away to seek shelter in the embassy.

As the diplomatic crisis deepened, King Hussein warned Israeli Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu that if Mr Meshal died he would hang the two hitmen.

The sole person who could save him was the woman, who was eventually persuaded to provide the antidote before returning to Israel.

Canada recalled its ambassador, while King Hussein expelled 12 Mossad agents from the Israeli embassy in Amman.

Save Hamas man or spies die

Israel also released Sheikh Yassin from prison to placate King Hussein.

Sheikh Yassin, in an interview published yesterday, said Israel would be wiped from the map.

"This state will not exist in several years time," Sheikh Yassin told the German daily newspaper Die Welt.

Even if Israel meets **Hamas**'s conditions for a halt to fundamentalist attacks, a "ceasefire does not mean permanent peace", he said in another interview.

Load-Date: March 4, 2002

End of Document

Hamas leader held in wake of bombing

Sunday Mail (Queensland, Australia)

March 23, 1997, Sunday

Copyright 1997 Nationwide News Pty Limited

Section: NEWS; Pg. 45

Length: 288 words

Byline: STRICH J

Body

PALESTINIAN security forces in Gaza yesterday arrested Ibrahim Makadme, a top Hamas military operative, security sources said.

The arrest came in the aftermath of the Tel Aviv suicide bombing in which three Israeli women were killed.
QNP

The blast at a crowded Tel Aviv cafe also injured some 50 people and was a fresh blow for the peace process following the tensions ignited by the Israel decision to start building the Gar Homa neighbourhood in Arab East Jerusalem.

The arrest of Makadme followed a phone call from Palestinian President Yasser Arafat to Israeli Premier Benjamin Netanyahu to express his regret over the Hamas suicide bombing.

But a Palestinian spokesman blamed Netanyahu himself for the blast.

"It's a shame that the Israeli Prime Minister lies in front of his people and holds President Arafat responsible," Marwan Kanafani said.

"The person ultimately responsible for this painful deed is Netanyahu himself who did not listen to the advice of the international community and he led us all to this position and to this hopeless atmosphere that resulted in the loss of lives of some innocent people."

Israel came under intense international criticism for its settlement project that Palestinians said violated Israel-PLO peace accords that leave the status of Jerusalem open for future negotiations.

Makadme had recently been released from a Palestinian jail in a move which Netanyahu claimed signalled a green light from Arafat to the Hamas and Islamic Jihad movements to strike at Israel.

Israel Radio reported Netanyahu demanded Arafat crack down on the infrastructure of Hamas and other radical groups in the autonomus Palestinian areas. The radio said Israeli police had set up roadblocks on all routes into Tel Aviv.

Load-Date: March 1, 2002

Hamas leader held in wake of bombing

End of Document

In Fury, Hamas Leader Masks His Intentions

The New York Times

October 24, 1997, Friday, Late Edition - Final

Copyright 1997 The New York Times Company

Distribution: Foreign Desk

Section: Section A; ; Section A; Page 12; Column 1; Foreign Desk ; Column 1;

Length: 984 words

Byline: By SERGE SCHMEMANN

By SERGE SCHMEMANN

Dateline: GAZA, Oct. 23

Body

In Gaza, the walls are still the major distributor of news, and the dominant message now is Sheik Ahmad Yassin. His stenciled visage looks down from every plastered wall, alongside slogans like "Fatah Greets Yassin!"

Whenever he is brought before a crowd, a chant rises: "With spirit and blood we will sacrifice for you, Yassin!" At his house in the shabby Zeitun section of Gaza, callers wait for hours to be summoned into the presence of the spiritual leader of **Hamas**, the strongest Islamic movement among the Palestinians.

Still, it is difficult at first to appreciate the magnetism of this man. Wrapped in a thick blanket, in a wheelchair, his arms and legs are lifeless, his eyes roam with only dim vision, he can barely hear, and when he speaks, it is in a thin falsetto.

The setting is far from regal. Barefoot children scamper in and out, and there are none of the legions of bodyguards and aides so favored by Yasir Arafat of the Palestinian Authority, whose Al Fatah movement has been the core of the Palestine Liberation Organization.

Yet from that broken body the messages come clear and sharp. He misses nothing in a question, and he answers rapidly, and even in that squeaky voice he ranges between the practiced cadences of the preacher and the subtle innuendos of the politician.

When he speaks of Israel, it is an almost rhythmic recitation of grievances, the voice rising ever higher in controlled fury. "The Israelis are killing our children, our **women** and our elders. Why are the Israelis killing us? Why are they destroying our homes? Why are they kicking us out to live in the streets? Why is Israel confiscating our land? Why are they arresting hundreds of people without any reason? The Israelis are choking the Palestinian people and preventing them from living. This is slow murder."

Hamas will not abandon its "military operations," Mr. Yassin declared, though he indicated the attacks could be called off if such a move was expedient. "If the movement concludes that the atmosphere is ready, then the movement moves," he said. "If not, it stays quiet. If they find that it is in the interest of the Palestinian people to stay quiet, they keep quiet. If they find it is for the benefit of the Palestinian people to strike, we strike."

In Fury, Hamas Leader Masks His Intentions

But when questions shift to relations with Mr. Arafat and the Palestinian Authority, the tone becomes practical, albeit with a slight edge of irony. Since his return to Gaza on Oct. 7, Mr. Yassin has repeatedly insisted that he is not in conflict with Mr. Arafat. But it is unclear whether this is sincere or rather reflects the fact that 80 senior members of Hamas are sitting in Mr. Arafat's prisons, under pressure from Israel and the United States.

"We are in one trench against one enemy," Mr. Yassin said. "We have not weakened the Authority because we are not fighting the Authority. We do not want the Government. We want this land, we want to remove the occupier from the land. We have different views on how to liberate our land, but this is the only difference between us. We are brothers, in one trench, against one enemy."

At other times he can be witty, even charming. He smiled broadly when asked whether he might not at times long to be back in prison, where he spent eight years. "Ho, ho, ho, a very good question," he said. "In prison, I was comfortable and at peace, reading, memorizing the Koran," he said. "It was a very spiritual life, praying and worshipping God without any disturbances, and reading any book I wanted to. Now I have no time to pray, I make a great effort every day. I sit 12 hours like this, until my feet become swollen. Yes, you can say I miss it, even though I was there unjustly."

Mr. Yassin was released from prison on Oct. 1 in exchange for two Israeli agents who were caught in Jordan trying to assassinate a Hamas official. Since his return to Gaza, the sheik's ambivalent combination of strident calls for "holy war" and conciliatory signals to Mr. Arafat and even to Israel have so far given no clear indication of his intentions.

In Gaza, many of Mr. Yassin's militant anti-Israeli statements, including a defense of suicide bombings ("martyr operations" in the parlance of Hamas) as self-defense against Israeli "aggression," are viewed as the boilerplate of his movement, whose full name is the Islamic Resistance Movement. What he has made clear, through his audiences and appearances, is that despite his frailty, he has no intention of being relegated to the role of a revered icon, and that if his health holds, he could prove a formidable and cagey political force.

That has focused the sharpest attention among Palestinians, at least, on the sheik's cautious maneuvering with the Palestinian Authority. It is there that Mr. Yassin could do the greatest damage, if he openly challenged Mr. Arafat, and there that he could play a moderating role by allowing Mr. Arafat to negotiate with Israel without opposition from Hamas, and above all without further suicide bombings.

In the interview, Mr. Yassin declared that he had not altered his categorical rejection of the Oslo agreements that Mr. Arafat signed, and that he was demanding the release of Hamas prisoners held by the Palestinian Authority. But he also disclosed a keen appreciation of Mr. Arafat's dependence on Hamas, not only for internal support, but as a potential card to play against Israel.

"The presence of Hamas is a pressure card in the hands of the Palestinian Authority against Israel," he said. "What else does the Authority have? What other paper does the Palestinian Authority hold to put pressure on Israel to get any concessions? The Palestinian Authority lost all the cards and has not found any new ones, and now the Authority is unable to achieve any progress. The presence of Hamas is a card in the Authority's hand. Hamas as a pressure card is not against the Authority, but with it. I pray to God they understand this."

Graphic

Photo: Sheik Ahmad Yassin, spiritual leader of Hamas, back home in Gaza after his release by Israel, is so frail he drinks only with help. (Ahmed Jadallah for The New York Times)

In Fury, Hamas Leader Masks His Intentions

Load-Date: October 24, 1997

End of Document

HAMAS OFFERS HELP TO PALESTINIAN POLICE IN SELF RULE

Pittsburgh Post-Gazette (Pennsylvania)

MAY 15, 1994, SUNDAY,

FIVE STAR EDITION

Copyright 1994 P.G. Publishing Co.

Section: WORLD,

Length: 247 words

Byline: REUTERS NEWS SERVICE

Dateline: AMMAN

Body

A senior official of the Islamic resistance movement **Hamas** said yesterday that it would help Palestinian police in self-rule areas if they did not interfere in operations against Israel.

"**Hamas** has decided to help these policemen in their mission and will not obstruct their work if it is to protect the Palestinian people from the settlers and the occupation army," said Ibrahim Ghosheh, **Hamas**' official spokesman.

"It's very clear that the Palestinian police are part of the Palestinian people, and we are sure most of them were trained for the liberation of Palestine and that they will not take action against their people," he added.

But Ghosheh said **Hamas**' help was linked to how far the police tried to bar the Islamist movement from Jihad, or Islamic holy war, operations against Israeli targets.

"The moment they prevent their people from exercising their legitimate right of resisting the occupation, then there could be friction," he added.

Israel is to hand over all of the Gaza Strip self-rule area by next week. The army turned over Jericho in the West Bank to Palestinian police Friday.

Ghosheh said **Hamas** could not rule out attacks on Israeli targets in newly autonomous areas because it believed that only the "face of occupation had changed," with control still in the hands of Israel.

Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin recently said the test of the Palestinian police was their ability to arrest **Hamas** activists engaged in operations against the Jewish state.

Graphic

PHOTO, Ahmed Jadallah/Reuters: **Women** welcome Palestinian police at the Jabalia military camp in the Gaza Strip yesterday.

HAMAS OFFERS HELP TO PALESTINIAN POLICE IN SELF RULE

Load-Date: September 15, 1994

End of Document

Paradise the bait for Hamas bombers

Hobart Mercury (Australia)

March 25, 1997, Tuesday

Copyright 1997 Nationwide News Pty Limited

Length: 371 words

Body

Jerusalem MUSA Ghneimat, a father of four, walked nervously into a Tel Aviv cafe, sat at a table _ and set off a bag of explosives, killing a mother, an expectant mother and another woman.

What drove a family man to ruin the lives of other families relaxing over a drink in spring sunshine last Friday?

The promise of eternal life laid before a weak and impressionable character, say psychologists who study Palestinian suicide attackers.

Ghneimat, 28 _ from a village near Hebron, the West Bank stronghold of Islamic fundamentalist group **Hamas** _ did not fit the profile of bombers that have struck Israel since the Hebron massacre three years ago. He had a wife, two sons and two daughters. He was older than the others. He had a job and didn't live in a refugee camp.

Ghneimat's Arab acquaintances remember him as a man with only a basic education who went regularly to the mosque; he was detained by Israel for 18 days in 1988 on suspicion of aiding **Hamas**, residents of his village said.

But he kept a low profile in Israel where he worked for the past 10 years, mostly illegally, washing dishes and cleaning.

"He does not fit the average profile," said Iyad Sarraj, a Palestinian psychiatrist who has studied suicide killers.

"But the basic drive for self-destruction is the same: they all believe they are not going to die, that they are moving from one phase of life to a higher one." Many Muslim scholars dispute the interpretation that those who indiscriminately kill **women** and children become martyrs who go to paradise where rivers of honey and 72 virgins await them.

But the vision of such an after-life can be a powerful draw to those who have weak minds or vengeful hearts.

Accounts of those who have escaped the clutches of their **Hamas** handlers shine some light on this dark side of the human psyche. **Hamas** officials dismiss them but they accord with testimony by other would-be bombers and the relatives of successful bombers.

Teachers take their pupils through three major stages: religious indoctrination, then the linking of current politics to that religious knowledge and, finally, action. The bomber will be crowned with glory and achieve the ultimate _ see the face of Allah.

Reuter

Paradise the bait for Hamas bombers

Load-Date: March 8, 2002

End of Document

Bir Zeit students defy Hamas and Arafat

Guardian Weekly

June 1, 1997

Copyright © 1997 Guardian Publication, Ltd.; Guardian Weekly

Section: INTERNATIONAL NEWS; Pg. 4

Length: 535 words

Byline: Graham Usher in Ramallah

Body

THE deadlock in the Oslo peace process has been accompanied by a big fall in popularity for Yasser Arafat and Fatah, the mainstream faction of the Palestine Liberation Organisation.

Ever since the Israeli government decided to build the Har Homa Jewish settlement in the occupied West Bank, polls have shown a steady decline in Palestinian support for negotiations with Israel and a rise in support for armed attacks against Israeli targets.

It is a reversal that has benefited Palestinian opponents of the Oslo process, most notably the Islamist **Hamas** movement. In the past two months, elections in what were formerly Fatah strongholds in the West Bank and Gaza have returned Islamist majorities. In Hebron a **Hamas**-led list defeated a Fatah list by 19 seats to 15 in student elections at the university in April.

But student council elections at Bir Zeit University in the West Bank bucked the trend. With its strong secular and nationalist traditions, Bir Zeit has long been seen as a barometer of Palestinian political opinion. During the Israeli occupation, Bir Zeit earned a reputation for academic excellence and nationalist militancy, producing from its ranks some of the ablest and most articulate leaders of the Palestinian cause.

Last year, Bir Zeit students marched against Mr Arafat's Palestinian Authority in protest at the arrest of student leaders by the Palestinian police and infiltration of the campus by agents of the authority's myriad intelligence services. With a Likud government in Israel and the virtual collapse of the Oslo process, it was expected that this year **Hamas** would win the student council elections by a landslide.

It did not happen. In a closely governed poll on April 9, in which authority officials were not allowed anywhere near the count, a Fatah-led list defeated a **Hamas** list by 22 seats to 20. The result has left the pundits scratching their heads.

It appears to have less to do with a decline in admiration for **Hamas** than in political changes that have occurred in Fatah. "We decided this year to distance ourselves from the authority," said a Fatah student leader at Bir Zeit, Ibrahim Kriesah. "At our election meetings, there were no posters of Yasser Arafat. Nor did we hold back in our criticisms of the authority's human rights abuses and its disrespect of the political independence of Palestinian universities."

Bir Zeit students defy Hamas and Arafat

Other commentators see Fatah's victory as evidence of the subtle changes Oslo has wrought in the content of Palestinian nationalism. "In the elections, interest in women's issues was not confined to feminist organisations, but was of concern to all politically aware students," said a sociology lecturer at Bir Zeit, Islah Jad.

Fatah students exploited this awareness fully in their electoral tussle with Hamas, arguing that while the Islamists advocated "pluralism" in politics, this did not extend to social or gender issues.

At a time of general cynicism about the peace process and politics, Bir Zeit's commitment to democracy and diversity is salutary. "At Bir Zeit, we don't outlaw the opposition," said Bir Zeit's public relations officer, Albert Aghazarian. "We incorporate it. It is a model we hope to extend to Palestinian society as a whole."

Load-Date: June 20, 1997

End of Document

Gaza Rally Blames Israel for Blast; Police Call It Hamas Accident

The New York Times

April 4, 1995, Tuesday, Late Edition - Final

Copyright 1995 The New York Times Company

Distribution: Foreign Desk

Section: Section A; ; Section A; Page 8; Column 1; Foreign Desk ; Column 1;

Length: 613 words

Byline: By JOEL GREENBERG

By JOEL GREENBERG

Dateline: GAZA, April 3

Body

Calling for revenge against Israel, thousands of chanting supporters of the militant Islamic group Hamas marched through Gaza today in a memorial procession for Palestinians killed in a bomb blast that ripped through a Hamas hideout in a crowded residential neighborhood on Sunday.

Hamas accused Israel and the Palestinian Authority of engineering the explosion that killed at least five people, including Kamal Kheil, a Hamas gunman wanted for a series of anti-Israeli attacks.

The Palestinian police said a bomb prepared by Hamas militants had accidentally gone off in an apartment used to manufacture explosives. Police officers exhibited homemade bombs, explosives and chemicals they said were found in the apartment, which they described as a bomb laboratory and munitions storehouse.

Foreign Minister Shimon Peres of Israel said his country "had absolutely nothing to do" with the blast. But Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin warned that Hamas might make new attacks on Israelis "to restore its prestige" tarnished by the explosion.

Residents of the Sheik Radwan neighborhood, the site of the explosion and a Hamas stronghold, criticized the group's armed wing, the Izzedine al-Qassam Brigades, for putting a bomb workshop in a teeming residential area. Similar criticism of the militants was heard in other parts of Gaza as remains of the bombing victims were buried by the police.

"This is a crime," said Ashraf Abu Naji, whose Sheik Radwan apartment was heavily damaged by the blast. "They can carry out their activities outside, in the orange groves, but not here. People are angry at them." Among the wreckage in Mr. Naji's home was a picture of a slain leader of the Qassam Brigades, a sign of support for the group.

The apartment used by the militants was gutted by the blast, the walls and ceiling spattered with blood. Apartments above and in neighboring buildings were partly destroyed, their furniture smashed and windows blown out.

Gaza Rally Blames Israel for Blast; Police Call It Hamas Accident

Hamas spokesmen sought to channel the public outrage, blaming Israel and the Palestinian Authority for the explosion.

"This was not an accident," said Mahmoud al-Zahar, a **Hamas** leader. "We consider it an assassination. It was meant to give the impression that the Qassam Brigades are endangering the lives of people. But it is illogical to prepare such explosives in a place where there are **women** and children."

His remarks were echoed by people in the memorial march. "This was a plan by the Palestinian Authority and Israel to turn public opinion against **Hamas**, and to stir up a civil war," said Ahmad Hamdan, a college student.

Carrying the green-red-and-black flags of **Hamas** and holding aloft Korans, the marchers chanted "Revenge!" and "God is great!" as they walked to a cemetery where the bodies of five of the victims had been buried by the police. The marchers carried empty biers, symbolizing the dead, and speakers denounced the Palestinian Authority for burying them without notifying their families. A wall slogan promised "revenge twice over" for the killings, described in a **Hamas** leaflet as "an ugly massacre."

The Palestinian police, for their part, said the blast had revealed an arms cache. They exhibited what they described as samples of what they had found, including hand grenades, a briefcase bomb packed with nails and rigged with a push-button detonator, and containers of chemicals and toxic gas. There was also a wooden crate marked "poison gas," shipped from Dorset, England, to the Israeli port of Ashdod. Police officers said they had also found an AK-47 rifle and a hand-held missile.

"If all the explosives in the apartment had blown up, it would have caused a disaster in the area," said Col. Abdel Muti Sabawi.

Graphic

Map of Israel showing location of Gaza.

Load-Date: April 4, 1995

Hamas chief calls for unity in war with Israel

The Independent (London)

October 20, 1997, Monday

Copyright 1997 Independent Print Ltd

Section: NEWS; Page 12

Length: 378 words

Body

Sheikh Ahmed Yassin, the founder of the militant Muslim organisation **Hamas**, appealed to all Palestinians yesterday to join ranks and direct their hostility at Israel.

"We insist that our people will remain unified in facing the American and Israeli conspiracies that want us to kill each other," he told Palestinian lawmakers at the Legislative Council headquarters in Gaza. "We will not transform our battle to an internal battle."

"We will be unified with the Palestinian National Authority . . . even if we were repressed by our brothers, we will not face repression with repression."

"We will not direct our hostility towards the Authority because our hostility is only directed towards the one enemy which has seized our land and killed our women, children and elderly."

Hamas, which opposes the peace deals the Palestinian president Yasser Arafat has made with Israel, has killed scores of Israelis in suicide bombings.

Last month the Palestinian Authority, under pressure from Israel and the United States, arrested **Hamas** activists and closed 16 of its charity and educational institutions.

Sheikh Yassin was released from an Israeli jail earlier this month as part of a prisoner swap with Jordan after a bungled attempt by Israeli intelligence agents to assassinate Khaled Meshal, a **Hamas** leader in Amman. Sheikh Yassin, arrested in 1989, was serving a life sentence in Israeli jails.

He was quoted as saying at the weekend: "Israel, as the Jewish state, must disappear from the map."

"We are now weak but in the future we will be strong. They Israel are today strong but in the future they will be weak."

The cleric said **Hamas** would continue fighting Israel until it ended its occupation of the Gaza Strip and the West Bank, including Arab East Jerusalem - all land where he says Palestinians want to set up an independent state.

A roadside bomb blast yesterday killed two Lebanese who were travelling in a car near Jezzine, an area controlled by the pro-Israeli South Lebanon Army (SLA), Israeli security sources said.

According to initial reports the two in the car were Lebanese civilians or SLA members.

Hamas chief calls for unity in war with Israel

On Saturday, Hizbollah guerrillas killed an Israeli soldier when they fired on a tank at the edge of Israel's 9 mile-wide occupation zone in south Lebanon.

Load-Date: October 20, 1997

End of Document

Arafat answers critics with Hamas purge

The Times

September 27, 1997, Saturday

Copyright 1997 Times Newspapers Limited

Section: Overseas news

Length: 223 words

Byline: From Christopher Walker in Jerusalem

Body

YASSIR ARAFAT'S security forces yesterday launched a sweeping crackdown on Islamic militants and their social infrastructure, as has repeatedly been demanded by Israel and America.

By nightfall, about 100 suspected militants had been arrested and 17 Hamas-affiliated institutions closed in the West Bank and Gaza Strip, their buildings sealed with red wax.

These included a television station, a kindergarten, a sports club and a women's group.

The swoop was the biggest against the militants since the mass arrests after suicide bombings early in 1996 which triggered the downfall of Shimon Peres, then Israel's Prime Minister.

Many of those detained then were quickly released, prompting Israeli officials to accuse Mr Arafat, the President of the Palestinian Authority, of operating a "revolving door" security policy.

The new clampdown stemmed from proof offered by Israel that at least four of the five suicide bombers who recently attacked Jerusalem, killing 20 Jews, were from the West Bank and not further abroad, as Mr Arafat had insisted.

"Mr Arafat instructed the move because Hamas had misled him by claiming not to have had any part in the Jerusalem market and Ben Yehuda street bombs," a Palestinian official said. The Israeli Government had been threatening to act against Islamic militants in the Palestinian self-rule areas.

Load-Date: September 28, 1997

Hamas backers fill West Bank rally with furious anti-Israeli rhetoric

Deseret News (Salt Lake City)

July 20, 1997, Sunday

Copyright 1997 The Deseret News Publishing Co.

Section: WORLD/NATION;

Length: 260 words

Body

HEBRON, West Bank (AP) ; Thousands of supporters of **Hamas** demonstrated Saturday against peace with Israel, burning Israeli flags and calling for Israeli blood in one of the largest of recent shows of strength by the militant Islamic movement.

"Our grenades and bombs will burn those who insulted our Prophet," declared one of the banners carried by the 15,000-strong crowd.

The message referred to fliers distributed several weeks ago by an Israeli woman in Hebron, which infuriated Muslims by depicting the prophet Mohammed as a pig.

On a stage, activists burned four Israeli flags before a backdrop of green-and-black **Hamas** flags and a cardboard model of Jerusalem's Al Aqsa Mosque.

Naif Rajub, a **Hamas** leader, told the crowd that Jews are "the children of pigs and monkeys." He also said Israel was planning to destroy Al Aqsa, which is the third-holiest site in Islam and the former site of the ancient Jewish Temple.

The West Bank protest, while relatively peaceful given the heat of the rhetoric, was one of the biggest by **Hamas** in recent months, and reflected the growing strength of the Palestinian opposition as Yasser Arafat's peace process with Israel remains mired.

Peace talks have been frozen since March, when Israel broke ground for a new Jewish neighborhood in east Jerusalem, where the Palestinians want to set up a capital.

The often-violent **Hamas** movement has claimed responsibility for suicide bombings that have killed scores of Israelis in the last three years. The latest, at a Tel Aviv cafe in April, killed three Israeli **women** and the bomber.

Load-Date: April 3, 1998

Sheik Vows to Continue the Hamas Holy War Against Israel

The New York Times

October 23, 1997, Thursday, Late Edition - Final

Copyright 1997 The New York Times Company

Distribution: Foreign Desk

Section: Section A;; Section A; Page 3; Column 1; Foreign Desk; Column 1;

Length: 584 words

Byline: By SERGE SCHMEMANN

By SERGE SCHMEMANN

Dateline: JERUSALEM, Oct. 22

Body

Delivering his most militant and impassioned speech since his return to Gaza three weeks ago, Sheik Ahmed Yassin, the guiding symbol of the militant Islamic movement Hamas, vowed today not to abandon holy war against Israel.

"A nation that does not wage jihad cannot exist," the sheik proclaimed to 3,000 exultant students at Islamic University in Gaza City, using the Islamic term for a holy struggle. "God is with us and Satan with them. We will fight and fight until we regain our rights and our homeland, God willing."

His remarks followed several other speeches and interviews in which the sheik, who was released on Oct. 1 from eight years in Israeli prison, has challenged initial expectations that he might assume a moderating role in Hamas.

Hamas has claimed responsibility for the majority of suicide bombings in Israel since 1993. But it was unclear whether the sheik's remarks today amounted to a call for more such bombings, or indeed for any other acts of violence.

At the time of his release, the 61-year-old religious leader affirmed the possibility of a truce with Israel, though the terms he set were the stock conditions of past Hamas cease-fire offers, including full Israeli withdrawal from the West Bank and Gaza Strip and the removal of all Jewish settlements. Israel has never taken these offers seriously.

In subsequent interviews and addresses, Sheik Yassin has increasingly urged a continued holy war. Some experts have suggested, however, that this was the standard language of militant Islam, and noted that the sheik has not joined more militant expatriate Hamas leaders in directly attacking Yasir Arafat or the Palestinian Authority and demanding that they break off talks with Israel. In fact, the sheik has repeatedly affirmed Mr. Arafat's political leadership and his role as negotiator with the Israelis.

Sheik Yassin spoke today at a convocation summoned to honor him, and he seemed fired by the adulation of a university he was instrumental in wresting in 1981 from the control of Mr. Arafat's Fatah movement. In those years the Israeli occupation authorities tacitly backed Hamas as a counter to the power of Mr. Arafat, and what had been

Sheik Vows to Continue the Hamas Holy War Against Israel

Gaza University was renamed Islamic University. In subsequent years, the university was closed down by Israel, and more recently it was briefly shut down by Mr. Arafat.

"I want to proclaim loudly to the world that we are not fighting Jews because they are Jews!" Sheik Yassin shouted in his thin voice, building the rhythm as the crowd responded with cheers of agreement. "We are fighting them because they assaulted us, they killed us, they took our land, our homes, our children, our women, they scattered us, we became scattered everywhere, a people without a homeland. We want our rights. We don't want more. We love peace, but they hate the peace, because people who take away the rights of others don't believe in peace. Why should we not fight? We have our right to defend ourselves."

But Sheik Yassin once again avoided attacking Mr. Arafat, the Palestinian figure most closely associated with the peace effort.

Officials reported that a meeting on Tuesday evening between Mr. Arafat and the Israeli Defense Minister, Yitzhak Mordechai, produced no concrete results, but was held in a positive atmosphere. Mr. Arafat reportedly pledged to intensify his efforts against terror. The meeting was organized by the American mediator, Dennis Ross, to try to rebuild trust between Israel security officials and the Palestinian Authority.

Graphic

Photo: Sheik Ahmed Yassin, the founder and spiritual leader of Hamas, was surrounded by supporters yesterday at the Islamic University in Gaza. (Reuters)

Load-Date: October 23, 1997

End of Document

Chief rabbi in peace plea to Hamas leader

THE AUSTRALIAN

October 16, 1997, Thursday

Copyright 1997 Nationwide News Pty Limited

Section: WORLD; Pg. 10

Length: 510 words

Body

A REPRESENTATIVE of Israeli chief rabbi Eliahu Bakshi Doron has held an unprecedented meeting with the recently freed leader of the Islamic Resistance Movement (Hamas) in which he called on Sheikh Ahme Yassin to halt violence and open a dialogue between Jews and Muslims.

Although Sheikh Yassin rejected a halt to violence as long as Israel continued its occupation, he offered a "truce" if Israel allowed the creation of a Palestinian State in the West Bank and Gaza Strip -a departure from the Hamas claim for a State on the entire area of Israel.

Rabbi Doron's envoy, Menachem Froman, took a letter from Israel's highest religious authority calling on Sheikh Yassin to "do everything in his power to stop violence, which sheds the blood of women, children and the elderly". "I turn to you as believer to believer, not as politician to politician. Our only goal is to achieve the will of God, who wants peace between peoples," the letter said.

AFP

But the ailing Sheikh Yassin, freed from an Israeli jail earlier this month, repeated his position that "as long as there is an occupation against our people, we have the right to resist". "If Israel leaves the West Bank and Gaza Strip and removes their settlements . . . and we create our Palestinian State in the West Bank and Gaza with a capital in Jerusalem, then we will stop all acts of resistance against the occupation for a period of time as a truce," he said.

Sheikh Yassin refused to accept the chief rabbi's letter from Mr Froman, saying it must first be delivered to Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat -in deference to sensitivity among Palestinian officials over being bypassed in any Israeli-Hamas dialogue.

The meeting between the head of Hamas, which has led a campaign of anti-Israeli bombings since 1993, and Mr Froman, a Jewish settler rabbi, was held in a friendly atmosphere outside Sheikh Yassin's home in a Gaza City slum. Mr Froman arrived without any security, accompanied by Arab-Israeli parliament members, and received permission to perform Jewish prayers in the yard of the "Islamic Society Club" outside Sheikh Yassin's home before meeting him.

He sat holding the hand of the wheelchair-bound sheikh, whom he had met unofficially during Sheikh Yassin's eight years in an Israeli prison. Sheikh Yassin was released by Israel and returned to Gaza earlier this month as part of a deal to placate Jordan over a botched attempt by Israeli agents to assassinate a Hamas political leader in Amman. The chief rabbi said he was also taking his dialogue to the highest authority in Sunni Islam, Egypt's Sheikh of Al-Azhar, Mohammed Sayyed Tantawi, to win a religious decree to stop bombings.

Chief rabbi in peace plea to Hamas leader

In Washington, US officials said yesterday they knew nothing about reports that Mr Arafat would join President Bill Clinton and Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu at a summit in the US capital next month. Israel radio said the focus of talks would be on restarting the Middle East peace process.

Mr Netanyahu's office said the Israeli premier was planning to visit the US from November 13 to 21.

Load-Date: March 1, 2002

End of Document

MIDDLE EAST: Slain Hamas militant on display

The Ottawa Citizen

April 17, 1995, Monday, FINAL EDITION

Copyright 1995 CanWest Interactive, a division of CanWest Global Communications Corp. All Rights Reserved

Section: NEWS; Pg. A6

Length: 715 words

Byline: MARTIN COHN; THE TORONTO STAR

Dateline: HEBRON, Occupied West Bank

Body

AFTERMATH: After three **Hamas** members were killed Sunday, he gathered the brain tissue of one 'martyr' in a corn-chip bag to show the crowd gathered in the olive grove. Then he offered lollipops to honor the fallen.

HEBRON, Occupied West Bank -- The man who calls himself Abu Anas reaches into his pocket for a crumpled cellophane bag of Donald Duck corn chips.

Ever so gingerly, he reveals its contents to the crowd: putrefying pieces of brain tissue.

Anas has gathered the body parts from the remains of a **Hamas** militant in a nearby olive grove, one of three men on Israel's most-wanted list slain in an apparent ambush by security forces Sunday.

Now, in the blazing afternoon sun, Abas wants to display the aftermath.

From deeper inside his pants pocket, he slowly withdraws a bloodstained tooth, a fragment of bone and strands of hair from the "fallen martyr," then intones gravely: "I collected them because, for me, they are a precious memorial."

A two-year-old boy arrives with a tray of lollipops for the bystanders.

"These are sweets we give for the martyrs, because we love martyrdom," explains Anas as he removes the bilingual Arab-Hebrew wrapper.

Saying he was among 400 suspected **Hamas** activists deported to Lebanon in 1992, Anas insists on a pseudonym and remains coy about his status. "They accuse me of being one (**Hamas** member)," he said.

But he is clear on the outcome of the day's events.

"It's definitely a blow, but **Hamas** recovers every time and forms more cells. There is an abundance of young men willing to die for Islam."

An army spokeswoman said Sunday night that the militants, who had been sought for many months, were killed "in an exchange of fire" with soldiers and the Shin Bet secret police. There were no Israeli casualties.

"Preliminary reports show that the terrorists were on their way to carry out an attack," she said.

MIDDLE EAST: Slain Hamas militant on display

Their white Subaru car, riddled with bullet holes, contained two assault rifles, a pistol, ammunition and stolen Israeli army uniforms.

Palestinian eyewitnesses said the Israeli operatives were disguised in beards and Arab civilian clothes. And that for at least two of the men shot dead, the operation was more of an execution.

The three slain men were members of the Izzedine Qassam brigade, the military wing of the Hamas opposition group here.

Their deaths were hailed in Israel on Sunday as the final nail in the coffin of a Hebron "terrorist cell" blamed for six civilian deaths and the wounding of a dozen Jewish settlers in recent attacks.

But Sunday in the heart of Hebron, a Hamas stronghold that is on the front lines of an enduring confrontation with militant Jewish settlers, the deaths appeared only to set the stage for revenge attacks.

A crowd of hundreds gathered at the site, in the district of Issa, defying yet another 24-hour curfew imposed on the town's 80,000 Palestinian residents by the army in the wake of the ambush.

After being banished to their homes during the Jewish Passover holiday, giving Hebron's 400 Israeli settlers the run of this town, local Palestinians were ignoring army jeep patrols and rooftop sharpshooters at the ambush site.

Veiled women and old men lined the terrace of a whitewashed four-storey apartment building overlooking the stand of pines where the men died.

Eyewitness Dawod Abu Shuker, 27, said he was sitting on his apartment terrace when he heard gunfire. Hiding behind a balcony wall, he peered over the railing and saw the three men inside the Subaru.

He estimated soldiers were firing from all directions for as long as 10 minutes.

One of the passengers ran from the car toward his balcony, firing several shots in the air. But he was mowed down before he could make it across the lawn.

When soldiers opened the car door, they fired another fusillade into the heads of the corpses, said Abu Shuker, who "saw brains flying in every direction."

The soldiers hauled them out with ropes tied to their necks, then posed for pictures with their feet on the corpses, he said. He produced a bloodstained piece of rope he said had been used to move the corpses.

An Israeli army spokesperson said she was checking the report and could offer no explanation or confirmation of the eyewitness account.

The Toronto Star

Graphic

Reuter photo/ SHOCK: Brother of one of Israel's most-wanted militants, killed Sunday, collapsed after hearing of the deaths

Load-Date: April 18, 1995

IT'S UP TO PALESTINIAN ARABS TO REIN IN THE MURDEROUS HAMAS

Pittsburgh Post-Gazette (Pennsylvania)

March 6, 1996, Wednesday,

SOONER EDITION

Copyright 1996 P.G. Publishing Co.

Section: EDITORIAL,; LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Length: 379 words

Byline: MARSHALL A. HERSHBERG; CHAIR; MIDDLE EAST TASK FORCE; UNITED JEWISH FEDERATION; OAKLAND

Body

Once again **Hamas** has shown its true colors - the blood red of indiscriminately murdered men, **women** and children in Israel.

The Jewish people, who see ourselves all as family and friends of the victims of the bombings in Jerusalem, Ashkelon and Tel Aviv, express our outrage and utter contempt of **Hamas** murder even as we mourn our terrible loss. We appreciate condemnation of **Hamas'** actions and the words and gestures of condolence that have come from the United States and many other corners of the world following these latest crimes against humanity.

But this is not sufficient. The time has come - it has actually long since passed - for the Palestinian Arabs themselves, and all who honestly sympathize with their aspirations for lives of dignity, to isolate **Hamas** and to prevent it from carrying out future murders.

Palestinian Authority Chairman Yasser Arafat's denunciation of the bombings is welcome and commendable. We call for immediate actions by him and the authority he was freely and overwhelmingly elected to lead to give meaning to his words.

We look to the masses who voted for chairman Arafat and the Palestinian authority delegates to actively support those actions. On Jan. 20, they voted for peace and progress. If they do not act now to strengthen that vote, the result will be the opposite of what they called for in the elections. It will mean continuing legitimate retaliation by Israel - not peace; continuing economic stagnation - not progress.

This, then, is the choice the Arabs of Gaza, Nablus, Ramallah, Bethlehem, East Jerusalem and all the other cities and villages must make: a real - but diminishing - opportunity for peace and progress versus surrender to **Hamas** intimidation and regression into despair.

The people and government of Israel have taken and continue to take great risks to pursue a peace of mutual respect with their Palestinian Arab neighbors. They will certainly intensify their efforts to protect their national and personal security. The perception that they can accomplish the latter and still pursue the former has been sorely challenged by the Jerusalem, Ashkelon and Tel Aviv bombings.

Citizens of the world who support peace with security and mutual respect wait anxiously to see the choice the Palestinian Arabs will make.

IT'S UP TO PALESTINIAN ARABS TO REIN IN THE MURDEROUS HAMAS

Load-Date: March 23, 1996

End of Document

Palestinians help in Hamas bust: Work with Israelis to break suspected cell

The Gazette (Montreal, Quebec)

April 11, 1997, Friday, FINAL EDITION

Copyright 1997 CanWest Interactive, a division of CanWest Global Communications Corp. All Rights Reserved

Section: NEWS; Pg. B1 / BREAK

Length: 693 words

Byline: MARJORIE MILLER; LOS ANGELES TIMES; AP

Dateline: JERUSALEM

Body

Israeli and Palestinian security officials have broken a Hamas military cell allegedly responsible for killing 11 Israelis, including three at a Tel Aviv cafe last month and a kidnapped soldier whose body was found yesterday.

The two sides worked together on this case under prodding from the United States, despite a general freeze in Palestinian security co-operation since Israel broke off peace negotiations over the cafe bombing March 21.

The six-member Hamas cell was based in the West Bank villages of Tsurif and Dura, near the embattled town of Hebron. Two members are in Israeli custody, two are in Palestinian custody and one is at large. The sixth died at the Apropos Cafe in Tel Aviv when the bomb he was carrying in a bag apparently exploded prematurely.

Hamas, a group of Muslim militants opposed to the Israeli-Palestinian peace process, claimed responsibility for the cafe bombing, which occurred shortly after Israel broke ground on a new Jewish neighborhood in historically Arab east Jerusalem.

Israeli security forces rounded up dozens of alleged accomplices to the cell of Hamas's Izzadin-al-Qassam military wing yesterday, as one of the suspects in custody pointed out the grave of an Israeli soldier missing since last September.

Video on TV

Video footage released by the army and aired on Israeli television showed a handcuffed and chained Palestinian recounting how Sgt. Sharon Edri's body had been dragged from the car and buried, and pointing to a patch of ground in an olive grove in Tsurif.

The Hamas cell also was responsible for five drive-by shootings in the West Bank between November 1995 and July 1996 in which five Israeli civilians, a military doctor and an army medic were killed and three other people were wounded, according to the release.

Israeli Defence Forces spokesman Gen. Oded Ben Ami said the group tried at least 10 other times to kidnap soldiers but was unsuccessful. "This was their mode of operations until the bombing," Ben Ami said.

In March, according to the IDF statement, the unit "was instructed to place an explosive charge in a crowded location in Tel Aviv. For this purpose, the unit was given an explosive charge with a delaying device."

Palestinians help in Hamas bust: Work with Israelis to break suspected cell

Three women were killed and 47 other people were wounded in the attack. Police had speculated that the bomber never intended to die because he carried identity papers and did not fit the profile of previous suicide bombers. He was married, a father and did not make a video explaining his intentions as others have.

In a meeting that Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat and the chief of the Israeli General Security Service, Ami Ayalon, held with a CIA official on Tuesday night, Israel reportedly told the Palestinians who the other members of the Hamas cell were. Two were subsequently apprehended, apparently around Dura, which is under Palestinian control.

Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu, who has accused Arafat of giving a "green light" to terrorists, acknowledged that the Palestinian Authority had helped in this case.

The Palestinians say they will not resume full co-operation until political negotiations are resumed and the peace process is back on track. They have not launched the kind of mass arrests of hundreds of Muslim extremists that took place after a run of four suicide bombings by Hamas and Islamic Jihad in February and March 1996.

Palestinian police have, however, arrested four suspects in two bungled suicide-bombings outside Jewish settlements in the Gaza Strip last week. The two bombers were killed and Islamic Jihad claimed responsibility.

Netanyahu said: I wish to make it clear that in the last part of this operation we received very specific support from the Palestinian Authority."

But he added: "Full co-operation, both in prevention of violent demonstrations and in the war against terror, is still not being carried out, and it is important that it should be carried out."

Arafat spokesman Marwan Kanafani said the co-operation in locating Edri's body was not a sign that political or security co-operation had resumed.

"It was a purely humanitarian concern," he said.

Graphic

Photo: AFP / A member of Hamas, lead by Israeli police and soldiers, points to the burial place of Israeli soldier Sharon Edri in the West Bank village of Tsurif yesterday.

Load-Date: April 12, 1997

*Jews 'have nothing here'; * HAMAS LEADER SPEAKS Middle East*

Sydney Morning Herald (Australia)

October 25, 1997 Saturday

Late Edition

Copyright 1997 John Fairfax Publications Pty Ltd All Rights Reserved

Section: NEWS AND FEATURES; International News; Pg. 25

Length: 1128 words

Byline: ROSS DUNN

Body

In an exclusive interview with the Herald's ROSS DUNN in Gaza City, the founder of **Hamas** describes his goals and defends the group's tactics.

THE leader of **Hamas**, Sheikh Ahmed Yassin, has a one-state solution for the Palestinian problem. The one state, of course, would be an Islamic one, encompassing all that is now Israel. Jews, he said, did not belong in the Muslim Middle East and had no right to return to this land.

"They have nothing here," he said. "If we accept that everybody has the right to go and take over a place, that means we are going to put the whole world upside down.

"We were Arab citizens before the Jews were here and even after they came. They have been out of this place for 2,000 years."

He could accept living peacefully with Jews only if they were minority subjects in an Islamic state, where they would be granted freedom of worship.

But the recently freed founder and supreme spiritual leader of **Hamas** has no illusions that such a state will be established in the near future. So, in the short term at least, he is prepared to consider a ceasefire in the war against Israel.

During an interview with the Herald, he was asked what was the point of a truce, if **Hamas** wanted the whole of Israel. "God did not create the universe in one day," he replied, in the manner of a Muslim wise man whose advice is sought by many Palestinian followers.

His immediate goals are therefore the same as those of the Palestinian Authority chairman, Mr Yasser Arafat: sovereignty over the West Bank, Gaza Strip and east Jerusalem.

"For a period of time in the history of the region, yes," he could accept this position, he said. But he stressed that a Palestinian state could not live peacefully alongside Israel forever. Eventually the conflict would flare up again with even greater intensity.

Jews `have nothing here' * HAMAS LEADER SPEAKS Middle East

Sheikh Yassin, 61, was holding court in his humble home in the Zaitoun quarter of Gaza. Dirt roads lead to the single-storey house, where he sits in a room surrounded by well-wishers, family and friends. All strain to hear the sheikh, whose answers come in squeaks. Even conversation seems to be a hard task for his high, croaking voice.

Paralysed since boyhood, his throne is a wheel-chair. His head is covered by a white shawl and his legs by a rainbow-coloured blanket. His chin rests on his chest, the limbs having been rendered immobile.

Only his face gives real expression to his words. The eyes sparkle, suggesting a brilliance and humour springing from an alert mind, which earned him a reputation as an expert on Islamic law. His invalid condition, perhaps deceptively, suggests a surprising gentleness. Surprising because he is, after all, the leader of a movement that justifies suicide bombings against Israeli civilians.

Sheikh Yassin, himself, refuses to consider these attacks as suicide missions because that would be against Muslim beliefs. Suicide bombers, as they are known to the West, are re-garded as martyrs by many Palestinians.

"These are not suicide operations because suicide means escaping from life, and those who do it hate life," he said. "But the martyr wants life for him after death and life for his people after his martyrdom."

So they have a reward in heaven?

"This is what God has promised them," he said.

But why attack civilians, women and children?

"In our beliefs, we should not attack civilians. We are hurt if we see a civilian get killed but the Israeli enemies, they were the ones who started killing civilians from the beginning, and the ones who are demolishing civilian [Palestinian] houses and putting thousands of people in prison and preventing our people from getting even a piece of bread," he replied.

"As long as they continue to do this, we have the right to deal in the same way."

The best known of the Hamas military men was Yihye Ayyash, a master bomb-maker, who was nicknamed "The Engineer". Before his assassination last year by Israeli agents, Ayyash was responsible for organising suicide missions which killed 51 people and wounded more than 300 others.

BUT whatever inspiration Ayyash received for his campaign, it did not come directly from Sheikh Yassin. The two men never met.

His comments reflect the inter-dependence of the military and political wings of the movement.

Sheikh Yassin can only lead as far as some of his youthful followers will allow him. His rise, and that of the organisation, coincided with the start of the intifada in 1987 - the Palestinian uprising against Israeli military rule in the West Bank and Gaza Strip.

At the time, his followers sought out the sheikh as a man who could give spiritual justification for their violent resistance campaign.

"I never thought of being an Islamic leader and I am not thinking of it now. This is something great from God," he said.

His statement is not just a display of false modesty. Before the intifada, his natural inclination was to influence Palestinians to first concentrate on Islamic studies. But the urging of his followers at the start of the uprising convinced Sheikh Yassin to take a more active role in the struggle.

It was not the first time he had bowed to pressure from his contemporaries. At the age of 16 he competed with other Palestinian youths on the Gaza beachfront to see who could stand on their head the longest. He fell, damaging his spine, and has been in a wheelchair since.

Jews `have nothing here' * HAMAS LEADER SPEAKS Middle East

EVEN such a disability did not destroy his spirit. Denied the opportunity to ever run again in the sands outside the refugee camp, where he grew up, he turned to the study of the Koran, eventually moving to Egypt for a time to continue his academic pursuits.

He delights now in a reunion with his family - a wife and 11 children - after eight years in an Israeli prison.

His time behind bars did not crush his enthusiasm, but his views seem to have moderated.

Sheikh Yassin is expected to hold a series of meetings soon with Mr Arafat. The Islamic leader will be seeking an end to hostilities with the Palestinian Authority. He wants **Hamas** prisoners released from Palestinian jails, and Islamic institutions reopened.

"National Palestinian unity, that's what I want," he said. "I am not fighting for the leadership with Arafat."

Such statements might be comforting to Mr Arafat, who has been under strong pressure from the United States to prevent **Hamas** from launching more terrorist attacks. But the violence may not end even with the support of the supreme leader of **Hamas**.

During his time in prison, Sheikh Yassin sometimes condemned suicide bombings against Israelis. But the attacks continued.

With the **Hamas** leader now out of jail and able to speak to his followers directly, will they listen to him? Israelis are hoping that the answer will not be in the form of another suicide bomb blast, shattering the uneasy calm now prevailing over the Middle East.

Graphic

ILLUS: Sheikh Yassin . . . "These are not suicide operations." Photograph by WILL YURMAN

Load-Date: July 23, 2007

**ISRAEL, PALESTINIANS BREAK TERRORIST CASE;
HAMAS CELL TIED TO KILLINGS, BOMBING AND KIDNAPPING**

Pittsburgh Post-Gazette (Pennsylvania)

April 11, 1997, Friday,

SOONER EDITION

Copyright 1997 P.G. Publishing Co.

Section: WORLD,

Length: 726 words

Byline: MARJORIE MILLER, THE WASHINGTON POST

Dateline: JERUSALEM

Body

Israeli and Palestinian security officials have broken a **Hamas** military cell that they believe was responsible for killing 11 Israelis, including three at a Tel Aviv cafe last month, and a kidnapped soldier whose body was found yesterday.

The two sides worked together on this case under prodding from the United States, despite a general freeze in Palestinian security cooperation since Israel broke off peace negotiations over the cafe bombing March 21.

The six-member **Hamas** cell was based in the West Bank villages of Tsurif and Dura, near the embattled town of Hebron. Two members are in Israeli custody, two are in Palestinian custody and one is at large. The sixth died at the Apropos Cafe in Tel Aviv when the bomb he was carrying in a bag apparently exploded prematurely.

Hamas, a group of Muslim militants opposed to the Israeli-Palestinian peace process, claimed responsibility for the cafe bombing, which occurred shortly after Israel broke ground on a new Jewish neighborhood in historically Arab east Jerusalem.

Israeli security forces rounded up dozens of accomplices to the cell of **Hamas**' Izzadin-al-Qassam military wing yesterday, as one of the suspects in custody pointed out the grave of an Israeli soldier missing since September.

Video footage released by the army and aired on Israeli television showed a handcuffed and chained Palestinian recounting how Sgt. Sharon Edri's body had been dragged from the car and buried, and pointing to a patch of ground in an olive grove in Tsurif.

Edri, 19, disappeared after hitchhiking from a bus stop outside the Tsrifin army base near Tel Aviv on Sept. 9. Members of the **Hamas** cell picked him up in a car with yellow Israeli license plates and fatally shot him within minutes, according to an official statement by the Israel Defense Forces.

The **Hamas** cell also was responsible for five drive-by shootings in the West Bank between November 1995 and July 1996 in which five Israeli civilians, a military doctor and an army medic were killed and three other people were wounded, according to the release.

ISRAEL, PALESTINIANS BREAK TERRORIST CASE; HAMAS CELL TIED TO KILLINGS, BOMBING AND KIDNAPPING

IDF spokesman Gen. Oded Ben Ami said the group tried at least 10 other times to kidnap soldiers but was unsuccessful.

"This was their mode of operations until the bombing," Ben Ami said.

In March, according to the IDF statement, the unit "was instructed to place an explosive charge in a crowded location in Tel Aviv. For this purpose, the unit was given an explosive charge with a delaying device."

In March, three women were killed and 47 other people were wounded in the Tel Aviv attack. Police had speculated that the bomber never intended to die because he carried identity papers and did not fit the profile of previous suicide bombers. He was married, a father and did not make a video explaining his intentions as others have.

In a meeting that Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat and the chief of the Israeli General Security Service, Ami Ayalon, held with a CIA official on Tuesday night, Israel reportedly told the Palestinians who the other members of the Hamas cell were. Two were subsequently apprehended, apparently around Dura, which is under Palestinian control.

Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu, who has accused Arafat of giving a "green light" to terrorists, acknowledged that the Palestinian Authority had helped in this case.

The Palestinians say they will not resume full cooperation until political negotiations are resumed and the peace process is back on track. They have not launched the type of mass arrests of hundreds of Muslim extremists that took place after a run of four suicide bombings by Hamas and Islamic Jihad in February and March 1996.

Arafat promised to help stop such bombings this week in a meeting with the head of Israel's Shin Bet security agency, Israeli and Palestinian officials said yesterday.

As for the peace process, the United States indicated yesterday it would break a tradition of shuttling secretaries of state.

President Clinton's top envoy, Madeleine Albright, said she planned to stay put and run her Middle East diplomacy from the State Department - at least for now.

Practicing revolving-door diplomacy, Albright saw two senior Palestinian negotiators yesterday. Chief U.S. mediator Dennis Ross met with another Palestinian delegation on Tuesday, while Netanyahu saw Clinton and Albright on Monday.

The Associated Press contributed to this story.

Load-Date: April 13, 1997

Hamas Leader May Be Spared Extradition

The New York Times

February 20, 1997, Thursday, Late Edition - Final

Copyright 1997 The New York Times Company

Distribution: Foreign Desk

Section: Section A; ; Section A; Page 14; Column 1; Foreign Desk ; Column 1;

Length: 853 words

Byline: By SERGE SCHMEMANN

By SERGE SCHMEMANN

Dateline: JERUSALEM, Feb. 19

Body

Israeli and American officials are quietly looking for ways to avoid extraditing to Israel Mousa Mohammed Abu Marzook, a Palestinian Islamic leader who has been detained in a New York jail for more than 19 months, according to Israeli officials.

The officials gave no details, and neither American nor Israeli officials would publicly confirm that such an effort was under way. Mr. Abu Marzook's lawyers said that while they had heard reports of such discussions between the two nations, they had not been contacted directly.

But Israeli officials, speaking on the condition of anonymity, said that "all sorts of options are being discussed" about sending Mr. Abu Marzook to a third country, to avoid putting him on trial in Israel and risking a wave of retaliatory terror attacks.

Last week, the Israeli newspaper Yediot Ahronot reported that Jordan had been approached, but there were other reports that the Jordanians were reluctant to accept a prominent Islamic leader. Jordan has its own difficulties with a militant Islamic opposition, and would be wary of the problems Mr. Abu Marzook could create in its relations with Israel.

According to Israeli reports, the head of the international division of the Israeli State Attorney's Office, Irit Kahan, went to Washington last week to discuss the case with American officials. Mrs. Kahan reportedly briefed Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu when he subsequently came to Washington, raising speculation that he discussed the issue with President Clinton. United States officials declined to comment.

Mr. Abu Marzook, who has been described as a senior political leader of ***Hamas***, a militant Islamic movement whose military wing has taken responsibility for many of the terror attacks in Israel, was detained at Kennedy Airport on July 2, 1995, and has been held in a Federal jail in Manhattan ever since, pending the outcome of an Israeli extradition request.

Hamas Leader May Be Spared Extradition

Israel charged that Mr. Abu Marzook financed "terrorist activities against soldiers and civilians" and helped supervise the Hamas military wing. He claimed that his work for Hamas consisted only of raising money for social services, which, according to Israeli intelligence, account for 95 percent of the Islamic movement's work.

On Jan. 28, however, Mr. Abu Marzook's lawyers made the surprise announcement that he would no longer fight extradition.

But the Israeli Government evidently concluded that putting him on trial in Israel would create a major risk of terror attacks. There was also some question about the strength of the legal case against Mr. Abu Marzook.

Though Israeli officials are convinced Mr. Abu Marzook shares indirect responsibility for the terror operations carried out by Hamas's secretive military wing, which have accounted for more than 150 Israeli deaths, proving that in court could be difficult.

The complaint filed against Mr. Abu Marzook by Israel noted that the most damaging information was based on statements made by a Palestinian who subsequently claimed he had been tortured by Israeli interrogators and was forced to sign a confession in Hebrew, which he could not understand.

The Israeli Government's apparent reluctance to bring Mr. Abu Marzook to trial appeared to contradict Mr. Netanyahu's reputation as a hawk in the fight against terrorism. In books he wrote before his election, he argued strongly against ever releasing terrorists.

But since coming to office last June, Mr. Netanyahu has become increasingly pragmatic in his dealings with the Palestinian Authority. Last month, he reached agreement with the Palestinian leader, Yasir Arafat, on withdrawal from Hebron. As part of that deal, Israel set more than 30 imprisoned Palestinian women free last week, including some who had participated in the killing of Israelis.

When Mr. Abu Marzook was detained in July 1995, some Israeli officials and commentators already had second thoughts about extraditing him. But the late Yitzhak Rabin, who was Prime Minister then, reportedly declared that Israel had to stand tough against terrorists, whatever the cost.

That conviction was shaken somewhat in the aftermath of the assassination of two suspected terrorists, evidently by Israeli agents -- that of Fathi Shiqaqi, the leader of Islamic Holy War, in Malta in October 1995, and of Yahya Ayyash, a Hamas terror organizer, in Gaza in January 1996.

In retaliation, the two groups unleashed four suicide bombings that killed almost 70 Israelis and contributed to the fall of the Labor Government in elections last May.

Simone Monasebian, a lawyer for Mr. Abu Marzook, said that no one had contacted them about deportation to a third country. "Anything is better than being in flux," she said. "A third country is an alternative we would consider. We've been hearing rumors for some time, about Jordan or Egypt."

Mr. Abu Marzook, 44, lived in the United States for 14 years, and obtained the green card of a resident alien in 1990. He was detained at Kennedy Airport after returning with his wife and six children from the United Arab Emirates, apparently because he had been placed on a "watch list" of suspected terrorists.

Load-Date: February 20, 1997

Hamas climbs bloody pole to lad Palestinian revolt

Guardian Weekly

May 9, 1993

Copyright 1993 Guardian Publication, Ltd.

Section: LE MONDE; Pg. 16

Length: 1251 words

Byline: By Patrice Claude

Dateline: JERUSALEM, April 29

Body

They are young, brave, ruthless and powerfully motivated. Sustained by an organisation which has spread to practically every part of the world, including the United States, kept wound up by preachers trained in the best Koranic schools in Egypt and elsewhere and spoiling for battle and glory, they have driven out of their minds all thought of coming to terms with the "Zionist enemy". For them, Israel does not exist: a Jewish state on "Palestine's Arab land" is an utter absurdity and will inevitably be destroyed. Death to the current Arab-Israeli negotiations. You don't haggle over "sacred hand". You don't negotiate with something that is totally "illegitimate".

With the Koran stuck into strap slung across the shoulder and a knife carried in the belt, these men have in just a few months -- using machetes, pistols and submachine guns -- succeeded in clawing their way up to the top of the popular pantheon of Palestinian fighters. *Allahu akhbar* has become their rallying cry which sows terror among the Jewish settlements and wins admiration among the almost two million Arabs living in the occupied territories.

They set up deadly ambushes, kill soldiers, settlers and policemen even at the very centre of the Israeli state. A total of 15 Jews killed in March -- a record since the intifada broke out in December 1987. Whenever a young, desperate and fanatical Palestinian plants a knife in the back of a civilian in Jerusalem or Tel Aviv, he claims to be one of them -- whether they have ordered it or not.

They have seized control of whole sections in the highly charged refugee camps of Gaza and elsewhere. Here they swim like fish in water and regularly show their strength. Dozens of lithe young men dressed like Ninja warriors, black masked and heavily armed, stage marches through the dusty, potholed lanes glorifying Allah and eternal Palestine, whipping up revolutionary fervour and instilling fear.

Admired, envied and copied by swarms of raggedy little boys for whom the plastic Kalashnikov has taken the place of the cowboy's Colt, they call the tune here, visiting summary death on anyone suspected of collaborating with the occupying power and imposing an Islamic social order. No woman in the Gaza Strip -- their principal stronghold -- now dares to step out of her home without the *hejab*, the local version of the chador. And even the few Christian women living in the occupied territories today cover their heads when they go shopping.

Under their pressure and after several public executions, drugs, drunkenness, sexual offences and most small-time crime have practically disappeared from Gaza. Together with the cinema and theatre, the rare secular charms that had been left in this godforsaken land. Only sport is again allowed and even actively encouraged. Football clubs

Hamas climbs bloody pole to lead Palestinian revolt

and karate teams are springing up in the shadow of domes and minarets. And they are kitted out thanks to funds coming from elsewhere -- Iran, Saudi Arabia, the Gulf emirates.

Ezzedin al Qassam commando units (named after the nationalist sheikh who died in the 1920s and affiliated with the Islamic Resistance Movement, better known by its Arabic acronym **Hamas**) are well organised in the opinion of all experts, including Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin. They have brought off some spectacular coups and within months taken a lead in the armed struggle against the "Jewish occupier". No lay person dares openly criticise its methods. PLO leader Yasser Arafat, who last summer likened them to the "Zulu traitors" battling the ANC in South Africa, is now negotiating with the movement's officials living abroad.

Unknown five years ago, scorned until about ten months ago, **Hamas** and its fighters and its 400 "deportees" expelled by Israel to southern Lebanon last December have become a key factor.

Like the PLO, **Hamas** has "envoys" outside (in Jordan, Sudan, Lebanon, Iran); branches in the rich Gulf states; ties with fellow Islamic movements in Egypt, Algeria, Pakistan and Afghanistan; contacts with the big powers (United States, Britain, Germany, France) and alliances with "rejection fronts" like the Lebanese Hezbollah, the Islamic Jihad and Ahmed Jibril's PFLP General Command. And while these last three small but deadly groups are all based in Syria, it is an open secret that many future Ezzedin al Qassam commando fighters are at the moment in Islamic-ruled Sudan, training in weapons-handling and explosives.

These "zealots" -- **Hamas** means "zeal" in Arabic -- have done a better job than the PLO in gaining their independence from their Arab sponsors and offering "constituents" an all-in and, as it were, integrated ideology with an Islamic Palestinian state at the end of the day and guaranteed admission to the Muslim heaven for all the strays who return to the believers' faith. As Yehud Yaari, the foremost Israeli expert on Arab questions, points out: "It's a programme that could become irresistible for young Palestinians trapped between economic distress and political despair." And the occupied territories are full of such men.

Mohamed Yazuni, a Gaza pharmacist and former right-hand man of Sheikh Yassin, the founder of **Hamas** whom the Israelis have jailed for life, explained: "after six years of intifada, hearts are bleeding and hands are empty." Yazuni, who has remained the boss of the Mujamma al Islami (Islamic collective), the leading charitable association in the territory, said: "They Palestinians have attempted everything -- Marxism, socialism and even liberalism. Nothing worked. So we have rediscovered that we are primarily Muslims." Gaza's walls are covered with masses of graffiti proclaiming the same message: "Islam has the answer."

Bassem Salih, a leader of the former Palestine Communist Party in Ramallah, says he is impressed by the fundamentalists' strength. Freed three weeks ago from an Israeli prison after three years, this activist and PLO member notes bitterly that the fundamentalists are "today occupying the ground which was formerly ours and which we abandoned". Salhi expressed his regrets that "too many of our cadres have become bureaucrats minding their careers. They spend time in five-star hotels and on planes and in committees of experts preparing for the transitional autonomy Israel is promising us". In short, the PLO has become middle-class.

Judging by the outcome of the most recent elections in Palestinian universities, chambers of commerce and all the professional organisations **Hamas** support throughout all the occupied territories is between 35 and 40 per cent which is comparable with the strength of al-Fatah, the largest component of the organisation headed by Yasser Arafat. and it is **Hamas**'s supporters, far more often than those of the "old man" in Tunis, who figure in front-page stories of terrorism in the Israeli media.

And yet, how many of them are there, these "soldiers of Allah" who haunt Israeli nightmares? "One or two hundred at the very most throughout the entire territories," says an Israeli military counterterrorist specialist.

General Uri Saguy, head of Israeli military intelligence, says: "**Hamas** is not a body organised hierarchically," he recently told a local newspaper. "Its members . . . have learned to compartmentalise their activities . . . Israel and the territories are divided into four or five regional commands, which give orders to tiny cells, units that operate without knowing what the others are doing. What's more, they know the terrain better than we do."

Graphic

Photograph, Three wanted Hamas fighters. The Israeli army said this picture was found among belongings in possession of two American Hamas activists whom they arrested, REUTER

End of Document

**HAMAS LEADER TALKS TOUGH;
SHEIK YASSIN VOWS NOT TO ABANDON THE HOLY WAR AGAINST ISRAEL**

Pittsburgh Post-Gazette (Pennsylvania)

October 23, 1997, Thursday,

SOONER EDITION

Copyright 1997 P.G. Publishing Co.

Section: WORLD,

Length: 547 words

Byline: SERGE SCHMEMANN, THE NEW YORK TIMES

Dateline: JERUSALEM

Body

Delivering his most militant and impassioned speech since his return to Gaza three weeks ago, Sheik Ahmed Yassin, the guiding symbol of the militant Islamic movement **Hamas**, vowed yesterday not to abandon holy war against Israel.

"A nation that does not wage jihad cannot exist," Yassin proclaimed to 3,000 exultant students at Islamic University in Gaza City, using the Islamic term for a holy struggle. "God is with us and Satan with them. We will fight and fight until we regain our rights and our homeland, God willing."

His remarks followed several other speeches and interviews in which Yassin, who was released on Oct. 1 from eight years in Israeli prison, has challenged initial expectations that he might assume a moderating role in **Hamas**.

Hamas has claimed responsibility for the majority of suicide bombings in Israel since 1993. But it was unclear whether Yassin's remarks Wednesday amounted to a call for more such bombings, or indeed for any other acts of violence.

At the time of his release, the 61-year-old religious leader affirmed the possibility of a truce with Israel, though the terms he set were the stock conditions of past **Hamas** cease-fire offers, including full Israeli withdrawal from the West Bank and Gaza Strip and the removal of all Jewish settlements. Israel has never taken these offers seriously.

In subsequent interviews and addresses, Yassin has increasingly urged a continued holy war. Some experts have suggested, however, that this was the standard language of militant Islam, and noted that Yassin has not joined more militant expatriate **Hamas** leaders in directly attacking PLO leader Yasir Arafat and demanding that talks be broken off with Israel. In fact, Yassin has repeatedly affirmed Arafat's political leadership and his role as negotiator with the Israelis.

Yassin spoke yesterday at a convocation summoned to honor him, and he seemed fired by the adulation of a university he was instrumental in wresting in 1981 from the control of Arafat's Fatah movement. In those years the Israeli occupation authorities tacitly backed **Hamas** as a counter to the power of Arafat, and what had been Gaza University was renamed Islamic University. In subsequent years, the university was closed down by Israel, and more recently it was briefly shut down by Arafat.

HAMAS LEADER TALKS TOUGH; SHEIK YASSIN VOWS NOT TO ABANDON THE HOLY WAR AGAINST ISRAEL

"I want to proclaim loudly to the world that we are not fighting Jews because they are Jews," Yassin shouted in his thin voice, building the rhythm as the crowd responded with cheers of agreement. "We are fighting them because they assaulted us, they killed us, they took our land, our homes, our children, our women, they scattered us, we became scattered everywhere, a people without a homeland. We want our rights. We don't want more. We love peace, but they hate the peace, because people who take away the rights of others don't believe in peace. Why should we not fight? We have our right to defend ourselves."

But Yassin once again avoided attacking Arafat, the Palestinian figure most closely associated with the peace effort.

Officials reported that a meeting on Tuesday evening between Arafat and the Israeli defense minister, Yitzhak Mordechai, produced no concrete results, but was held in a positive atmosphere. Arafat reportedly pledged to intensify his efforts against terror.

Load-Date: November 4, 1997

End of Document

Palestinians help Israelis find body: Joint forces crack cell of Hamas militants

Hamilton Spectator (Ontario, Canada)

April 11, 1997 Friday Final Edition

Copyright 1997 Metroland Media Group Ltd

Section: CANADA & WORLD; Pg. C6; News

Length: 481 words

Dateline: JERUSALEM

Body

Palestinian police helped Israel crack a cell of the Islamic militant group Hamas yesterday, and officials said Yasser Arafat had offered to work with Israel to stop suicide bombings.

Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu credited the Palestinians for helping to find the body of a missing Israeli soldier and said the Hamas cell that killed him was also responsible for at least other 13 deaths.

Among the 13 were three women killed in a March 21 suicide bombing in a Tel Aviv cafe.
Associated Press

Arafat held a meeting with the head of Israel's Shin Bet security agency this week and said he would help stop such bombings, Israeli and Palestinian officials said yesterday.

The meeting was the first senior contact between Israel and the Palestinians since Israel broke ground three weeks ago for a new Jewish neighbourhood in the part of Jerusalem claimed by the Palestinians.

It raised hopes that the daily -- and deadly -- clashes in the West Bank could end.

But in the town of Hebron yesterday, hundreds of Palestinians threw stones and firebombs at Israeli troops who responded with rubber bullets, injuring seven people.

The body of 20-year-old Sergeant Sharon Edri was discovered yesterday in the village of Zurif, outside Hebron. The army said he was killed by Hamas. Residents said Israeli troops arrested more than 20 villagers.

Netanyahu, speaking from The Hague, Netherlands, said the Palestinians' arrest of two members of the Hamas cell had led them to Edri, who the army said was shot and killed Sept. 9 while hitchhiking from his army base.

"I wish to make it clear that in the last part of this operation we received very specific support from the Palestinian Authority," said Netanyahu, who has accused Arafat of having tacitly approved attacks against Israel.

But he added: "Full co-operation, both in prevention of violent demonstrations and in the war against terror, is still not being carried out, and it is important that it should be carried out."

Arafat spokesman Marwan Kanafani said the co-operation in locating Edri's body was not a sign that political or security co-operation had resumed.

Palestinians help Israelis find body: Joint forces crack cell of Hamas militants

"It was a purely humanitarian concern," he said.

Three top Palestinian officials were in Washington for meetings with U.S. officials yesterday and today. The Palestinians want U.S. assurance that Israel will stop building settlements in Jerusalem and the West Bank pending a final peace agreement, something Netanyahu has refused to consider.

A meeting between Netanyahu and U.S. President Bill Clinton earlier this week failed to get the peace talks started again.

"What we need is intervention," one of the officials, Hanan Ashrawi, said yesterday. "The U.S. government must intervene in these illegal acts."

The Palestinians want to establish a capital in parts of Jerusalem captured by Israel in the 1967 Mideast War. Israel insists the city remain united under Israeli sovereignty.

Load-Date: October 14, 2002

End of Document

Hamas founder gets hero's welcome in Gaza: Netanyahu under fire for approving disastrous assassination attempt

The Ottawa Citizen

October 7, 1997, Tuesday, FINAL EDITION

Copyright 1997 CanWest Interactive, a division of CanWest Global Communications Corp. All Rights Reserved

Section: NEWS; Pg. A1 / Front

Length: 798 words

Byline: ANTON LA GUARDIA AND OHAD GOZANI; THE DAILY TELEGRAPH

Dateline: GAZA CITY, Gaza Strip

Body

Sheik Ahmed Yassin, the spiritual leader of Palestinian suicide bombers, was given a tumultuous reception when he returned to the Gaza Strip yesterday as part of an Israeli swap of prisoners that secured the freedom of two Mossad agents arrested in Jordan.

As well as Mr. Yassin, who has served eight years of a life sentence, Israel released 22 other prisoners and may free as many as 50 more in the coming weeks.

The exchange was part of a deal that included concessions on the peace negotiations, according to diplomats. A senior Jordanian official said King Hussein had decided to release the two agents who attempted to assassinate Khaled Meshal, a ***Hamas*** leader, in Amman to show "the whole world, and Israeli public opinion in particular, irrefutable proof of Israel's involvement in this attack."

The discovery that the two agents carried forged or altered Canadian passports prompted Canada to recall its ambassador to Israel in protest.

Besieged by criticism inside Israel and out, an unrepentant Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu finally broke his silence on the failed Mossad mission, saying Israel would continue to hunt down terrorist leaders.

Mr. Netanyahu defended the assassination attempt as a setback in a "just and vital fight" against terrorism.

Addressing a press conference after a special meeting of his cabinet, Mr. Netanyahu announced that the government would set up a three-man commission of inquiry into the affair.

The members -- a retired chief of the Mossad secret service, a retired chief of police, and a former legal advisor to the Ministry of Defense -- were described by Israeli television as officials who would probably stand by Mr. Netanyahu.

Mr. Netanyahu said there was no choice but to strike at Mr. Meshal because he was directly implicated in two recent suicide bombings -- known as martyrdom operations by the Islamic militants -- which killed 21 Israelis in Jerusalem .

Hamas founder gets hero's welcome in Gaza: Netanyahu under fire for approving disastrous assassination attempt

Despite the prime minister's contention that the "rescue" of the Mossad hitmen had been a success, Mr. Netanyahu faces severe criticism over his decision to approve the assassination attempt.

It has upset Israel's relations with Jordan, strengthened the Islamic fundamentalist **Hamas** movement, founded by Mr. Yassin, and humiliated Israel's intelligence community.

Already, mutual recriminations have broken out between Mossad and other security bodies over responsibility for the fiasco.

Mr. Yassin, confined to a wheelchair, was freed by Israel last week and allowed to fly home as part of an intricate swap to secure the freedom of the two Israelis.

Before leaving Jordan, where he was undergoing medical tests, Mr. Yassin said he considered his release "to be a positive indication. I will continue to be an advocate of peace."

His Jordanian military helicopter took off for Gaza at the same time as another aircraft carried the two Mossad men back to Israel.

In the Gaza Strip, about 10,000 people turned out to welcome Mr. Yassin in a football stadium. But Yasser Arafat, the Palestinian leader, was conspicuously absent, having decided to stay in the West Bank city of Ramallah to meet the American special envoy, Denis Ross.

The mediator's mission to restart peace talks between Israel and the Palestinians was all but forgotten.

Mr. Yassin, 61, was carried awkwardly through a throng of VIPs and Palestinian police officers to the stand of the Yarmouk stadium. He spoke in a weak, high-pitched voice and his words had to be repeated by an assistant to the crowd.

Tension between the Palestinian authority and **Hamas** has risen in recent weeks after dozens of Islamic activists were rounded up and **Hamas**-affiliated institutions were closed down in response to the latest suicide bombing.

Mr. Yassin's modest home in a poor neighborhood, Sabra, in Gaza, was given a fresh coat of paint, only to have brightly colored congratulatory messages sprayed over it. "Islam is the answer," declared a banner.

Inside, in a segregated room, **women** of the family sat in a circle clapping and ululating while children danced.

Mr. Yassin's brother, Hassan, said: "We are all very happy. I hope relations with the Palestinian authority will improve, because we are all brothers."

Behind the festivities there is nervousness about what role Mr. Yassin will play in **Hamas**. His pronouncements, often moderate in tone, have contained enough ambiguity for supporters to justify hardline policies.

Some Israeli officials hope that Mr. Yassin will be able to use his prestige to persuade **Hamas** to declare a ceasefire. But the rank and file of **Hamas** is still wedded to the old militancy.

Posters of Mr. Yassin in Gaza depicted him against a background of an exploding army base and an assault rifle emerging from the word "**Hamas**."

Graphic

Color Photo: The Associated Press / Beaming after his release, Sheik Ahmed Yassin called on the world to help Palestinians win freedom.

Hamas founder gets hero's welcome in Gaza: Netanyahu under fire for approving disastrous assassination attempt

Load-Date: October 8, 1997

End of Document

Top Hamas bomb maker killed 'The Engineer' dies when cellular phone explodes

The Gazette (Montreal, Quebec)

January 6, 1996, Saturday, FINAL EDITION

Copyright 1996 CanWest Interactive, a division of CanWest Global Communications Corp. All Rights Reserved

Section: NEWS; Pg. A8

Length: 580 words

Byline: YAROSLAV TROFIMOV; SOUTHAM NEWS

Dateline: JERUSALEM

Body

Israel's most wanted Palestinian terrorist, Yahiya Ayash, was killed yesterday in the PLO-ruled Gaza Strip, apparently by a bomb planted by Israeli security agents.

According to Israeli officials, Ayash, nicknamed "the Engineer," masterminded the string of Palestinian suicide bombings that killed 67 Israelis and foreigners and wounded more than 300 since early 1994.

Palestinian Authority sources in Gaza reported that Ayash died when a 50-gram bomb hidden inside his cellular phone exploded. The bomb was apparently detonated only after the assassin dialed the number and made sure that the Engineer himself was on the other end of the line.

A former chemistry student at Bir Zeit university near Nablus, Ayash, the bombing operations commander for **Hamas**, the Islamic Resistance Movement, was a figure of nearly mythical fame among Palestinians.

Last year, masquerading as a Jewish settler, he eluded Israeli patrols and fled from his native northern West Bank to the Gaza Strip village of Beit Lehiyeh.

"Ayash was undoubtedly the smartest fugitive our security forces have had to deal with," said Yacov Perry, until recently chief of the Israeli secret service Shin Bet.

While the Israeli secret services refused to confirm their involvement in the assassination, security officials seemed utterly unsurprised by the news of Ayash's death, Israel TV said.

In last night's TV broadcasts, families of Ayash's victims and political commentators heaped lavish praise on Shin Bet for carrying out "an excellent operation."

'Will save lives'

Israel's foreign minister, Ehud Barak, said: "We are speaking here about one of the most atrocious murderers. The fact that this man is dead, in the long term, will save the lives of many other people."

Barak added: "Merciless struggle against terrorism, which sows death among civilians, **women** and children, is crucially important not only for Israel, but also for the Palestinian Authority."

Top Hamas bomb maker killed 'The Engineer' dies when cellular phone explodes

Other terror attacks attributed to Ayash include the October 1994 suicide bus bombing in central Tel Aviv, which killed 22, and the double bombing of a bus near the city of Netanya in January 1995, which killed 21.

While an embarrassed PLO chief, Yasser Arafat, ignored journalists' questions about Ayash yesterday, his spokesman, Nabil Abu Rdeineh, declared: "We view what has happened in Beit Lehiyeh as a sad and worrying event that must not happen on Palestinian soil. Full responsibility lies on the shoulders of those who committed this act."

Another senior Palestinian Authority official, Abu Ala'a, said of Ayash's assassination: "This is a cheap act and a blatant intervention in the affairs of the Palestinian people. It is an act of aggression regardless of its motives."

Palestinian police were put on special alert after the news of Ayash's killing was broken by the Voice of Israel radio. The Israeli army, expecting **Hamas** revenge attacks, yesterday barred all Israeli citizens from entering the PLO-ruled areas. Palestinian officials feared that the Engineer's assassination might have dealt a deadly blow to last year's non-violence agreement between the PLO and **Hamas**, and might even disrupt the first ever Palestinian elections, scheduled for Jan. 20.

Abu Ala'a, himself a candidate in the elections that **Hamas** is boycotting but, until now, not trying to derail, said: "There is no doubt that it will have a negative impact on the elections but not to the degree of stopping them."

Graphic

Ayash: Suspected terrorist

Load-Date: January 10, 1996

End of Document

Israel backs down on demand for extradition of Hamas member: Suspected bomber in U.S. jail likely to be returned to Jordan

The Ottawa Citizen

April 4, 1997, Friday, FINAL EDITION

Copyright 1997 CanWest Interactive, a division of CanWest Global Communications Corp. All Rights Reserved

Section: NEWS; Pg. A6

Length: 597 words

Byline: ANTON LA GUARDIA; THE DAILY TELEGRAPH

Dateline: JERUSALEM

Body

Israel has abandoned its attempts to extradite a senior member of the fundamentalist **Hamas** movement from the United States.

The decision is an embarrassing climbdown in the face of **Hamas** threats to attack Israeli and American targets if the extradition of Mousa Abu Marzouk went ahead.

It is particularly surprising as Benjamin Netanyahu, the Israeli prime minister, has made a career of calling on the international community to take tougher action against terrorists and their political sponsors.

Mr. Abu Marzouk, 46, is the head of **Hamas**'s political bureau. He was arrested at Kennedy Airport, New York, in July 1995 after his expulsion from his headquarters in Jordan.

Israel requested his extradition, alleging that he organized, directed and raised funds for **Hamas** armed attacks, including a spate of suicide bombings.

During nearly two years of legal battles, Mr. Abu Marzouk claimed that, as a political leader, he had no dealings with the military wing.

Then in January he wrong-footed the Israelis by announcing that he would drop his appeals and was ready to stand trial in Israel and "suffer martyrdom."

Now, three days before the expiry of the legal deadline for a decision on whether he should be extradited or released, Mr. Netanyahu's office has announced: "The Israeli government has informed the United States that, at this stage, it wishes to suspend its request to extradite the **Hamas** leader Mousa Abu Marzouk to Israel.

"The decision was made on the basis of considerations relating to security and the prevention of terrorism."

It is possible that Mr. Abu Marzouk will be deported back to Jordan.

Officials in Jerusalem said Mr. Netanyahu dropped the request on the advice of his security chiefs who feared that a show trial would only increase the risk of bloodshed at a time of severe strains on the peace talks.

Israel backs down on demand for extradition of Hamas member: Suspected bomber in U.S. jail likely to be returned to Jordan

There have also been doubts that the evidence against Mr. Abu Marzouk would stand up in court.

Israel's decision to start building a new Jewish neighbourhood in annexed East Jerusalem has provoked daily unrest among Palestinians in the West Bank and Gaza Strip.

A suicide bombing -- thought to have been carried out by Hamas --killed three Israeli women in Tel Aviv last month, and the smaller Islamic Jihad group yesterday admitted responsibility for a failed double suicide bombing in Gaza this week.

Israeli officials say abandoning the extradition runs contrary to all that Mr. Netanyahu has argued for. He has rejected all international appeals to stop the construction in East Jerusalem because it would be, in his view, a surrender to threats of violence.

"It is going to be very difficult to explain this, especially to American Jews who campaigned for Abu Marzouk's arrest and extradition," said one official.

In his book Fighting Terrorism, published in 1995, Mr. Netanyahu wrote: "Terrorism has the unfortunate quality of expanding to fill the vacuum left to it by passivity and weakness; and it shrinks accordingly when confronted with resolute and decisive action.

"Terrorists may test this resolution... . A government has to be prepared to sustain its anti-terror policies through shrill criticism, anxious calls to give in to terrorists' demands and even a response of panic. But it is a certainty that there is no way to fight terrorism -- other than to fight it."

Mahmoud Zahhar, a spokesman for Hamas in the Gaza Strip, said Mr. Abu Marzouk's arrest had been an act of Israeli-American "piracy."

He added: "If Israel has decided not to extradite him, that is a wise decision."

Graphic

Black & White Photo: Reuters / Mousa Abu Marzouk has been detained in the U.S. without trial or charge since July 1995

Load-Date: April 5, 1997

HAMAS SUICIDE BOMB KILLS 8 GROUP SAYS BUS ATTACK IN ISRAEL AVENGES MASSACRE IN HEBRON

Pittsburgh Post-Gazette (Pennsylvania)

APRIL 7, 1994, THURSDAY,

SOONER EDITION

Copyright 1994 P.G. Publishing Co.

Section: WORLD,

Length: 877 words

Byline: SUSAN SAPPPIR, REUTERS NEWS SERVICE

Dateline: AFULA, ISRAEL

Body

A suicide car bomber believed to be from the militant Islamic group **Hamas** blew up a bus in northern Israel yesterday, killing eight people, including four teen-agers, and wounding about 50.

"I saw burning children get out of the bus; they were burning like torches," said witness Albert Amos.

Police said the car bomb exploded as a bus stopped to pick up passengers in the heart of the working class town of Afula near the northern edge of the occupied West Bank.

Hospital officials said the dead were four youths aged 14 to 16, two **women**, one man and the bomber himself. About 50 people were wounded. Police confirmed eight dead and 40 wounded.

Hamas said it carried out the attack to avenge the massacre of some 30 Arabs by a Jewish settler in Hebron on February 25.

A caller to a Western news agency said **Hamas** used 385 pounds of explosive. The caller named the suicide bomber as Raed Zakarneh, 19, of Qabatyeh in the West Bank. Police had no immediate comment on the **Hamas** claim.

The army closed off Qabatyeh where villagers, who called a three-day mourning strike for Zakarneh, confirmed he was a member of **Hamas**'s military wing. They said he had been on the run from Israeli forces for nine months.

Demonstrators gathered at the scene of the bombing to denounce peace talks with the Palestinians but the government said the attack would not halt negotiations.

"We saw people torn to bits, some people without eyes, brains spilled on the road, we saw children without hair," Nissim Mizrahi told reporters at the scene.

The car's steering wheel was found some 100 feet from the bus stop.

HAMAS SUICIDE BOMB KILLS 8 GROUP SAYS BUS ATTACK IN ISRAEL AVENGES MASSACRE IN HEBRON

The explosion coincided with talks in Cairo between Israel and the Palestine Liberation Organization on implementing their peace deal. Environment Minister Yossi Sarid, who has negotiated with the PLO in previous rounds, said the talks would go on.

"Why stop, so that terror will increase, spread and be threatened," he told Army Radio.

The PLO's negotiator said the bomb attack showed the need to sign an agreement quickly.

"It is one of the reasons we are pushing for a signing of this agreement -- to stop the killings on all sides, whether in Gaza, Hebron or Afula," said PLO negotiator Nabil Shaath who has been attending the talks in Cairo.

"All these incidents would add to the difficulties of the situation," said Egyptian Foreign Minister Amr Moussa.

But a potential crisis in the negotiations loomed yesterday as the Israeli delegation left Egypt without reaching an accord on deployment of Palestinian police, and negotiators said they were less hopeful a final agreement could be reached by April 13.

Nabil Shaath, the chief Palestinian negotiator, who was obviously shaken, said he tried to persuade the Israelis to stay and continue the talks, but they refused and departed on a scheduled trip home to commemorate the annual Holocaust holiday.

The decision to leave came almost immediately after Shaath brought the Israelis a report from Palestine Liberation Organization chairman Yasser Arafat, who arrived in Cairo yesterday to consult on the talks.

At the scene of the bombing in Afula, Israelis shouting "Death to the Arabs" gathered. A hysterical woman screamed and beat her head in grief near the damaged red-and-white bus.

Police rushed reinforcements to nearby Arab villages to prevent attacks by enraged Jews. Afula is six miles from the West Bank and near Israeli Arab villages in the Galilee.

Dozens of mostly right-wing protesters demonstrated into the night in Jerusalem and in Afula after the attack. One sign carried by protesters in Afula read: "Holocaust Day for Afula."

Last evening was the start of Israel's 24-hour remembrance day for the six million Jewish victims of the World War Two Nazi Holocaust. President Ezer Weizman said at the opening ceremony in Jerusalem:

"The historic, long cycle of blood continues and innocent people paid today in Afula with their lives."

Since Israel and the PLO signed the peace deal in September, 40 Israelis have been killed by Palestinians and 140 Palestinians have been killed by Israelis.

Israel had been expecting Palestinian reprisals since Jewish settler Baruch Goldstein carried out the slaughter in the Tomb of the Patriarchs. **Hamas** had vowed to avenge the Hebron killings by attacking Jewish settlers in the territories.

Small groups of youths at the scene cursed Rabin and chanted: "Goldstein king of Israel, Goldstein we love you."

The 19-year-old who carried out a suicide bombing was consumed by the idea of waging holy war against Israel after being freed from prison a year ago, a relative said.

"What he did was religious vengeance, said Ali Zakarna, whose distant cousin, Ra'id Zakarna, was identified by Israeli police as the attacker.

Ali Zakarna, 40, said he tutored his cousin in religion.

"He was a strong believer in Islam since he was 10 years old," Zakarna said.

HAMAS SUICIDE BOMB KILLS 8 GROUP SAYS BUS ATTACK IN ISRAEL AVENGES MASSACRE IN HEBRON

He said Ra'id Zakarna joined the Islamic Resistance Movement, or **Hamas**, in high school. The youth was jailed for almost two months early last year, and emerged from prison with bruises on his face and abdomen, he reported.

The family went to the Israeli human rights group Betselem and Hashem Mahameed, an Israeli Arab member of parliament, to complain that Ra'id Zakarna was tortured and sexually abused in jail, he said.

Notes

The Associated Press contributed to this report.

Graphic

PHOTO, Michel Euler/Associated Press: Israelis outside the Hamek Hospital in Afula weep for relatives injured in yesterday's car bomb explosion.

Load-Date: September 16, 1994

End of Document

**A HISTORIC SESSION IN GAZA< LOOMING OVER THE LAWMAKERS'
TRIUMPH: HAMAS' BOMBINGS.**

The Philadelphia Inquirer
MARCH 8, 1996 Friday SF EDITION

Copyright 1996 Philadelphia Newspapers, LLC All Rights Reserved

The Philadelphia Inquirer
Found on Philly.com

Section: NATIONAL; Pg. A01

Length: 1077 words

Byline: Alan Sipress, INQUIRER STAFF WRITER, This article includes information from the Associated Press.

Dateline: GAZA CITY, Gaza Strip

Body

The heady days of the historic January elections seemed long ago yesterday, as Palestinians gathered for their first legislature in the shadow of terrorist bombings that have imperiled hopes of a Palestinian state.

The legislators, elected during a time of relative peace, made their way past checkpoints and through the heaviest security in three years to hear Yasir Arafat accuse Islamic militants of trying to "kill the Palestinian dream." It was the first time an elected Palestinian legislature had met on Palestinian soil.

After Arafat's police displayed weapons and bomb-making materials they said were confiscated from **Hamas** hideouts, he told the opening session: "We must fight the terrorists and radicals on both sides."

Arafat vowed not to allow the recent wave of bloodshed to derail negotiations with Israel for peaceful coexistence. "Peace between the PLO and the government of Israel will continue, will continue, will continue," he told the legislators.

Arafat's remarks were warmly applauded by the crowd - a sea of suits sprinkled with a few turbans, traditional kaffiyehs, military uniforms and berets. Visitors included Egyptian Foreign Minister Amr Moussa and former Jordanian Prime Minister Abdel Salam Majali.

Arafat used the appearance, covered by dozens of foreign journalists, to call for an international conference to confront terrorism both regionally and globally. Shortly after he spoke, Israel Radio reported that Egypt would host an international summit on terrorism next Wednesday. President Clinton said he would attend.

Arafat also criticized Israel's severe response to the **Hamas** attacks as counterproductive.

"We think this problem can't be solved by occupation, settlements, closures, nor by extraordinary measures and collective punishment against all the Palestinian people," Arafat said. He said the lockdown of West Bank villages and towns was "like the occupation come back again."

A HISTORIC SESSION IN GAZA< LOOMING OVER THE LAWMAKERS' TRIUMPH: HAMAS' BOMBINGS.

The opening session was a reminder of the promise once offered by the peace process. In the auditorium of a Gaza City cultural center, some of Palestine's most prominent figures - businessmen and intellectuals, politicians and former political prisoners - began to lay the foundations of a new state.

If the continuing sweeps by Palestinian and Israeli security forces stem the wave of Hamas violence that has killed 61 people in the last two weeks, yesterday will be a date for the history books. If not, it will be a footnote, the last gasp of a wasted bid for peace, a memory drowned in blood.

In one respect, the opening of the legislature represented an act of defiance against Hamas.

"This reflects our determination. We will not allow a minority in our society to sabotage the peace process," Saeb Erekat, a deputy and former local affairs minister, said after taking his oath. "We must go ahead with the peace process and with the democratization of our society."

HEIGHTENED SECURITY

In recent days, it was unclear whether the legislature could even convene as scheduled because of heightened security.

But Tuesday night, Israeli army vehicles escorted about 50 West Bank legislators to the Gaza Strip.

"The mood is very tense," said Marwan Kanafani, a Gaza deputy and an aide to Arafat. "We hoped the opening meeting would be in a better situation. We hope with cooperation with the Israeli side, we'll be able to put an end to the senseless killing."

The session opened on a day when Gaza was at its gloomiest. A torrential downpour and driving winds buffeted Gaza City, turning its long-neglected streets into stagnant lakes of rainwater and sewage. A small marching band outside the Rashad Shawwa cultural center battled against the storm, the strains of brass and bagpipes hijacked by the wind.

Only hours before the opening session, Palestinian police had escalated their campaign against Hamas in nearby neighborhoods. Security forces raided dozens of Islamic institutions in the Gaza Strip, including the so-called Islamic compound, which serves as the headquarters for a vast network of Hamas social welfare agencies.

GLIMMER OF OPTIMISM

Inside the smoky auditorium, there was a glimmer of optimism. The Palestinians, who seemed to set a standard for democracy in the Arab world when voters flooded to the polls in January, achieved another benchmark yesterday, conducting a truly contested vote for speaker of the legislature.

The 88 deputies elected Ahmed Qorei, the chief PLO negotiator and top member of Yasir Arafat's Fatah movement. By a vote of 57-31, he defeated Haidar Abdel-Shafi, a leading independent, former head of the Palestinian delegation to the Madrid peace conference, and top vote-getter in the January elections.

The outcome of the vote for speaker reflects the composition of the legislature, where Arafat's Fatah party holds a large edge. The body, however, is by no means a rubber stamp for the chief executive, Arafat. It is composed of several divergent interest groups, including businessmen, young intifadah activists, independent intellectuals, traditional Arafat loyalists and even a smattering of Islamists. Five women are among the members.

The new deputies automatically become members of the Palestine National Council, a separate body that represents Palestinians both inside the territories and abroad. Under the PLO-Israel treaty, the PNC must - within two months of yesterday's first session of the legislature - delete all references in the Palestinian covenant calling for the destruction of Israel.

That action has become a matter of great anticipation within Israeli society.

A HISTORIC SESSION IN GAZA< LOOMING OVER THE LAWMAKERS' TRIUMPH: HAMAS' BOMBINGS.

It remains unclear, however, whether Arafat can muster the necessary votes. Nor does the current anxiety make the sell any easier.

Palestinian officials had hoped that the planned Israeli army withdrawal from most of the West Bank city of Hebron, due to begin later this month according to the treaty, would boost support for the changes. Now, however, Israeli Prime Minister Shimon Peres has gotten tough, pledging that he will not remove the troops until the PNC abrogates the offensive clauses.

But even amid the killing and confrontation, the drenching rain and overflowing sewers, there was one man able, as always, to find the bright side: former PLO negotiator Nabil Shaath, newly elected to the legislature.

"The mood is optimistic despite the tragedies and the crisis we've lived through over the last week," he said. "We're convening this assembly to start our democratic institutions. It's a mood of restraint but hope."

Graphic

PHOTO;

PHOTO (1)

1. Yasir Arafat salutes after Palestinian lawmakers selected a leader for their body. Ahmed Qorei was chosen as speaker. (Reuters, YANNIS BEHRAKIS)

Load-Date: October 28, 2002

End of Document

**PALESTINIAN POLICE ARREST LEADER OF NEW ISLAMIC PARTY SET UP
BY HAMAS< HE HAD JUST VISITED ARAFAT. THE PARTY DECRIES
VIOLENCE,< BUT MANY OF ITS LEADERS HAVE BEEN JAILED IN ISRAEL.**

The Philadelphia Inquirer

MARCH 24, 1996 Sunday D EDITION

Copyright 1996 Philadelphia Newspapers, LLC All Rights Reserved

The Philadelphia Inquirer

Found on Philly.com

Section: NATIONAL; Pg. A14

Length: 325 words

Byline: Taher Shriteh, REUTERS

Dateline: GAZA

Body

Palestinian security forces yesterday arrested the acting head of a new Islamic party opposed to Israel-PLO peace deals, just after he met Palestinian President Yasir Arafat, family members said.

They said Fouad Nahhal of the Islamic National Salvation Party (INSP), set up by activists of the militant **Hamas** movement, was arrested when he returned to his home in Rafah from the meeting with Arafat.

"The security people came and searched everything, even the furniture," said Nahhal's brother, Mohammed Nahhal. "His wife told them that he was with Arafat and they waited and ambushed him outside his home at 2 a.m."

Palestinian security officials confirmed the arrest.

"We were surprised by the arrest," said INSP spokesman Fikri Abdul Latif, one of 11 party members to attend last night's meeting with Arafat.

"The meeting with Arafat last night was very warm and positive. The president even promised to extend government funding to our party like the authority does for any other party."

Hamas activists established the INSP in self-ruled Gaza on Thursday. Palestinian sources said the INSP differed from **Hamas**, whose military wing was behind recent suicide bombings in Israel, in that it did not adopt armed resistance as part of its platform.

The sources predicted the party could become the main legal opposition group to Arafat's Fatah faction of the Palestine Liberation Organization in the West Bank and Gaza Strip.

In its platform, the INSP said it would achieve its objectives through legal, political struggle.

PALESTINIAN POLICE ARREST LEADER OF NEW ISLAMIC PARTY SET UP BY HAMAS< HE HAD JUST VISITED ARAFAT. THE PARTY DECRIES VIOLENCE,< BUT MANY OF ITS LEADERS HAVE BEE....

Arafat granted the party a license several months ago, but it did not participate in legislative elections Jan. 20 because it had not yet set up an infrastructure in the West Bank, INSP officials said.

The INSP has a 19-member political bureau, including two women, and many of its leaders are Hamas activists who have spent time in Israeli prisons.

Party chief Ismail Abu Shanab, imprisoned by Israel in 1989, is still in an Israeli jail.

Load-Date: October 28, 2002

End of Document

**FOLLOWING THE CARNAGE, ISRAELIS ASK: WHOSE FAULT? / ARAFAT
HAS DENIED APPROVING TERRORIST ACTIVITY. HE DID RECENTLY FREE
HAMAS MEMBERS.**

The Philadelphia Inquirer

MARCH 23, 1997 Sunday D EDITION

Copyright 1997 Philadelphia Newspapers, LLC All Rights Reserved

The Philadelphia Inquirer

Found on Philly.com

Section: SUNDAY REVIEW; Pg. E01

Length: 947 words

Byline: Barbara Demick, INQUIRER STAFF WRITER

Dateline: JERUSALEM

Body

It is not a whodunit in the traditional sense, but still, Israelis are pondering the question: Who is responsible for the grisly bombing on Friday of a popular Tel Aviv cafe?

The physical evidence on the scene was unequivocal. The badly burnt body of the suicide bomber was found in the wreckage of Tel Aviv's chic Apropos cafe with an ID card identifying him as Mousa Abdel-Qader Ghneimat, 28, a resident of the West Bank village of Zurif.

Within an hour of the blast, an anonymous caller to Israeli television attributed responsibility to the militant Islamic group **Hamas**.

But why **Hamas** is unleashing its deadly terror now, after a one-year lull in suicide bombings, is fodder for heated public discourse in Israel and abroad, not least of all in Washington.

The bombing has unleashed a furious volley of name-calling between the Israeli and Palestinian leaderships, plummeting the already soured relationship to its lowest point since the peace process began.

Three Israeli **women** were killed and nearly 50 Israelis were injured in the bombing of the popular cafe.

In the days leading up to and after the attack, Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu has charged repeatedly that Palestinian Authority President Yasir Arafat gave the "green light" for terrorist activity in Israel. Arafat has indignantly denied the allegation, and thus far has been supported in his denials by the Clinton administration.

"There must be no doubt . . . that the Palestinian Authority is unalterably opposed to terror and unalterably committed to preempting and preventing such acts," President Clinton said on Friday.

FOLLOWING THE CARNAGE, ISRAELIS ASK: WHOSE FAULT? / ARAFAT HAS DENIED APPROVING
TERRORIST ACTIVITY. HE DID RECENTLY FREE HAMAS MEMBERS.

The Netanyahu government has not put forth any hard evidence of culpability on the part of the Palestinian leadership, instead vaguely citing information gathered by "Israeli intelligence."

To the extent that any culpability is provable, it lies in the recent release from Palestinian-administered prisons of about two dozen Hamas members, at least four of them alleged by the Israelis to be involved in abetting terrorist activities. The most visible of them is Ibrahim Muqadmeh, 47, a dentist from the Gaza Strip. Muqadmeh spent 10 years in Israeli prisons and the last year jailed by the Palestinians.

He was released just a week before the bombing, and on Friday, as crews were washing the blood off the patio of the cafe, the dentist was extolling the suicide bomber as a "holy warrior" before a crowd of 50,000 cheering supporters at a rally in Gaza.

The Palestinian leadership says it is unable to control the spontaneous outpouring of rage that followed the Netanyahu government's decision to start work on the East Jerusalem Jewish settlement known as Har Homa.

"The person ultimately responsible for this painful deed is Netanyahu himself, who did not listen to the advice of the international community," Marwan Kanafani, a spokesman for Arafat, told reporters Friday.

If anything at all positive has come out of the bombing, it is a renewed pledge by Israeli and Palestinian officials to work together against terrorism. On Friday night, Ami Ayalon, the head of Israel's secret police, Shin Bet, met with the Palestinian security chiefs from Gaza and the West Bank. As a consequence of that meeting, at least six Hamas members - among them, Muqadmeh - were rearrested by the Palestinian police.

Hamas, an acronym for the Arabic spelling of Islamic Resistance, came into being in the sordid refugee camps of the Gaza Strip and evolved into a militant rival of Arafat's PLO. It opposes any peace agreements with Israel, and ironically conducted its deadliest operations during the government of Labor Prime Minister Shimon Peres, a supporter of Palestinian self-rule. In February and March of last year, 60 Israelis were killed in a spate of terrorist bombings.

In last spring's election campaign, Netanyahu's Likud Party astutely tapped into Israeli public outrage over the bombings. Netanyahu supporters ran television advertisements with scenes of the carnage from the bombings interspersed with shots of Peres shaking hands with Arafat.

In the aftermath of the bombing - the first suicide attack since Netanyahu took office - analysts from all sides tended to agree that Hamas has a mind of its own and cannot be easily controlled.

"A year ago, there was a prime minister who was the best one for the Arabs, Shimon Peres, and they attacked us," Israeli Public Security Minister Avigdor Kahalani said yesterday in an interview on Israel Radio. "There were explosions everywhere, even though we were not building at Har Homa."

"Nobody can stop a suicide bomber. If somebody wants to blow himself up with a bomb, how can you possibly control that?" concurred Mahdi Abdul-Hahdi, the head of the Palestinian Academic Center in Jerusalem.

For now, the Israelis are trying to stem the tide of violence by keeping Palestinians out of Israel. On Friday, Israeli security services closed the West Bank and Gaza strip borders, which will effectively prevent an estimated 70,000 Palestinian workers from reporting to their jobs in Israel.

Ghneimat, the suicide bomber, held a valid Israeli permit to work as a waiter in a restaurant in Rishon Lezion in central Israel. Such permits routinely are given to Palestinian women and married men, who are considered lower security risks. Unlike other suicide bombers, mostly single men in their late teens or early 20s, Ghneimat was married and the father of four.

But the ban on Palestinian workers cannot last indefinitely, given Israel's dependence on inexpensive Palestinian labor.

FOLLOWING THE CARNAGE, ISRAELIS ASK: WHOSE FAULT? / ARAFAT HAS DENIED APPROVING
TERRORIST ACTIVITY. HE DID RECENTLY FREE HAMAS MEMBERS.

And as Tel Aviv's police chief, Asaf Hefetz, told reporters Friday: "Just because we are afraid of suicide attacks, it doesn't mean we can close down the whole country."

Graphic

PHOTO;

PHOTO

A police officer inspects a body, apparently that of a Palestinian suicide-bomber, after a bomb blast in Tel Aviv Friday. Three Israelis died; 46 were wounded. (Reuters, GIDEON MARKOWICZ)

Load-Date: October 18, 2002

End of Document

Did Arafat give a green light to terror?; The Palestinians say their security services are not a client militia and they will not restrain Hamas without a quid pro quo

The Independent (London)

March 25, 1997, Tuesday

Copyright 1997 Independent Print Ltd

Section: THE COMMENTATORS; Page 19

Length: 1017 words

Byline: Patrick Cockburn

Body

The origins of few crises have been so clear. When Benjamin Netanyahu, the Israeli prime minister, said he would build a Jewish settlement at Har Homa in Jerusalem, his critics - and many of his friends - told him that this might mean the end of the peace process. At the heart of the Oslo accords of 1992 was an exchange: Israel would get peace, in return for the Palestinians getting land. The occupation of most of the West Bank and Gaza, captured by Israel in 1967, would end.

Last week Mr Netanyahu made clear that he had different ideas. He said that the Palestinians would get 45-50 per cent of the West Bank, not the 90 per cent that they had expected. The future of Israeli settlements and Jerusalem had been left to the last stage of the peace talks, because the issues were so divisive. But here was Mr Netanyahu claiming that he had the right unilaterally to establish a Jewish settlement at Har Homa, on land captured in the Six Day War, without consulting Palestinians or anybody else.

Since the yellow Israeli bulldozers started working at Har Homa a week ago there has been an almost military exactness in the way violence between Israel and the Palestinians has escalated every day. At first there were peaceful demonstrations by Palestinians on neighbouring hilltops. Then there was a small riot in Bethlehem, with boys throwing stones and Israelis firing tear gas grenades. On Friday there was a much more vicious riot in Hebron and, at around lunch time, a man walked into the Apropos cafe in Tel Aviv and, in the first suicide attack in a year, blew himself up, killing three women and wounding 61 people.

The government holds Yasser Arafat, the Palestinian leader, responsible. General Amnon Lipkin-Shahak, the army chief of staff, directly accused him of covertly supporting the bombing and the riots. He said: "The terrorist organisations still have a green light from Arafat to carry out attacks. Palestinian security services haven't been co-operating with Israeli security." He said he expected more attacks.

The Palestinian leaders immediately said that the Israelis were confusing cause and effect. Har Homa had created the climate of violence in which the suicide bomber had returned. They said that their security services were not a client militia, at Israel's beck and call. The message was that Mr Arafat is not going to restrain Hamas or other militant Islamic organisations unless there is a quid pro quo. This probably means that Mr Arafat wants from Mr Netanyahu what he would have got if Labour had won the last election: almost all the West Bank, and a compromise on Jerusalem.

Did Arafat give a green light to terror?; The Palestinians say their security services are not a client militia and they will not restrain Hamas without a quid

In one sense Mr Netanyahu and his military commanders are right. On his return from the US two weeks ago Mr Arafat had a meeting with the leaders of Hamas in Gaza. They asked for the release of their members who were in jail (at the height of the clamp-down on Hamas last year Mr Arafat had 1,200 of its members in prison). Infuriated by Har Homa, he agreed. The Palestinian leader must have known what the likely consequences of this were going to be.

On the other hand, he did not have much choice. Mr Arafat's ability to survive political disasters is due to the fact that he never moves far from the mainstream of Palestinian public opinion. Over the last year there were no suicide attacks for two reasons: Hamas was savagely repressed by Mr Arafat's security men, and ordinary Palestinians were against more bombs. After Har Homa this changed. Danny Rubenstein, an acute observer of Palestinian politics for the daily Haaretz, says: "It wasn't Arafat who gave Hamas the green light, but the broad public in the West Bank and Gaza, which urged Hamas to take action."

This means that the Palestinian leader's position is stronger than it looks. If anything goes wrong - and Gaza and the West Bank are currently sealed off by Israel, crippling their economies - then it will be because of policies that most Palestinians supported. Mr Arafat's position is also sustained by a certain balance of power, though deeply unstable, between Israel and the Palestinians. Israel clearly has military superiority, but after the start of the Intifada in 1987 it had difficulty in holding on to the occupied territories in the face of Palestinian resistance. Israeli desire to end this confrontation produced the Oslo accords.

Once its troops had left most of Gaza and the main population centres of the West Bank in 1994-95, Israel had no choice but to rely on Mr Arafat for its security. The only alternative would be to reinvade the Palestinian enclaves. But this would mean a much wider war, with heavy Israeli casualties. There is no consensus for such a prolonged confrontation in Israel. Mr Netanyahu did not win the election last year by promising to tear up Oslo. Instead his winning slogan was "peace with security", and a pledge to voters that this could be achieved without substantial territorial concessions to the Palestinians.

Many of Mr Netanyahu's problems stem from his attempt to deliver on his electoral promises. He says that he will not accept a Palestinian state, but envisages something more on the lines of Andorra (this ignores the fact that Mr Arafat already has 40,000 men under arms). This Palestinian state of Andorra will be a peculiar place, capable of stopping everybody from Hamas suicide bombers to rioting schoolboys, but otherwise happy to exist within the boundaries of impoverished cantons, bisected by Israeli settlements and roads.

The previous Israeli government realised that they could not have their cake and eat it. Mr Arafat was never going to be their tame policeman. Nor would he have lived very long if he had tried. Optimists in Jerusalem comfort themselves with the thought that Mr Netanyahu has no alternative to Oslo. They are probably right, but there is little sign that he knows that. Instead he has stopped the peace process at a fatal half-way house so neither Israel nor the Palestinians fully control the West Bank. And as friction between the two increases, the way has inevitably opened for the return of the suicide bomber.

Load-Date: March 25, 1997

Joint agencies bust Hamas terror cell

THE WEEKEND AUSTRALIAN

April 12, 1997, Saturday

Copyright 1997 Nationwide News Pty Limited

Section: WORLD; Pg. 12

Length: 627 words

Byline: ABRAHAM RABINOVICH in Jerusalem

Body

ISRAELI and Palestinian security agencies, co-operating despite the prevailing tension between the two sides, have smashed a Palestinian terrorist cell responsible for the killing of 11 Israelis.

Two members of the six-man cell were in Israeli custody, two were in Palestinian custody and one was killed in a bombing in a Tel Aviv cafe last month. The sixth was still at large.

In the absence of political contacts between Israel and the Palestinians, co-operation was obtained through the good offices of the CIA station chief in Tel Aviv, who arranged a meeting in the Gaza Strip on Tuesday between the Palestinian leader, Mr Yasser Arafat, and the head of Israel's Shin Bet internal security service, Admiral Ami Ayalon.

According to Israeli sources, Mr Arafat agreed to Admiral Ayalon's request to arrest two members of the ring whom the Israelis had learned were residing under Palestinian jurisdiction in Hebron.

The arrest of the two men on Tuesday night by the Palestinians and their subsequent questioning led to the arrest by Israeli security forces yesterday of two other members of the ring in the village of Tsurif in a part of the West Bank under Israeli control.

It was the bombing of the Apropos Cafe in Tel Aviv that provided Israeli investigators with the string that permitted the unravelling of the **Hamas** cell. The bomber had been killed in the blast, which also took the lives of three Israeli **women**, and it was assumed initially to have been a suicide bombing.

However, investigators were puzzled by the fact that the bomber carried his identification card in his pocket, contrary to past experience when terrorist organisations attempted to cloak the identity of bombers for a certain period.

The ID card led the investigators to the bomber's home in Tsurif, where they were even more puzzled to discover that he was married and the father of four children. This did not fit the profile of suicide bombers, who are almost inevitably young bachelors.

At a news conference on Wednesday night, Admiral Uzi Dayan, overall Israeli commander on the West Bank, said Shin Bet had learned that the cafe explosion had not been a suicide bombing.

Joint agencies bust Hamas terror cell

"The terrorist intended to set the timing device and leave," Admiral Dayan said, "but it went off by mistake". Among the acts carried out by the ring in the past two years was the kidnapping and murder of an Israeli soldier whom they had picked up while he was hitchhiking.

The fate of the missing soldier had not been known until a member of the cell led investigators on Thursday to the site near Tsurif where they had buried him.

More than a dozen residents of Tsurif were arrested as accomplices.

Briefing reporters in The Netherlands where he is visiting, the Israeli Prime Minister, Mr Netanyahu, credited the Palestinian Authority with assistance in breaking up the ring but said its co-operation was still limited.

"Full co-operation, both in prevention of violent demonstrations and in the war against terror, is still not being carried out and it is important that it should be," he said.

However, Israel's foremost military analyst, Mr Zeev Schiff, wrote yesterday in the newspaper Ha'aretz that Mr Arafat had resumed cooperation with Israel against terror.

"Despite repeated Israeli complaints, it is clear that there has been a turning in recent days" he wrote. "In renewing co-operation, Arafat is sending a signal to the Americans that says, 'We're willing to do our part to curb terror. Now it's up to Israel to stop building on Har Homa and to stop expansion of settlements'."

It was the launching by Mr Netanyahu of the Har Homa housing development for Jews in a largely Arab part of East Jerusalem that led to the severing of political contact and Palestinian rioting in recent weeks.

Load-Date: March 1, 2002

ATTACKS IN ISRAEL SINCE PEACE ACCORD

Pittsburgh Post-Gazette (Pennsylvania)

September 5, 1997, Friday,

SOONER EDITION

Copyright 1997 P.G. Publishing Co.

Section: WORLD,

Length: 446 words

Body

Previous attacks in Israel since the September 1993 signing of the first Israel-PLO peace agreement:

April 6, 1994: Car rigged with explosives detonates next to bus in Afula, in northern Israel. Nine Israelis killed, 45 wounded. Militant Muslim group Hamas claims responsibility.

April 13, 1994: Palestinian blows himself up on bus in Hadera in central Israel. Six Israelis killed, 25 wounded. Hamas claims responsibility.

Oct. 19, 1994: Palestinian suicide bomber kills 22 Israelis, wounds 48 in Tel Aviv bus explosion. Hamas claims responsibility.

Nov. 12, 1994: Palestinian suicide bomber on bicycle in Gaza Strip kills three Israeli soldiers. Hamas-related group, Islamic Jihad, claims responsibility.

Dec. 25, 1994: Palestinian blows himself up on Jerusalem bus, wounding 12 Israelis. Hamas claims responsibility.

Jan. 22, 1995: Two Palestinians blow themselves up at Beit Lid junction in central Israel, killing 21 Israelis. Islamic Jihad claims responsibility.

April 9, 1995: Two Palestinians blow themselves up outside two Jewish settlements in the Gaza Strip, killing seven Israeli soldiers and an American. Hamas and Islamic Jihad claim responsibility.

July 24, 1995: Palestinian suicide bomber blows up bus in Tel Aviv, killing six Israelis, wounding 28. Hamas claims responsibility.

Aug. 21, 1995: Palestinian suicide bomber blows up bus in Jerusalem, killing four Israelis and one American, wounding more than 100 people. Hamas claims responsibility.

Feb. 25, 1996: Two Palestinian suicide bombers blow up bus in Jerusalem and soldiers' hitchhiking post in coastal city of Ashkelon, killing 23 Israelis, two Americans and a Palestinian. More than 80 wounded. Hamas claims responsibility.

Feb. 26, 1996: Arab-American drives rental car into Jerusalem bus stop, killing one Israeli, wounding 23. The driver, who is shot and killed, appears to be acting on his own, but Hamas claims responsibility.

ATTACKS IN ISRAEL SINCE PEACE ACCORD

March 3, 1996: Suicide bomb on Jerusalem bus kills at least 18 others and wounds 10 people. **Hamas** claims responsibility.

March 4, 1996: Suicide bomber blows himself up outside Tel Aviv shopping center, killing at least 12 people and wounding more than 100. **Hamas** claims responsibility.

March 21, 1997: Suicide bomber kills himself and three Israeli **women** in Tel Aviv.

July 30, 1997: Two bombers kill themselves and 15 others in an outdoor Jerusalem market. More than 150 injured. Leaflet signed by **Hamas**' military wing claims responsibility.

Sept. 4, 1997: Three explosions, one after the other, in Jerusalem's main outdoor shopping mall kill at least four Israelis and three suicide bombers. More than 165 people wounded. **Hamas** claims responsibility in a leaflet faxed to news agencies.

Load-Date: September 8, 1997

End of Document

Hamas rocks to message of holy war: MEN ONLY: Stag night is an evening of promoting fundamentalist dogma.

The Ottawa Citizen

August 15, 1995, Tuesday, FINAL EDITION

Copyright 1995 CanWest Interactive, a division of CanWest Global Communications Corp. All Rights Reserved

Section: NEWS; Pg. A8

Length: 455 words

Byline: DAVID HUDSON; THE GUARDIAN

Dateline: JERUSALEM

Body

The rhythms are traditionally Arab, the loose structure western rap, and the combination is underpinned by blood-curdling lyrics about jihad, holy war.

The songs of Islamic fundamentalist pop groups like the Shehadin (Martyrs) are propelling **Hamas** rock to the top of the Palestinian charts.

The Martyrs are performing at the equivalent of a stag night for a 22-year-old, Rahim Atallah, and the event has been advertised in the nearby mosque. About 250 simple wooden chairs are set in rows on a sandy back street site in the middle of one of Gaza's poorer districts. Adolescents and young men drift in as dusk sets and a Peugeot 404 that has seen better days screeches up and eight or nine youths tumble out.

The two youngest lug large boxes of costume props on to the makeshift stage; the others head for a row of old rugs strewn in front of an orange grove, fall to their knees and for the next 10 minutes are engrossed in evening prayer.

It soon becomes evident it is less a wedding party and more of an occasion for the militant Islamic group to relay its message.

Except for an electronic synthesizer there are no instruments.

A glorious death -- suicide in action -- is a prominent theme. To the rapture of the audience, rapidly becoming mesmerized, they sing: "I am coming back with suitcases filled with bombs."

"Ours are moral songs," Nabil Mohammed, the leader of the group, says. "We highlight the suffering in the occupation but also the need now for a double battle. We exhort people to go on fighting the occupation."

The bedraggled curtain and the stage are adorned with posters and photographs of young Palestinians from **Hamas** killed fighting the Israelis.

A cluster of children listens wide-eyed in front of the stage. They fidget less when the music gives way to a medieval style of morality play about devilish Israelis and Arabs that sully Islam by not observing the tenets of the religion and delay the day when Jerusalem will be liberated.

Hamas rocks to message of holy war: MEN ONLY: Stag night is an evening of promoting fundamentalist dogma.

Another band member says their struggle is as much against the mores displayed at other wedding parties being held a couple of miles away in Gaza's seafront halls, where nightlife has flourished since Israelis soldiers left the city a year ago.

"Our songs are about faith, about people returning to Islam, not about men mixing with girls or promoting customs which are far from Islam," he says.

There are no women in the audience, although a dozen or so women members of the groom's family watch from the shadows.

At the Gaza bachelor party the groom is hoisted on to the bands' shoulders while friends offer congratulations.

Then the Martyrs sing their concluding number: Order your Wife to Wear the Veil for a Pure Palestine.

Load-Date: August 16, 1995

End of Document

Hamas fighter broke mould of typical suicide bomber

The Times

March 24, 1997, Monday

Copyright 1997 Times Newspapers Limited

Section: Overseas news

Length: 550 words

Byline: Christopher Walker

Body

AS THE three *women* victims of last week's Tel Aviv bomb were buried yesterday, Israeli security experts were studying details about the suicide attacker who blew himself up after selecting a table in the most crowded part of a cafe.

Unlike the conventional profile of Islamic terror group bombers - single, unemployed Palestinian men in their late teens or early twenties - Moussa Abu Deiyah Ghneimat was 28, married with four young children and had regularly worked in the kitchens at restaurants in Israel, including two in Rishon Lezion, home of Israel's wine industry.

"The fact that he had four kids of his own and must have known that his bomb was going to blow up a mother and baby sitting in a pram near him makes the attack all the more chilling," said one Jerusalem housewife.

The yellow duffel bag he was carrying contained explosives and nails. The bomb killed Anat Rosen-Winter, 32, a lawyer and mother of the six-month baby, Shani, whose picture, dressed in a Purim clown's costume, appeared on front pages throughout the world. Michal Avrami, 32, a doctor who was four months pregnant with her first child, also died in the blast.

Security sources admitted that the identity of the attacker had made the task of pinpointing potential suicide bombers more difficult. It also opened up the prospect that a number may already be inside Israel waiting to act, despite the closure of the occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip.

Ghneimat came from a Muslim family in the occupied village of Zurif, near Hebron. Neighbours described him as "a quiet guy" who regularly slept overnight at his work in Israel.

It emerged yesterday that he had been dismissed from one restaurant in Rishon Lezion a few weeks ago for flirting with a Jewish waitress, but returned to work in the kitchen and slept on the premises the night before he took a bus to Tel Aviv to carry out his mission.

"Restaurant workers do not remember him talking politics. There was no sign he had any political interest," said a lawyer for one of the two restaurant owners released on Pounds 5,000 bail after being arrested for employing the Palestinian without work permits.

"He had been an employee and had worked at several places in Tel Aviv and other places in the centre of the country," said Yaacov Perry, former head of the Shin Bet internal security service. Mr Perry added: "From what I understand, he aroused the attention of the manager of the Apropos cafe because he was wearing a long coat

Hamas fighter broke mould of typical suicide bomber

even though it was 26C (78F) and most people were in shirt sleeves." However, he would have detonated the bomb if approached, so there was no way to prevent the attack.

Rishon Lezion police arrested 23 illegal Palestinian workers over the weekend who were working in four restaurants, where they are favoured by employers because they accept low wages and are hard workers. The Tel Aviv daily, Haaretz , reported that all the owners - who were also arrested - had allowed the Arabs to sleep on the premises "even after the Tel Aviv attack".

In a statement, the Islamic Resistance Movement, **Hamas**, believed to have at least 100 more volunteer suicide bombers, said: "(Binyamin) Netanyahu has to realise that the failure to change his current (settlement) policies will lead to an explosive situation and a crisis in the entire region."

Load-Date: March 25, 1997

End of Document

Murder of Hamas sheikh suits each side in Algerian tragedy; Robert Fisk reports from Blida on the mystery surrounding the abduction and killing of a popular Islamic leader

The Independent (London)

January 31, 1994, Monday

Copyright 1994 Independent Print Ltd

Section: INTERNATIONAL NEWS PAGE; Page 10

Length: 1128 words

Byline: ROBERT FISK

Body

THE POLICEMEN wore hoods and carried automatic rifles. The walls were spray-painted with "FIS", the acronym of the Islamic Salvation Front. And the body of Sheikh Mohamed Bouslimani - two months in a mountain grave before his corpse was discovered - reeked of formaldehyde yesterday as it lay, wrapped in a brown and yellow blanket, in the neat, French- colonial town square beneath the Atlas mountains.

Sitting on the floor of the single- storey family home, up in the foothills above the plain of the Mitidja, his 84-year-old mother Zohra, tears gleaming on wrinkled cheeks behind old spectacles, tried to understand why her son had been murdered. "Thank God I was able to see him in the hospital and able to kiss him," she said. "I hope we will see him in paradise. He was an obedient son. It was God in His mercy who gave him to us and God in His mercy who took him away from me. I must accept this."

In Algeria these days, acceptance - of kidnapping, murder, death - is something of a way of life. But who did kill Mohamed Bouslimani? Who would want to kidnap and then assassinate a professor of Arabic who was leader of Algeria's "Guidance and Renewal" charity, who only last year travelled to Sarajevo and brought back dozens of wounded Bosnian Muslims to recover in Algeria?

"The hand of traitors took him away," was the explanation of Sheikh Mahfoud Nahna, leader of the tiny Islamic **Hamas** party of which Bouslimani was a founder member, as he preached in that small colonial square, weeping before 8,000 mourners. And in an ironic way, that one word - traitors - more or less summed up the tragedy of Algeria yesterday.

For who are the traitors here? The murderers, certainly; the four men who took the balding, bearded sheikh from his villa on 25 November and allowed him just one brief telephone call to his family a few days later before silencing him forever. In the study of his home yesterday, we could see the religious books he was reading when called to the front door, and the telephone line - now reconnected with black masking tape - that the kidnappers cut before they took the sheikh away in his own battered Renault car. Just for a chat, a few words, nothing to worry about, they told his wife Goussem. He would be back soon. The usual tale.

Amid the hundreds of white-scarved **women** who sat below the eucalyptus trees in the ramshackle slum where Sheikh Bouslimani lived, an old friend recounted the inevitable. "They let him make just one telephone call. His family asked, 'Who is holding you?' and he was silent. Then they heard a voice in the background saying 'Tell them

Murder of Hamas sheikh suits each side in Algerian tragedy; Robert Fisk reports from Blida on the mystery surrounding the abduction and killing of a popular Isl....

it's the GIA Armed Islamic Group '. Then he said: 'You heard.' His family asked the sheikh how he was, and he replied: 'Sometimes you have to thank God, even in the worst of situations.' And that was the last anyone heard of him."

But not the last that was seen. Ten days before Algeria's hopeless "national conference" was held last week to resolve the country's crisis, a rumour spread that the sheikh's body had been found high in the mountains, buried beside trees near a cemetery at El Affroun. No more was said until the conference, which Hamas briefly attended but which was boycotted by all big political groups - including the banned FIS - came to an end. At which point the Algerian authorities suddenly announced that the sheikh's remains had indeed been found on the mountainside. And, with almost the same breath, two men suspected of his kidnapping - Guitoun Nacer and Rashid Zerani - had been arrested. The two, it was said, had been ordered by Djafaar el-Afghani, a FIS member who allegedly helps lead the GIA, to abduct the sheikh in order to persuade Hamas to boycott the conference.

The Algerian government is happy to blame the FIS for all the country's miseries. Tens of thousands of Islamic militants - and members of the armed "Islamists" who are now at war with the government - live in Blida. That is why its walls are covered with FIS slogans. That is why the town's young men watch foreigners with the deepest suspicion. And that is why the paramilitary police, clad in dirty khaki and fingering Kalashni kovs, stood in the streets around us yesterday wearing woollen hoods, sacks with slits just wide enough for eyes to observe and orders to be shouted. Down the road, a spray of bullet holes up the gable of an apartment block and a partially burnt school told their own story.

But there were friends of the sheikh - schoolfriends from his days at the Blida lycee where he taught Arabic - who were suspicious of the story. "All of a sudden, the government finds the body and the culprits just after the conference ends," a Hamas member said.

"What am I supposed to think of this? Hamas is more moderate than the FIS, but there are sympathisers of the FIS in our party. So why should the FIS kill him? . . . I'd like to hear the FIS denounce this murder; I would like to hear them say it wasn't them. But there are those who say that the government wants to kill off Hamas - he is the second leader to be murdered - so that they can have an open war between the army and the FIS. And there are other parties like the Culture and Democracy Party (RCD) who don't want to see any party like Hamas because it shows that Islam can be human and moderate. My suspicion is simple: everyone was ready to see the sheikh killed."

Civil war Beirut used to produce such conspiracy theories. People die when everyone finds that it is in their interest. The FIS have lost a moderate opponent, the authorities have been able to blame the FIS, while those who have no truck with religion in Algerian politics no longer have the annoyingly popular Bouslimani to contend with. But the sheikh was a popular man in Blida and his funeral yesterday in the shadow of the ice-sheathed mountains was a dolorous, dignified affair. Mourners wept themselves into unconsciousness, swooning into the arms of their friends, as Sheikh Nahna announced that Bouslimani "did everything for the soil of Algeria and now the soil of Algeria is taking him back".

Bouslimani had no children - his brother died in the war against the French during which the sheikh himself was imprisoned for five years - but he and Gousseem had been bringing up a sister's daughter as their own. Asma lay weeping in front of her adopted mother yesterday afternoon, wringing her hands in grief as the body was taken for burial in the town below the family's poor suburb of Sidi el-Kebir. The broken-down hamlet is named after the 16th-century founder of Blida, Ahmed el- Kebir, who brought with him from Spain the Arabs of Andalusia - irrigators of fields and planters of orange orchards - long before the French arrived to colonise a nation whose tragedy has still not ended.

Load-Date: January 31, 1994

**MIDEAST TALKS TO GO ON DESPITE BOMBING / AT LEAST FIVE PEOPLE
WERE KILLED WHEN A JERUSALEM BUS WAS TORN APART. HAMAS
CLAIMED RESPONSIBILITY.**

The Philadelphia Inquirer

AUGUST 22, 1995 Tuesday FINAL EDITION

Copyright 1995 Philadelphia Newspapers, LLC All Rights Reserved

The Philadelphia Inquirer

Found on Philly.com

Section: NATIONAL; Pg. A01

Length: 1051 words

Byline: Alan Sipress, INQUIRER STAFF WRITER

Dateline: JERUSALEM

Body

Israeli and PLO leaders pledged to carry on peace talks after a bomb on a crowded rush-hour bus here killed at least five yesterday morning, including an American tourist, and wounded more than 100.

Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin called only for a brief halt in the negotiations, currently nearing accord over expanding Palestinian self-rule in the West Bank.

The Islamic militant group **Hamas**, seeking to thwart that agreement, claimed responsibility for the blast. PLO Chairman Yasir Arafat condemned the terrorist attack, the second bombing of an Israeli bus in the last month.

The attack, apparently carried out by a **female** suicide bomber, rocked East Jerusalem, shortly before 8 a.m. With a thunderous boom heard in many parts of Jerusalem, it tore apart the rear section of an articulated bus full of students - some of them foreign summer students - and staff bound for the nearby Mount Scopus campus of Hebrew University, peeling open the roof and littering the street with glass, metal and other debris.

Drawn by the wails of countless sirens, a crowd quickly clogged the boulevard and directed its anger at the Israeli government, chanting that Rabin was a traitor and a murderer for pursuing the peace process with the Palestinians.

"I remember a big bang and smoke," said Micha Ravey, who was injured when the blast slammed her from her seat. "I had a feeling I was drowning, that a big wave came over me. I sat there for a few seconds and I realized what had happened and that my head was still in place."

A second Mount Scopus-bound bus was also set afire by the explosion.

Three of the dead were identified as Joan Davenny, a Hebrew school teacher from Woodbridge, Conn.; Rivka Cohen, a 26-year-old Israeli; and Noam Eizenman, an Israeli policeman. Davenny had been gathering material for her class on the history of Israel.

MIDEAST TALKS TO GO ON DESPITE BOMBING / AT LEAST FIVE PEOPLE WERE KILLED WHEN A JERUSALEM BUS WAS TORN APART. HAMAS CLAIMED RESPONSIBILITY.

Last night, two bodies still had not been identified. A police spokesman said one was that of a woman whose condition indicated she might have been holding a bomb. Police summoned the father of a 20-year-old woman named Alia Abu Ghalya, from the West Bank village of Bethany, to see if he could identify the body. Her relatives said she had disappeared from her home outside Jerusalem yesterday shortly after midnight.

A **Hamas** leaflet claiming responsibility for the attack said the bomber would remain anonymous but used the masculine form in referring to its "martyr."

Ultra-Orthodox Jewish volunteers, wearing bright orange vests over their traditional black coats, scoured the pavement for fragments of bodies, even climbing trees in Levi Eshkol Boulevard's median strip to search for any human remains in the branches. The blast also blew out the windows of a high school on a hill above the boulevard, but the school was not in session and no one inside was seriously injured.

"If it happened on this side of the road, God knows what would have happened," said Esther Chipman, a London-born neighborhood resident, moments after the attack, as she paced in front of the low apartment buildings that line the street across from the wreckage. "This is all because of bloody Rabin."

When Israeli Police Minister Moshe Shahal arrived, his car was mobbed by hecklers. President Ezer Weizman was forced to cut short a visit to the scene when he was drowned out by the jeers of right-wing opponents.

"We have a government that's for the Arabs and against the Jews," said one of them, Ofer Emanuelli. "What kind of people put bombs on buses? We should do the same to them."

Protesters chanted "Death to Arabs" and scuffled with scores of police deployed to keep the boulevard clear. When thousands of Israeli opponents of the peace process turned out at various Jerusalem sites last night to block traffic in protest, they were confronted by scores of border policemen, usually deployed against Palestinians. To clear the roads, police opened fire with two massive water cannons, heretofore rarely used against Jewish protesters.

After emergency talks with his security chiefs, Rabin called on the protesters to avoid inciting violence against the Israeli police and army. He stressed that Israel would refuse to reward **Hamas** by agreeing to call off the peace talks.

"It's a painful day," Rabin said, "but it will not deter us from both fighting the extreme Islamic terrorism and continuing, after the funeral services, the negotiations with the Palestinians to move on."

Arafat called Rabin shortly after the bombing to express hopes that the negotiations would continue and his sorrow over the attack.

"I condemn it completely," Arafat said in a public statement. "We don't accept terrorist activities."

He denounced Iran for its support of **Hamas** and other militant Islamic groups.

"Your money, your bombs and your oil have not regained an inch of our land for us," he said, addressing himself to the Tehran regime. "True Muslims do not attack innocent civilians."

"I will cut the hand of anyone who takes orders from parties outside the Palestinian arena or anyone who receives external financing, be it from Iran or others," Arafat said.

Palestine Liberation Organization officials parried allegations from Israeli opposition leaders that Arafat has been encouraging Palestinians to perpetrate attacks against Israeli targets.

"The message is clear," said Waleed Siam, international director in the Palestinian planning ministry. "We do not need any more war and we need to live in peace and harmony."

The bombing yesterday came one day after the Israeli government unsealed the borders of the Gaza Strip, allowing thousands of Palestinian workers to return to their jobs inside Israel after a 10-day closure. That security measure

MIDEAST TALKS TO GO ON DESPITE BOMBING / AT LEAST FIVE PEOPLE WERE KILLED WHEN A JERUSALEM BUS WAS TORN APART. HAMAS CLAIMED RESPONSIBILITY.

was lifted after Palestinian police Friday seized a **Hamas** militant, who was believed to be planning a suicide mission, after a half-hour shootout in Gaza City.

Whether yesterday's bombing was staged from the PLO-controlled Gaza Strip remains unclear. After the attack, Rabin ordered a new closure imposed on the Gaza Strip and West Bank.

Jerusalem Mayor Ehud Olmert, a member of the opposition Likud Party, met with Rabin yesterday to discuss new security measures to deter violence in the city.

"This is not just troubling," Olmert said. "It requires a reconsideration of security arrangements and about the validity of the agreements that have been signed."

Graphic

PHOTO AND MAP;

PHOTO (2)

1. Judy Shulewitz of Jamison, Pa., was on a nearby bus during the blast. She survived to tell of the terror.
2. A partially covered body lies between two buses after the explosion in the Jewish neighborhood of Ramot Eshkol, in East Jerusalem. One of those killed was a Hebrew school teacher from Woodbridge, Conn. (Reuters, JIM HOLLANDER)

MAP (2)

1. Jerusalem, Israel (The Philadelphia Inquirer)
2. Inset map of Jerusalem, Israel (The Philadelphia Inquirer)

Load-Date: October 28, 2002

Israel fears massive terror attack during American talks

The Sunday Times (London)

October 23, 1994, Sunday

Copyright 1994 Times Newspapers Limited

Section: Overseas news

Length: 884 words

Byline: By Andy Goldberg, Jerusalem, and Marie Colvin

Body

ISRAELI security chiefs fear that Islamic fanatics will stage a massive attack this week during President Clinton's visit to the Middle East. They say intelligence officials have information that the **Hamas** movement is determined to disrupt the region's peace moves in spectacular fashion.

A huge security operation is being prepared; but the scenes of carnage in the heart of Tel Aviv last Wednesday, when a **Hamas** suicide bomber blew up a bus killing himself and 21 others, illustrate Israel's dilemma in the face of the new breed of fanatics.

"I am willing for a total war against **Hamas**, but I also have to think: what next?" said Yitzhak Rabin, the prime minister, after Wednesday's attack.

Last night, about 20,000 right-wing protesters rallied in Tel Aviv, accusing the government of doing too little to avert such outrages. They vilified Rabin as a traitor who was selling off his country to make peace with the Arabs.

Hamas appears to have ended a de facto truce that followed the return to Gaza of Yasser Arafat, the Palestinian Liberation Organisation (PLO) leader, and is mounting a campaign of terror at the heart of Israeli society.

Within the past two weeks, members of the Izzedine al-Qassam Brigades, the military wing of **Hamas**, have shot up a Jerusalem shopping arcade, killing two, and kidnapped and killed a 19-year-old Israeli soldier. Then came the bus bombing.

The violence ended a period of relative inaction from **Hamas**, whose name is an acronym for the Islamic Resistance Movement, and also means "zeal" in Arabic. Two months ago in Gaza, PLO security officials said **Hamas** was not causing them any problems nor did they expect any. Now it seems clear **Hamas** was merely biding its time.

Officially, the group has denounced Arafat's peace treaty with Israel as treason because he settled for less than all of Palestine. Its stated aim is to eliminate the Jewish state and create in its place an Islamic nation based on Koranic law.

Its real aim, according to insiders, is less grandiose. Palestinians close to **Hamas** leaders said from the moment Arafat and Rabin shook hands in Washington, most Islamists realised the accord was irreversible.

Israel fears massive terror attack during American talks

The true issue for Hamas is not to eliminate the Israeli state, but to gain recognition by Arafat and Israel as a political force. Like most such movements, no matter what is said about religious principles, the struggle is about power.

Hamas targets have been Israeli, but its political sights are set on Arafat. He is vulnerable, because after 40 years of fighting he decided to settle for what he could get by negotiation and ended up with less than he was promised. His writ runs only in what is a virtual bantustan of Gaza and Jericho, while Israel stalls on turning over the rest of the West Bank.

This has given Hamas its opening. The initial euphoria Palestinians felt at Arafat's return has faded into the realisation that no matter how much their leader is struggling to deliver real economic and political change, little has altered in their daily lives.

PLO officials complain that each time there is a Hamas attack, Rabin responds in a way that further weakens Arafat. Last week, in response to the Tel Aviv bombing, he closed off the West Bank and Gaza, stranding the thousands of Palestinians who cross every day for work.

It puts Arafat in an impossible dilemma. If he speaks out against the Israeli measures and resists Israeli pressure to crack down on Hamas, he risks the possibility that Israel will respond by dragging its feet further in talks. If he says nothing, Hamas can charge that he is Rabin's puppet.

Israel has miscalculated in its treatment of Hamas before. The group arose in the beginning of the intifada, the Palestinian uprising, in 1987. Israel nurtured it, believing it would be a counter to the PLO. That strategy backfired when Hamas grew out of control.

Then, in December 1992, Israel deported 415 Islamic hardliners to Lebanon, allowing them back a year later after an international outcry. The deportation was a boon to Hamas. Its popularity soared and the deportees said they had been trained in bomb-making and sabotage by Islamic fundamentalists.

Although Israeli intelligence estimates active Hamas militants number only a few hundred, they believe it has the support of 20-40% of the population. It has learned from the example of fundamentalists in Iran and Beirut, winning hearts and minds by setting up a parallel system of schools, medical clinics and charity organisations in Gaza.

Intelligence on Hamas is minimal. The military members operate in tiny cells that have no communication with each other. Members are often related by blood; penetrating the cells is almost impossible. Their asceticism means that temptations used to entrap secular PLO members women, drugs and money are ineffective.

Where PLO recruits were mostly uneducated youths from refugee camps, Hamas members are in the mould of Salah Abdel Rahim Suwey, 27, the Tel Aviv suicide bomber. He was well-educated, from a prosperous family and studying accounting.

Arafat believes the only way to curb the attraction of the Islamic extremists is for Israel to speed up its withdrawal from the West Bank, agree to immediate elections and introduce economic measures that would allow Palestinians to believe in a better future.

Load-Date: October 26, 1994

ROOTS OF TERROR: A special report.;
Alms and Arms: Tactics in a Holy War

The New York Times

March 15, 1996, Friday, Late Edition - Final

Copyright 1996 The New York Times Company

Distribution: Foreign Desk

Section: Section A; ; Section A; Page 1; Column 3; Foreign Desk ; Column 3; ; Special Report

Length: 3920 words

Byline: By JOHN KIFNER

By JOHN KIFNER

Dateline: JERUSALEM, March 14

Body

Hamas, the main force behind the suicide bombers who have thrown the shaky Middle East peace talks into crisis, is an organization with deep roots, a popular base that feeds on misery and resentment, an international support network, and a clear goal: to turn the nascent Palestine into an Islamic state.

Mosques, hospitals and schools are its weapons as much as bombs, and Yasir Arafat, as much as Israel, is its target.

As world leaders united this week in a show of anti-terrorist resolve, even the experts who study groups like **Hamas** say the nature of the organization presents a daunting quandary: Do you attempt to co-opt the religious and civilian side, thus isolating the militants, as Mr. Arafat has sought to do? Or do you seek to crush **Hamas** whole, as Mr. Arafat's American and Israeli partners are now pressing him to do?

No one knows as well as Israel that either method can backfire.

In the 1970's and early in the Palestinian uprising, Israel allowed the surging Islamic movement to flourish and even covertly supported it, calculating that Muslim groups would undermine and draw support from Mr. Arafat's P.L.O., which was then the more immediate threat.

The tactic failed. **Hamas**, with its tight-knit cells and devotion to Islam, proved much harder to infiltrate and influence than Mr. Arafat's more secular and corrupt P.L.O.

But cracking down was hardly more successful. In 1992, in an attempt to decimate **Hamas**, Israel deported 415 of its activists to a snowy hillside in Lebanon.

Many of the deported militants enrolled in guerrilla training camps, and returned to Israel with their grievances and their skills honed to a fine edge.

ROOTS OF TERROR: A special report.; Alms and Arms: Tactics in a Holy War

Indeed, it was the assassination of **Hamas**'s chief bomb-maker that brought the latest wave of suicide bombings, breaking a seven-month lull in terror attacks.

Hamas, the major Islamic militant organization, is linked to three of the four suicide bombings in the last two weeks that have left 62 people dead, including the bombers, and now looms as the gravest immediate threat to a Middle East peace.

Many who study the group fear proponents of peace -- Israel, Mr. Arafat, and the others who joined hands at the anti-terrorism conference Wednesday in Egypt -- are again in danger of outsmarting themselves by misjudging **Hamas**.

Although its organization and military operations are deliberately murky, interviews with a wide range of Palestinian, Israeli and Western experts present a portrait of **Hamas** that is more cohesive and intricate than is generally believed:

*Most of **Hamas**'s estimated \$70 million annual budget goes to support a network of hundreds of mosques, schools, orphanages, clinics and hospitals that permeates virtually every village, town and refugee camp on the West Bank and Gaza Strip. But these social services provide both a cover and a recruiting ground for young terrorists. One of the important uses of charitable donations to **Hamas** is to provide lifetime annuities to the families of suicide bombers.

***Hamas** receives financial and other support from an array of sources, including Iran, Palestinians living in America and Europe, and prominent figures in Saudi Arabia and other oil-rich Gulf states. Much of the money is channeled through neighboring Jordan where the fundamentalist Muslim Brotherhood is strong.

*Attempts to behead **Hamas** by arresting or killing its leaders have tended to spawn revenge attacks and produce more radical new leaders. Mohammed Mousa Abu Marzook, now in custody in New York, came to power after a roundup of other leaders, and virtually reinvented **Hamas** as the financial and military organization that carried out the post-Oslo attacks on Israel.

*Efforts to counter **Hamas** are hampered, too, by family loyalties and shared experiences of battling Israel, including prison time. One example: Mr. Arafat is under extremely heavy pressure from the Americans to arrest Mohammed Dief, the current **Hamas** military chief, who has been operating from Gaza. The policeman in charge of the search, Col. Mohammed Dahlan of Mr. Arafat's security service, is a childhood friend of Mr. Dief and fellow inmate of Israeli jails who has been seen sipping coffee with the wanted man during the recent wave of bombings.

*Currently, there appear to be tactical divisions within **Hamas**, with the leadership based abroad pressing for more attacks and some leaders in Gaza and the West Bank willing to accept a truce, at least for the short term, in order to protect the mosques and charity institutions that form their political base. But it is unclear if these differences can be exploited, because underlying the tactics is a common goal: the ouster of Mr. Arafat and the creation of an Islamic Palestinian state.

*Above all, **Hamas** thrives on misery and frustration. The harsh Israeli blockade of Palestinian areas, along with flaws in the hastily organized peace plan and disappointment with Mr. Arafat's rule, which has brought little improvement in the lives of Palestinians, will only strengthen it.

The Rivals

A Challenger To the P.L.O.

"**Hamas** is much better organized than the P.L.O. ever was," said a Western official closely monitoring the situation. "Their leadership has outsmarted Arafat. Their goals are to destroy the Labor government, destroy the P.L.O., destroy the peace process."

"**Hamas** supporters cross both tribal patterns and family patterns among Palestinians," he added, outlining what he described as "an incredible crisis" for Mr. Arafat. "Its not unusual for the same family to have brothers in different

ROOTS OF TERROR: A special report.; Alms and Arms: Tactics in a Holy War

organizations. Many of the P.L.O. people were fighting shoulder to shoulder during the intifada with people from the military wing of **Hamas**."

Nor is **Hamas** operating in a vacuum. It has strong support from Islamic movements in neighboring countries, including Jordan, which both Palestinian and Israeli intelligence officers say is the main conduit of smuggled money and directives, and financial backing from Iran.

Hassan Habibi, the vice president of Iran, met in Damascus during the week between the two Jerusalem bus bombings with Emad al-Alami, a 40-year old engineer from Gaza who is the main leader of **Hamas**, and Ramadan Abdullah Shalah, the leader of Islamic Holy War, the other main Islamic group mounting terror attacks in Israel, as well as leaders of the Lebanese Party of God, according to Western intelligence reports. The meeting, held in the Iranian Embassy, was to discuss future tactics.

Mr. Habibi was accompanied by Hussein Sheikholeslam, an Iranian Foreign Ministry official who was among the hostage-takers at the American Embassy in Teheran in 1979 and whose duties include spreading Islamic revolution, according to the intelligence reports. Money changed hands at the meeting, according to the reports.

"The Islamic resistance movement is in for a glorious future," Mr. Sheikholeslam told the Iranian news service, I.R.N.A., after the meeting. "There is no peaceful solution. The Israelis must return to the countries they came from."

Mr. Arafat had been attempting, with some apparent success, to co-opt **Hamas**'s political leadership, appointing some of its preachers to key posts, among other things. In December, with Israeli approval, he met with **Hamas** leaders in Cairo to work out a reconciliation. The intransigence of **Hamas** leaders from abroad blocked a hoped-for written statement, but there was a verbal agreement that **Hamas** would not launch any attacks that would embarrass Mr. Arafat's Palestinian Authority, a promise broken after the killing, presumably by Israeli security, of **Hamas**'s military leader in January.

But now, under severe pressure from Israel and the United States, -- including a visit from a high-ranking Central Intelligence Agency delegation -- Mr. Arafat has launched a public crackdown on the **Hamas** infrastructure, rounding up some 600 of the usual suspects among public **Hamas** figures, replacing fiery sheiks in some 40 Gaza mosques with his own more conciliatory preachers and sending his police, trailed by television cameras, kicking down the doors of what turned out to be a kindergarten.

A **Hamas** bomb-maker's monument in Gaza was bulldozed by masked men, and Palestinian police displayed captured weapons, bombs and documents they said described a **Hamas** plot to overthrow Mr. Arafat.

But Israeli officials are skeptical of how long the **Hamas** people will stay in jail, and Palestinian officials declared that Mr. Dief and other fugitives, if caught, would not be extradited.

"These people must be rooted out ruthlessly," a Western official said of **Hamas**. "We pleaded and begged and warned Arafat that the militants were going to do him in, but he chose to co-opt rather than confront. He hasn't been able to realize that these people have a totally different agenda, to destroy the peace process."

But it remains unclear to many experts whether an all-out attack on the civil and well as military activities of **Hamas** is realistic or even the best way to reduce future terrorism.

"Islamic Holy War is weak, and, if Arafat chooses, it could be eradicated within a few days," Brig. Gen. Yaacov Amidor of Israeli military intelligence told a parliamentary committee, "but **Hamas** is difficult to get rid of. You can trim its branches, but you can't pull out its roots."

The Origins

Roots in Charity And Religious Zeal

ROOTS OF TERROR: A special report.; Alms and Arms: Tactics in a Holy War

The militant Islamic movement here, like many in the Arab world, traces its roots to the Muslim Brotherhood founded in Egypt during the 1920's by Hassan al-Bana. The brotherhood has strong followings in Egypt and Jordan today, and has spawned movements in other countries.

Typically, the Brotherhood's strategy is to fight what it sees as Westernization and corruption of Arab governments by running its own schools, hospitals and other services in order to spread its beliefs.

Sheik Ahmed Yassin and the other founders of **Hamas** were Muslim Brotherhood followers running welfare, social and educational services through their mosques when the Palestinian uprising broke out against Israeli occupation of the West Bank and Gaza Strip in 1987.

Stone-throwing youths flocked to the P.L.O. banner and the rival Islamic Holy War taunted the Brotherhood for inaction. Fearful of losing his following to the P.L.O., Sheik Yassin formed a new organization, naming it **Hamas**, an Arabic acronym for Islamic Resistance Movement, which means "zeal." Its military wing was called the Ezzadin al-Qassem brigade, after a Muslim preacher in Haifa who led an Arab revolt against both British rule and Zionist settlement in the 1930's, dying in battle.

Ironically, the Israeli authorities had quietly supported the Islamic movements, both during the 1970's and in the early days of the uprising, in hopes of undermining the nationalism of the Palestine Liberation Organization.

"There was a conscious decision to build up the Islamic groups as a counterweight to the P.L.O. and to increase divisions within Palestinian society," said a long-serving Western diplomat. "The Ministry of Defense gave the okay for all these Islamic institutions which became the financial and institutional infrastructure behind the Qassem brigades. These institutions were allowed to flourish and function and this has come back in a terrible way to haunt the Israelis."

Hamas swiftly became a problem, and in 1989 the Sheik Yassin was thrown into an Israeli jail where he has remained ever since. A further wave of arrests was meant to decimate the leadership but failed, and in December, 1992, Israel deported 415 **Hamas** activists, dumping them on a barren, snowy hillside in Lebanon.

The arrest of Sheik Yassin and other leaders brought to power a lower ranking activist, Mohammed Mousa Abu Marzook, who was to substantially change the organization.

Described by those who know him as an ambitious, charismatic figure, Mr. Marzook reorganized the structure of **Hamas**, Israeli and Palestine intelligence officials say, setting up outside fund-raising channels and concentrating virtually all political, financial and military power in his own hands.

Mr. Marzook operated for a time from the United States, living in Springfield, Va., where he was active in an Islamic organization called the United Association for Studies and Research. He then set up a major **Hamas** support office in Amman, Jordan until, under American pressure, the authorities expelled him in early 1995, after two suicide bombers killed 21 Israelis, most of them soldiers at a bus stop.

With the Oslo accords in the fall of 1993, the situation here had changed dramatically. While Mr. Arafat's followers prepared to take over Palestinian enclaves in the West Bank and Gaza Strip, **Hamas** and Islamic Holy War launched a wave of suicide car bombings, kidnappings and shootings that have killed some 213 Israelis since the peace was signed, far more than in the troubled years of the uprising.

After leaving Jordan, Mr. Marzook traveled between Damascus and Dubai in the United Arab Emirates, among other places. On July 28 of last year, he landed at Kennedy Airport in New York on a flight from London, and an immigration inspector spotted his name on a computer watch list of suspected terrorists. He has been held since at the Federal Metropolitan Correctional Center in Manhattan as Israel presses for his extradition.

His place as the leader of the "outside" **Hamas** leadership, although apparently not all of his power, has been taken by his former deputy, Mr. Alami. He is said to operate primarily from Damascus, although he also travels to Teheran.

ROOTS OF TERROR: A special report.; Alms and Arms: Tactics in a Holy War

The Money

Complex Network Fills the War Chest

However, according to Israeli intelligence officials, the financial networks organized by Mr. Marzook that channel funds from abroad to Hamas are still intact. The Israelis estimate that roughly 95 per cent of the estimated \$70-million a year goes into such charities as hospitals, clinics and schools, with only a small portion siphoned off to pay for weapons and military operations.

One charitable activity, however, is vital to the military operations: the support payments granted to the families of suicide bombers and others killed in clashes with Israel. These stipends are believed to play an important role in recruiting. Last week, Israel put the director of an Israeli Arab charity under house arrest, charging he had channeled millions of shekels to the families of Hamas guerrillas.

"This is the most critical part," an Israeli Army officer said. "They have to make sure these families are taken care of."

Israeli officials say that among the key Hamas fund-raising operations are the Holy Land Foundation of Richardson, Texas and the London-based Palestine and Lebanon Relief Fund, known, for its telex address, as Interpal. Other money, they say, comes from Saudi Arabia and the Gulf, both from Moslem charities and wealthy individuals.

Much of the money, both Palestinian and Israeli intelligence officers say, is funneled through Jordan, where Hamas maintains an operation headed by Ibrahim Ghosheh, a Jordanian citizen, and a fund called the Islamic Aid Committee. In Amman, Hamas operates in conjunction with the Muslim Brotherhood, which has become a political force with a sizable representation in Parliament and municipal offices. Funds are smuggled across the three bridges over the Jordan River or transferred between banks or money changers.

Iran, operating primarily through its embassy in Iran, where it deals with the Lebanese Party of God and Palestinian factions opposed to the peace agreements, has also given money to Hamas, the intelligence officers say, although adding that Hamas in the past has been wary of political direction from Teheran.

In Gaza and the West Bank, Hamas operates on several levels.

One involves what are known as Dawa activities -- from the Arabic word for the call to prayer. These include the issuance of pamphlets and staging of ceremonies to spread Islamic doctrine.

The major effort, employing hundreds of people, is the social and welfare network. These include the Medical and Scientific Association, which runs hospitals and clinics where only a nominal fee is charged, and the Sciences and Culture Association, which runs Islamic schools. There is a Y.M.C.A.-like Young Islamic Association where boys can play soccer and learn martial arts, and an Islamic Cultural Center for Women, some of whose members have lately been complaining that girls do not get a chance to be suicide bombers.

An organization of some 164 clerics, outlawed by Israel, called the Council of Religious Sages, coordinates sermons so that similar political messages come from the mosques. Tape cassettes circulating of recent sermons bear such titles as: "P.L.O. high treason: Oslo and beyond."

All of this has been open and public. The military operations of the Qassem brigades are by nature clandestine. They are believed to be coordinated by what is known as the "Inside Committee" headed by Mr. Alami. Some directives, by telephone or fax, are passed through private telephone switching businesses in Cyprus.

But there had been no bombings or other attacks here since last Aug. 21, when a bus in Jerusalem was blown up, killing six people and wounding more than 100. That was only a month after Mr. Abu Marzook, who tightly controlled operations, was taken into custody at Kennedy Airport, suggesting this disrupted the leadership. At the same time, Mr. Arafat was seeking to draw leaders in Gaza to him, persuading one key figure, Emad Falaji, to cross over.

ROOTS OF TERROR: A special report.; Alms and Arms: Tactics in a Holy War

"Arafat was gradually, successfully neutralizing the Hamas leadership," said Khalil Shikaki, a respected Palestinian polling expert who is also the brother of the slain leader of Islamic Holy War. "There was internal dissent, turmoil among them. The total lack of response to their call for a boycott of elections was a blow to their prestige and credibility. Some, as long as their infrastructure was safe, might be willing to trade off the military."

The Reprisals

A Shadow War Erupts Into Open

The pause in bombings was to end in the wake of two dramatic assassinations of Islamic terrorist leaders. Smiling Israeli officials pointedly did not deny responsibility. The first to be killed was Fathi Shikaki Islamic Holy War leader, in Malta on Oct. 26. As he sauntered out of the luxury hotel where he was registered under a false name as a Libyan businessman, a gunman calmly pumped several shots from a silenced 9-millimeter pistol into his head, then sped away on the back of a waiting motorcycle.

The second was yet more spectacular. Yahya Ayyash, the chief Hamas bomb-maker known as the Engineer, was in his hiding place in Gaza on the morning of Jan 5. He took a call from his father on a cell phone, which suddenly exploded. This killing was widely attributed to Israel's internal security service, Shin Bet, which had been smarting over its failure to protect Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin from an assassin last fall; the day after Mr. Ayyash's death, the director of the secret agency submitted his long-expected resignation, after having partially recouping his agency's prestige.

At the time, there was widespread expectation on both sides that the killings would prompt revenge attacks. "Of course there will be revenge against Israel," said Mahmoud al-Zahar, the Hamas political leader in Gaza. "The principles of the Hamas movement command us not to lose Palestinian blood without revenge."

The bombings to avenge Mr. Ayyash, Palestinian and Israeli intelligence operatives believe, were organized by Hassan Salami, known as Abu Ahmed, who had left Gaza to escape arrest during the uprising. He received training in Sudan, which under the leadership of Hassan al-Turabi has become a gathering place for Islamic revolutionaries, including veterans of the Afghan guerrilla movement eager to continue their struggle. He is believed to have infiltrated into Gaza -- where most of the bombings have been planned -- through Syria.

"He is a very dangerous guy," an Israeli officer said. "Young, but dangerous."

Mr. Salami recruited Mohammed Abu Warda -- who was captured by the Palestinian police, sentenced to life imprisonment within 24 hours and confessed on Israeli television -- in the West Bank town of Ramallah. He, in turn, found three young suicide bombers. They were equipped simply, with old Egyptian-issue land mines dug up from the Sinai desert, carried in a duffle bag, wired to nine-volt batteries. They passed unnoticed in Israeli army uniforms, with one wearing an earring for extra authenticity.

The last bombing on Tel Aviv's Dizengoff Street was carried out by Islamic Holy War, with the bomber being smuggled out of Gaza in an Israeli Arab's truck past a lax military checkpoint. An Islamic Holy War statement issued in Beirut said it would be "one of a series" to avenge Mr. Shikaki.

The funeral of Mr. Ayyash demonstrated Mr. Arafat's political problems. Over 100,000 people swarmed through Gaza's fetid streets, carrying Mr. Ayyash's coffin, screaming "Death to Israel. We are all Yahya Ayyash, we are all Ezzadin Qassem" and scattering baseball card-like pictures of the Hamas military leader. He was a folk hero and legends were told of his exploits and escapes, sometimes disguised as a woman, an old man, or an Orthodox Jew. When he emerged unscathed from the accidental demolition of one of his own bomb factories, he was said to have been guarded by angels.

Mr. Arafat visited the bereaved family, declared Mr. Ayyash a "holy martyr," ordered a 21-gun salute and sent ranking members of his Palestinian authority to the funeral. Reporters spotted at least 10 wanted terrorists in the crowd, including Mr. Dief.

ROOTS OF TERROR: A special report.; Alms and Arms: Tactics in a Holy War

In effect, said a European diplomat well-versed in the area, Mr. Arafat has begun to reproduce in Gaza the atmosphere of his days in Beirut, with an administration marked by inefficiency, corruption and cronyism, trying to keep all power to himself while juggling various warlords, including half a dozen paramilitary police agencies, the armed Islamic militants and criminal bands that control their own turf for narcotics and car theft operations.

"This is a fight for the very nature of Palestinian society," said Emmanuel Sivan, an Israel expert on Islamic militancy. It is posed for Hamas, he said, in rhyming Arabic contrasts -- usuliyya, meaning a righteous Islam, and wusuliyya, connoting the decadent life of the nouveau rich. And they add the new term jahaliyya, meaning a pre-Islamic state of barbarism and ignorance. The word is used by the Muslim Brotherhood in Egypt to sanction revolt against Arab rulers they regarded as Westernized and corrupt.

While other Palestinians frolicked on the Gaza Strip's sandy beaches after the Israeli withdrawal, Hamas supporters were appalled at the mixed bathing. When not fighting Israel, they may busy themselves cutting the wires to television satellite dishes.

"Arafat was trying to co-opt Hamas with classic divide-and-rule tactics and he was having success. He made a truce with them," he said. "But now they have betrayed him. His dilemma is that he has no other option but to move against them. But should they retaliate against the Palestinian Authority there could be armed struggle in the streets."

Mr. Shikaki, the polling expert whose research had shown a sharp decline in support for violence among Palestinians over the last year, offered a similarly gloomy assessment of the immediate future.

If Mr. Arafat "goes against the mosques, he would be making enemies of a large part of the Palestinian population. Gaza and the West Bank could be turned into another Algeria. People will be asking 'What kind of an Authority do we have, what kind of peace?' "

Graphic

Photos: Children studying verses from the Koran at an Islamic school founded and paid for by Hamas in the Gaza Strip. Young and needy Muslims are the beneficiaries of the tightly woven organization, but Israelis have been its victims. (Rina Castelnovo for the New York Times)(pg. A9); Hamas, the militant Islamic group, has emerged as the strongest opponent of peace accords between Israel and the P.L.O. Hamas supporters are shown rallying under a wall bearing anti-Israeli graffiti. (Rina Castelnovo for The New York Times)(pg. A1)

Chart/Photos: "BEHIND THE SCENES -- Hamas: A Family Tree"

Terrorist organizations do not publish organizational charts, and Hamas is particularly secretive about its leadership. The following guide to its history and leaders is compiled from Israeli, Western and Palestinian sources.

EARLY INSPIRATIONS

Hassan al-Bana

Founder of the Moslem Brotherhood in the 1920's in Egypt, an anti-Western, anti-corruption movement that spread its beliefs through schools and social services and still has followers in Egypt, Jordan and elsewhere.

Sheikh Ezzadin al-Qassem

ROOTS OF TERROR: A special report.; Alms and Arms: Tactics in a Holy War

An early hero, a Moslem preacher in Haifa who led revolts against British rule and Zionist settlers in the 1930's, dying in battle. Military wing of modern **Hamas** took his name.

HAMAS

Sheikh Ahmed Yassin

Crippled in childhood, he was a Muslim Brotherhood leader in GAZA?? running welfare and educational services in 1987 when the Palestinian uprising against Israeli occupation began. He formed **Hamas**, Arabic acronym for Islamic resistance movement, with civic programs and a military wing. Arrested in 1989 and remains jailed in Israel.

Mohammed Mousa Abu Marzook

After arrest of Yassin and others this American-educated engineer, a native of Gaza, took over **Hamas**, centralizing control and nurturing foreign funding. Operating from United States, Jordan, Damascus and elsewhere he led resumption of suicide bombings in protest of 1993 Oslo accords. Arrested in New York in 1995, remains jailed pending Israel's request for extradition.

Emad al-Alami

Engineer from Gaza, took over as overall leader after arrest of Marzook, but is believed to have less control over all elements of **Hamas**. Based mainly in Damascus.

MILITARY

Yehiya Ayyash

Known as "the engineer," led military wing and was chief bomb designer. Killed on Jan. 5 in Gaza by telephone bomb, presumably set by Israelis.

Mohammed Dief

Succeeded Ayyash as military head, operates out of Gaza and is now the most wanted.

CIVILIAN

Mahmoud el-Zahar

Political leader of **Hamas** in Gaza, operated openly, now under arrest by Palestinians in current crackdown.

ISLAMIC HOLY WAR

Fahti Shkaki

Was leader of Islamic Jihad, a much smaller group devoted solely to military struggle. Killed, presumably by Israeli agents, in Malta last October.

Ramadan Abdullah Shalah

New leader of Islamic Jihad, which claims credit for recent Tel Aviv bombing. Now based in Syria, he has lived and studied in United States, Great Britain and Egypt.

ROOTS OF TERROR: A special report.; Alms and Arms: Tactics in a Holy War

Map/Diagram: "Home-Grown Roots and Foreign Support"

Hamas is a mass movement with solid support among perhaps 15 percent to 20 percent of the two million Palestinians in Gaza and the West Bank. Leadership is divided between those inside the territories and those operating outside, mainly from Damascus.

The organization depends heavily on outside funds, with half of its estimated \$70 million annual budget coming from the oil-rich Gulf states and another 35 percent from Europe, mainly England, and the United States, according to Israeli estimates. Most of this goes to **Hamas** charitable, religious and civic groups, but some is used to support the families of suicide bombers and a small fraction is used for arms.

Iran

Government gives money to **Hamas** and other fundamentalist groups, and provides offices in Teheran for **Hamas** officials.

Jordan

Major trans-shipment point for funds to **Hamas** from Gulf states, Europe and United States, with money transferred via Jordanian banks, or carried across border. **Hamas** political leaders operate openly.

Syria

A major base for **Hamas** and other fundamentalist groups.

Sudan

A military training ground for **Hamas** and other fundamentalist groups.

Saudi Arabia

Private charities here and in neighboring Gulf states provide substantial funds.

Load-Date: March 15, 1996

Peace foes are winning in Mideast

The Tampa Tribune (Florida)

March 5, 1996, Tuesday,

FINAL EDITION

Copyright 1996 The Tribune Co. Publishes The Tampa Tribune

Section: NATION/WORLD,

Length: 722 words

Byline: Mark August

Body

At times like these, when suicide bomb attacks by Palestinian terrorists claim so many Israeli lives, it is tempting to say the heck with political civility.

But we must retain control of our emotions in the face of the cowardly acts of terrorism by Hamas, the Islamic fundamentalist group.

For the fourth time in nine days, Israel was hit by another suicide bomb attack by militants of Hamas, which is opposed to the peace agreement Israel reached with Yasser Arafat's Palestine Liberation Organization.

This terror campaign has communicated an uncomfortable message to Israelis that they are not immune from attacks. Israelis, who had hoped that the signing of the Oslo peace accord between Israel and the PLO would end the fear and frustration they had about their security, have discovered a different reality.

While the victims of the terrorism have been Israeli men, women and even children, Hamas' main target is the peace process. In the meantime, Hamas has also dealt a near-fatal blow to Palestinians' quest for statehood.

Hamas has shown it has no more regard for Palestinians' yearning for their own independent state than it has for Israel's right to exist. For Israelis, who are concerned about their personal security, the peace process now means nothing.

Many Israelis had expected the deal their government had reached, through the evolving peace agreements with Arab regimes, to deliver personal security. Now, many of them cannot be sure anymore.

Understandably, the Israeli government of embattled Prime Minister Shimon Peres has declared total war on Hamas and its co-terrorist, Islamic Jihad.

Hamas, which lately has delivered death and destruction to Israel with impunity, left Peres with diminishing options.

Others waiting Monday's suicide attack in Tel Aviv, in which some of the victims' body parts had to be scraped off buildings, came a day after Sunday's bomb attack in Jerusalem.

With Israel three months away from its elections, and his public support on the wane, Peres had to do something.

Even if Israel eliminates Hamas, other terror-driven militant Palestinian groups will be ready to take over from Hamas.

Peace foes are winning in Mideast

At stake is not only whether Peres will remain prime minister, but the future of the peace process as well if the opposition Likud party wins the election. Likud leader Benjamin Netanyahu, who has no fondness for the peace process, could stop it cold.

Arafat has a vested interest to help Peres not lose the election by cracking down hard on **Hamas**. Arafat's strategy, of trying to co-opt the political leadership of **Hamas** in an effort to isolate its military wing, is a non-starter.

Some have questioned whether it is the wisest strategy for Arafat to go after **Hamas**, since doing so risks creating a breakdown of law and order in the territory under his control and could lead to more terrorism.

That is a moot point. Those who oppose the peace process are winning the battle and terrorism has become endemic as **Hamas** has shown it has the ability to strike anywhere and at anytime.

While violence often leads to more violence, a violent Israeli response is the only message **Hamas** will understand.

With gloves off And since **Hamas** has shown the ability to make such blunt political statements, the time has come for Israel and Arafat's forces to address them with no gloves on.

It is noteworthy that extremist Jewish forces, responsible for the assassination of Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin, have a common objective in their opposition of the peace process with fanatical Palestinians, who murder innocent Israelis.

The fight against terrorism is often long and bitter. For Israel, the challenge will be difficult because its security forces are being called upon to snuff out faceless Palestinian walking bombs.

But Israel must take **Hamas** and Islamic Jihad out of the picture, even if it brings only short-term relief.

The peace process is now on the back burner, as Israelis concern themselves with their personal security. A lull, even a temporary lull, may be what it will take to breathe new life into it.

Ultimately, the road to strategic and personal security for Israelis must be through the peace process. To dismiss that could result in a prolonged cycle of violence for all parties. Reach Mark August online on Prodigy at TRIB03D@prodigy.com. Fax (813) 259-7676 or call (813) 259-7611.

Notes

COLUMN; NATION/WORLD WATCH

Graphic

SIGNATURE

Load-Date: April 6, 1996

**Suicide bombs kill 8 in Gaza;
Islamic Jihad and a wing of Hamas claim responsibility for the two separate
attacks**

The Tampa Tribune (Florida)

April 10, 1995, Monday,

FINAL EDITION

Copyright 1995 The Tribune Co. Publishes The Tampa Tribune

Section: NATION/WORLD,

Length: 507 words

Dateline: KFAR DAROM, Gaza Strip

Body

Islamic militants opposed to the Israeli-PLO peace process killed six Israeli soldiers, the bombers themselves, and wounded dozens of people in two suicide bombings Sunday near Jewish settlements in the Gaza Strip.

Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin said he would continue talks with the Palestine Liberation Organization despite calls to halt them in protest.

In the first attack, a van parked by the main Gaza highway exploded near an Israeli bus around noon, killing six soldiers and the bomber, said Brig. Gen. Doron Almog, Israel's commander in Gaza. Officials said 34 people were wounded.

An Associated Press Report

Two hours later, about six miles up the road, a Palestinian car drove into an Israeli convoy of military and civilian cars and exploded, Almog said. The bomber died and eleven Israelis were wounded, including two girls ages 2 and 4. Two soldiers were in critical condition.

Three of those injured were Americans, said White House spokesman Mike McCurry, who was traveling with President Clinton in Los Angeles.

The militant group Islamic Jihad claimed responsibility for the first attack and said it was carried out by Khaled Mohammed Khatib, a 24-year-old construction worker.

Sources in **Hamas** confirmed that the group's military wing, Izzedine al-Qassam, staged the second attack. They identified the suicide bomber as Imad Abu Amouna, 24, from the Shati refugee camp.

More than 100 fundamentalist youths gathered at Khatib's home in the Nuseirat refugee camp, their cries for revenge mingling with the wails of **women** from inside the house and the crack of gunshots fired into the air.

"The language of bullets is the only one that will guarantee the departure of the enemy from our territory," one Islamic Jihad activist said through a loudspeaker.

Suicide bombs kill 8 in Gaza; Islamic Jihad and a wing of Hamas claim responsibility for the two separate attacks

PLO leader Yasser Arafat condemned the attacks, but did not say how he would respond. "We are committed to confronting terrorism. These people are the enemies of peace."

Palestinian police Sunday began arresting Islamic Jihad activists in Gaza City.

Israel Radio said Arafat called Rabin to offer condolences, and Rabin asked him to do more to rein in the militants.

Other Israeli leaders warned that chances of reaching agreement on expanding Palestinian autonomy by a July 1 target date are slipping away. Gaza and the West Bank town of Jericho became autonomous 11 months ago, and talks are under way to extend self-rule throughout the West Bank.

Education Minister Amnon Rubinstein said the July 1 deadline could be met only if Arafat declared "all-out war" on militants.

The bus was attacked near the fenced-in Kfar Darom settlement in the heart of autonomous Gaza. Witnesses said the blast ripped its side off and hurled bodies into the air. The twisted and blackened remains of the van that held the explosives lay nearby.

The militants said the attacks were revenge for last week's explosion in a Gaza apartment in which six people were killed. **Hamas** blamed the explosion on Israel and the PLO, although Palestinian police said the militants blew themselves up accidentally.

Notes

WORLD NEWS WATCH

Graphic

PHOTO 3,

Firefighters hose down an Israeli jeep after it was rammed by a suicide bomber in a second attack. Associated Press photos

Load-Date: April 12, 1995

Arafat, Backed by Israel, Offers an Olive Branch to Militants

The New York Times

October 7, 1995, Saturday, Late Edition - Final

Copyright 1995 The New York Times Company

Distribution: Foreign Desk

Section: Section 1; ; Section 1; Page 2; Column 1; Foreign Desk ; Column 1;

Length: 712 words

Byline: By SERGE SCHMEMANN

By SERGE SCHMEMANN

Dateline: JERUSALEM, Oct. 6

Body

The P.L.O. chairman, Yasir Arafat, has sent leaders of the militant Islamic movement **Hamas** a new truce proposal under which they would suspend attacks on Israel from Palestinian-controlled territories, according to P.L.O. and **Hamas** officials in the Gaza Strip.

They said five **Hamas** political leaders from Gaza went to the Sudan last week with the approval of the Israeli Government to present the proposal to their leaders abroad, who are said to control the guerrilla activities and are considered more dogmatic and hostile than **Hamas** leaders in Gaza.

Mr. Arafat met with the envoys immediately after he and the Israeli Government concluded an agreement on expanding Palestinian self-rule in the West Bank.

In return for a suspension of the attacks, he was reportedly prepared to release **Hamas** leaders and to give the movement greater leeway in forming parties and publishing newspapers. In a conciliatory gesture, Mr. Arafat lifted the ban on the **Hamas** newspaper in Gaza.

The draft **Hamas** accord, if approved and implemented, holds major political potential for Mr. Arafat and the Israeli Government.

For Mr. Arafat, a reconciliation with his largest opposition would greatly improve his standing and would defuse other opposition.

For Israel, a decision by **Hamas** to halt attacks from within Arab-ruled regions would eliminate one of the biggest criticisms of the Israeli-Palestinian disengagement process: that it has failed to guarantee Israelis' security. **Hamas** has been responsible for most of the bus bombings and other terror attacks in recent years.

The Israeli Prime Minister, Yitzhak Rabin, signaled his satisfaction at the development when he told Israel television, "The Palestinian Authority is trying to reach an agreement with **Hamas** for the prevention of terror activities. Chairman Arafat asked that four or five [**Hamas** officials] go through Egypt to the Sudan and we approved it."

Arafat, Backed by Israel , Offers an Olive Branch to Militants

Earlier attempts at reconciliation between **Hamas** and the Palestine Liberation Organization have been interrupted by attacks in Israel and by Mr. Arafat's crackdown on **Hamas** in Gaza.

The five **Hamas** officials who went to the Sudan were expected to meet with Mohammed Siam and Imad Alami, who were expelled from Gaza in 1988. The meeting, in Khartoum, was organized by the Sudan Government, which provides haven for many Islamic militants.

Hamas officials in Gaza recently announced that they would try to form a political party, but so far the movement has rejected taking part in Palestinian elections planned for the spring, since that would amount to recognition of the Israeli-Palestinian agreements.

The West Bank agreement, signed last week in Washington, squeaked by the Israeli Parliament early this morning by two votes, 61 to 59, after a raucous 17-hour debate and mass opposition demonstrations.

Israel announced today that it would start freeing Palestinian prisoners on Sunday, in keeping with the provisions of the agreement, with a group of **women** to be freed on Sunday and 1,200 men on Tuesday. But the Government said at least two **women** accused of murder would not be freed because President Ezer Weizman refused to pardon them.

That brought an immediate charge from the Palestinian who negotiated the prisoner release, Hisham Abdul Razek, that Israel was violating the agreement, which says "all **female** detainees and prisoners shall be released in the first stage of release." Israel now holds 27 Palestinian **women**: 14 are in Israeli prisons and eligible for pardon; the rest are in military detention.

"The failure to release even one prisoner is a violation of the agreement," Mr. Razek said.

But before the signing, Mr. Weizman, who on several occasions has criticized the Labor Government's negotiating stance, warned that he would not grant pardons to any prisoner with blood on his or her hands. He withheld pardons from one woman who killed an Israeli and another who killed a suspected Arab informant.

The Government also said that Israeli troops would start withdrawing from the West Bank on Sunday, and that troops would be out of the first West Bank city, Jenin, by Nov. 19. The agreement calls for Israel to withdraw from the Jenin district by Feb. 17; the earlier start was evidently intended as a test run and to accustom Israelis and Palestinians to the process.

Load-Date: October 7, 1995

Warning of 'civil war' in Gaza strip

The Independent (London)

July 9, 1992, Thursday

Copyright 1992 Independent Print Ltd

Section: INTERNATIONAL NEWS PAGE; Page 9

Length: 617 words

Byline: From SARAH HELM in Gaza

Body

AFTER the worst outbreak of violence between rival Palestinian groups in the Gaza strip for several years, a senior Palestinian leader warned yesterday that civil war could break out in the occupied territories ahead of the new round of peace talks.

Last night clashes broke out in the Beach Camp refugee enclave after supporters of the Palestinian Islamic fundamentalist group, Hamas, appealed through the mosques for peace.

The mosques in the camp were immediately attacked by militants from the rival Fatah faction, the mainstream group of the Palestine Liberation Organisation which has been involved in clashes with Hamas for several days, resulting on Tuesday in the death of a 16-year-old boy.

The call from the mosques which echoed around the camp pleaded for women and children and families of political prisoners to come out on to the street to prevent further bloodshed between the two groups. Thousands of Beach Camp residents responded to the appeal but Israeli soldiers were swiftly on the scene to disperse the militants.

The violence appears to have been sparked by a tussle for power as the prospect of autonomy for the occupied territories has increased with the election of Yitzhak Rabin, the Labour leader, as Prime Minister. Mr Rabin has promised to implement autonomy within six to nine months.

The Hamas group has in the past rejected all involvement with the peace process and now accuses the PLO faction of giving in to Israeli and US conditions for peace.

The head of the Palestinian delegation to the talks, Haidar Abdel Shafi, yesterday warned that "civil war" could break out in Gaza before the new round of talks starts in Rome within the next few weeks.

On the walls of Gaza's Islamic University the depth of the animosity between the fundamentalists and the PLO group was yesterday writ large.

Hamas accused Fatah of a plot to eliminate the Islamic movement and its leaders. "With the great growth of the Islamic movement and also after the Israeli election, Fatah is trying to spread the propaganda of their allies in the Labour party. It is using a terrorist plot against Hamas." The words were signed by the El Kassen Brigade, the armed wing of Hamas.

Warning of 'civil war' in Gaza strip

The fundamentalists of Hamas, who reject the peace process, accuse the Palestinian leadership, many of whom support Fatah, of being in the hands of the Israelis and of carrying out what they say is the West's plan to have Hamas eliminated. The Fatah faction says Hamas is provoking the violence to assert its strength before autonomy is achieved. Both sides suspect Israeli provocation.

Inside the Islamic University, Abdel Aziz Rentisi, a founder of the Hamas movement in 1987, accused Yasser Arafat, the PLO leader, of kowtowing to the West by talking peace. "The Islamic movement will be the victim of the peace process," said Dr Rentisi, a paediatrician and lecturer at the university. Although Hamas rejects the peace process, Dr Rentisi said the organisation would participate in the autonomy election.

He attacked Fatah leaders for calling for an end to the killing of Palestinians who collaborate with the Israelis. "Fatah is going to stop Hamas from attacking the Jews and collaborators on the orders of the US," he said.

The violence started when Hamas said it had unearthed a plot by Fatah to kidnap and kill Hamas leaders - but Dr Rentisi would not reveal the evidence. Hamas distributed letters to Fatah activists threatening them with death. In reply Fatah threatened to kill Hamas's "scum leadership". After the war of leaflets came the real war between the Fatah Hawks - formerly called the Black Panthers - and the El Kassen Brigade. Scores have been injured after clashes in refugee camps.

End of Document

Brotherhood of Anger -- A special report.;
Palestinian Religious Militants: Why Their Ranks Are Growing

The New York Times

November 8, 1994, Tuesday, Late Edition - Final

Copyright 1994 The New York Times Company

Distribution: Foreign Desk

Section: Section A; ; Section A; Page 1; Column 2; Foreign Desk ; Column 2; ; Special Report

Length: 2406 words

Byline: By YOUSSEF M. IBRAHIM,

By YOUSSEF M. IBRAHIM, Special to The New York Times

Dateline: HEBRON, Israeli-Occupied West Bank

Body

On the second day of Nidal Tamimi's funeral at the end of October, mourners arrived by the hundreds. They climbed a hill to where his parents, relatives and friends accepted condolences over the death of the 22-year-old Hamas member, shot at a checkpoint in Hebron by Israeli soldiers.

But this was not merely a gathering of angry militants capitalizing on the death of one of their own. The mourners came from every walk of life, young and middle-aged, representing virtually every family of Hebron as they patiently wended their way to the funeral site above the city.

In the surrounding barren hills, youths from Hamas, hatchets and guns in hand, stomped the ground, vowing to avenge the "martyr."

"Today we are all Hamas," said Sheik Tayseer Bayoudi, who stood in line to greet mourners.

Hebron has long been a bastion of Islamic fundamentalism. But the surge in Palestinian Islamic militancy has now become widespread in the West Bank and the Gaza Strip. Hamas, as the Islamic Resistance Movement is known in Arabic, is well entrenched, amply financed and thoroughly disciplined.

Support for the group permeates the Palestinian landscape from the courtyards of the militant Islamic University of Gaza to the little villages of the West Bank to the Arab restaurants of East Jerusalem, where wealthy Palestinian merchants and businessmen meet.

Driven by a conviction that Arab peace agreements with Israel have been bypassing Palestinians, even moderate middle-class Palestinians have come to look on the Islamic political movement in the occupied territories as a catalyst that may revive momentum for Palestinian autonomy that died this autumn.

Many are now persuaded that Yasir Arafat's Palestine Liberation Organization has so grossly mismanaged its administration of Gaza and the West Bank city of Jericho that it must accept the Islamic movement as a silent partner in decision-making.

Brotherhood of Anger -- A special report.; Palestinian Religious Militants: Why Their Ranks Are Growing

Several reasons for the dissatisfaction are evident.

One is Mr. Arafat's managerial style, appointing cronies instead of Palestinians from the occupied territories to significant jobs. He also insists on personally deciding even the most trivial matters and retains tight control of funds.

Another and perhaps more important reason is that peace has done little to change the daily lives of most Palestinians. Frequent curfews deprive many of their jobs in Israel, and promises of \$2.4 billion in development funds have yet to materialize.

Politically, Palestinians feel forgotten and cut off in the wake of what they perceive as more generous outpourings of support -- diplomatic and monetary -- from the United States in its successful brokering of peace between Jordan and Israel.

"The truth is that they signed this deal with us, then dumped the whole P.L.O. here in Gaza and closed the door," said Mansour al-Shawa, a prominent Gaza business figure. "Where is the normalization? Where is the financial aid? Where is our water?"

Mamdouh al-Akr, a P.L.O. member who served on the Palestinian negotiating teams at the Madrid Peace Conference of 1991, observed: "At the moment, Hamas is the only alternative to Arafat in the territories. The old leftist Palestinian opposition and the secularist middle class have become irrelevant. If the Israelis continue to marginalize the P.L.O., and the P.L.O. continues to discredit itself, this leaves the arena wide open to the Islamists."

Hamas members say their influence is already powerful and widespread. "We are not just a political organization," said one senior member of the organization's leadership during a conversation in Gaza. "Hamas is a Palestinian phenomenon. Its membership constitutes a third of the Palestinian population."

The Cause To Advance A Theocracy

Whatever its actual strength in the occupied territories, Hamas has clearly been marked as a prime adversary by Israel and the P.L.O.

After the suicide bombing on Oct. 19 that killed more than 20 people in Tel Aviv, Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin vowed to pursue Hamas leaders within the territories or elsewhere in the Middle East. The P.L.O. arrested hundreds of Hamas members in one of what are becoming frequent security sweeps in Gaza.

Hamas is the creation of the Muslim Brotherhood, which was founded in Egypt in 1928 essentially to fight British occupation.

The Brotherhood's strategy has always been the same: to advance the struggle to establish Islamic theocracies through wide infiltration of social structures, subsidized services, the control of mosques -- which are used as a political pulpit -- and the establishment of secretive armed struggle.

Today direction of the Brotherhood is spread among several dozen leaders, many of whom live in Egypt, Saudi Arabia and Kuwait, as well as in Germany, Britain and other Western European countries.

The organization controls vast amounts of money said by intelligence officials to be held in offshore bank accounts but also in international banks under the names of legitimate businessmen, largely from the Persian Gulf region.

Directed by the Brotherhood, Hamas has links with the militant Islamic fundamentalist Governments in Iran and the Sudan and with Muslim organizations like the Islamic Group in Egypt, the Islamic Salvation Front in Algeria and Al Nahda in Tunisia.

One of the Hamas gunmen who sprayed a pedestrian mall in Israel with bullets in October, killing four people, was an Egyptian Muslim fundamentalist recruited from the Islamic Group in Cairo.

Brotherhood of Anger -- A special report.; Palestinian Religious Militants: Why Their Ranks Are Growing

Israeli and Palestinian security officers who tackle the job of containing Hamas say the movement is too amorphous to eliminate easily. Their security organizations have yet to penetrate Hamas's inner core, discover its operating methods, explore the relationship of its military and political wings or size up its popular support.

In background briefings, senior Israeli military officials portray a movement that has put down roots in the community through long and arduous preparation, beginning in the mid-1970's with a vast social program building a network of schools, the Islamic University of Gaza, medical clinics, Koranic classes and other social services.

So intertwined is Hamas with the workings of ordinary social and educational organizations that it is nearly impossible for a devout Muslim to know if he is donating funds to a school or to Hamas or both.

Israelis acknowledge that they permitted the Islamic movement to flourish in Gaza in the mistaken belief that by putting Islamic fundamentalists in business, they would fracture the P.L.O.-led opposition to the occupation of Gaza and the West Bank.

But now Hamas has found a freshly radicalized environment in the occupied territories that favors its hard-line rejectionist message.

"People think we fell into a big trap and have given up a lot," Dr. Akr said. "There is an overwhelming feeling that we are getting peace without justice."

That Hamas is gaining popularity was amply evident recently when pressure from public opinion in Gaza forced Mr. Arafat to release most of 200 to 300 Hamas members whose arrest he had ordered after the Tel Aviv bombing. It is equally evident that the P.L.O. is losing its clout just as quickly.

The Structure

Good Works Plus Violence

Israeli Army officials and P.L.O. security officers who have studied Hamas are impressed with its grasp of logistics.

They say the organization functions on several levels ranging from benign collection of donations for Islamic good works to secretive military underground groups -- the Qassam Brigades -- operating to attack Israelis.

The organization is divided into four sectors, three in the West Bank and one in Gaza. Each has its own command, and little is known about how they interact with each other. Israelis are persuaded that the sectors report to a leadership based outside the occupied territories in several locations, including other parts of the Middle East, the United States and Western Europe.

In each of the four sectors, the Hamas leadership uses members of organizations called Dawa groups, lay people who pursue the call to Islam, as its shock troops.

Among the Dawa's activities, largely subsidized with donations from the faithful, has been the establishment of schools and other organizations that promote Islamic knowledge.

The web of social and religious structures built during the last two decades created a source from which new Dawa recruits can be identified. Those active in Dawa are ordinary citizens who include preachers directing the religious crowds at Friday prayers, union leaders, teachers and most of the graduates of the Islamic University, a 5,000-student undergraduate institution that has become central to the activities of politically active Muslims.

They also include morality groups that in the last decade succeeded in banning alcohol, imposing the veil on women and dominating the educational and social sectors of Gaza and parts of the West Bank.

Drawing on this pool of supporters, Islamic activists moved to form a second layer, under the label of Youth Organization, or Jihaz al Ahdath as it is known in Arabic.

Brotherhood of Anger -- A special report.; Palestinian Religious Militants: Why Their Ranks Are Growing

This layer was established in 1988 after the start of the Palestinian uprising against Israeli occupation. Its task was to resist the occupation by staging demonstrations, attacking Israeli troops with stones, distributing leaflets and writing revolutionary slogans on walls.

As Israeli jails began to fill up with Palestinian youths after the uprising began, **Hamas** moved to spread its call inside the detention centers, where it has recruited hardened youths.

Sometime in 1988, Sheik Ahmed Yassin, one of many founders and leaders of the Islamic movement in Gaza, decreed that a military wing must be formed alongside a security wing to insure the safety of all these new structures.

Borrowing the name of Izzedine al-Qassam, a Syrian cleric who fought the French, the British and the Jews of Palestine in the 1920's and 30's, **Hamas** created the Qassam Brigades as its purest, hardest group of cells, dedicated to suicide missions and armed struggle.

Israeli officials say that **Hamas**'s initial goal was to attack only Israeli soldiers, but that after the Hebron massacre in February, in which a Jewish settler killed 29 Palestinians, this changed to include all Israelis.

The movement's military wing came into sharp focus when it carried out three terrorist operations in recent months that killed 30 people.

But for all its notoriety, Israeli and Palestinian security officials say they believe that the actual number of actual fighters in the Qassam Brigades does not exceed 100.

These tested elements receive advanced weapons training. Their arms include a wide variety of weapons smuggled from Egypt or purchased from Sinai Bedouin smugglers and Israeli arms merchants. The brigades are believed to have received some of their training in Lebanon from the Iranian-backed Party of God militias before sneaking back into the occupied territories.

Their small number is evidence of deliberate caution, to maintain secrecy and security. An Israeli Army official concedes that "they are doing quite a good job."

"It's been difficult to infiltrate them," the official said, adding that they can be replaced from an inexhaustable pool.

Israelis also acknowledge that although many in **Hamas** are identifiable as doctors, carpenters or businessmen, their links to the organization are hard to prove. The movement has deliberately organized its fighting, spying and leadership structures in separate cells that largely work alone instead of with one another.

Arrest or interrogation will not yield far-reaching leads into the chain of command. Orders are communicated in coded messages with as little face-to-face contact as possible. And most **Hamas** militants try to fight to the death, leaving no one to interrogate.

"Inside there is no central leadership," said one Israeli official, referring to the occupied territories. "Each of the operating cells relates directly to a leadership outside."

Hamas's funding of all of its activities is estimated by the Israelis at about \$30 million a year. It comes from money collected by associations operating largely abroad but with ties to the international Muslim Brotherhood network.

Money is also collected from Islamic and Arab communities in the United States and in Britain, the Netherlands and other Western European locations. Often it is transported by messengers, some of whom have been arrested by Israel, but most move in and out of Israel inconspicuously with non-Arab passports.

Millions of dollars in direct grants also come from a vast network of wealthy fundamentalist Arab businessmen in the gulf region, particularly in Saudi Arabia and Kuwait, where the Muslim Brotherhood has a free rein of action and a sympathetic audience.

Brotherhood of Anger -- A special report.; Palestinian Religious Militants: Why Their Ranks Are Growing

Iran has established contact with some 400 **Hamas** militants who were exiled to a frontier point in Lebanon by Israel two years ago. Many received training in the Bekaa region of eastern Lebanon with the Party of God militias. **Hamas** has offices in Iran, Jordan, Syria, Libya and Lebanon.

P.L.O. and **Hamas**

Outright Battle Is Shunned

Hamas officials say their effort has also taken root among the 9,000 or so P.L.O. police officers and soldiers who went to self-governing Gaza and Jericho during the last few months, and claim adherents at high levels.

Israelis say Mr. Arafat "cannot count on all the guns he has under his command," in the words of a senior Israeli intelligence official.

Hamas says it has already had some successes. "We have evidence, and the P.L.O. knows it, that Palestinian officers have refused orders to crack down on **Hamas** activists on several occasions," a **Hamas** official asserted.

Hamas officials say that although the group disagrees with the P.L.O.'s negotiating strategy with Israel, it will avoid a fight with Mr. Arafat's organization if it can help it.

But **Hamas** is not shy about flexing its newfound muscles, recently saying more loudly that it must be a part of the Palestinian decision-making process. It has vowed to unleash its soldiers against the P.L.O. if Mr. Arafat crosses some "red lines," like cooperating with Israeli intelligence against **Hamas** or allowing Israel to act against **Hamas** bases in Jericho and Gaza that are under P.L.O. administration.

Albert Aghazarian, a lecturer in history at Bir Zeit University near Ramallah, expressed a view that is widely held among Palestinians: "Rabin cannot tell Arafat, 'Choose between **Hamas** and peace,' as long as Palestinians are not seeing any fruits to this process."

Graphic

Photos: A hooded fighter with the armed wing of **Hamas**, in the Gaza Strip district of Jabaliya last month. (pg. A1); A **Hamas** rally in Gaza City on Friday, after the killing of Hani Abed, an Islamic militant who died in a car-bombing. Palestinians blamed Israel. (pg. A12) (Associated Press)

Load-Date: November 8, 1994

Gaza Gives Freed Sheik Welcome Fit for a Hero

The New York Times

October 7, 1997, Tuesday, Late Edition - Final

Copyright 1997 The New York Times Company

Distribution: Foreign Desk

Section: Section A; ; Section A; Page 12; Column 3; Foreign Desk ; Column 3;

Length: 693 words

Byline: By JOEL GREENBERG

By JOEL GREENBERG

Dateline: GAZA, Oct. 6

Body

The excitement had been building for hours in the heat and dust of Yarmuk Stadium in downtown Gaza, but at 4:50 this afternoon, when Sheik Ahmed Yassin was finally borne into the main grandstand, the crowd erupted in a thunderous roar.

A sea of hands stretched out toward the slight, bearded man on a wheelchair, and a cry went up from thousands of throats: "God is great! With spirit and blood we will sacrifice for you, Yassin!"

Draped in a white head-shawl as he was carried aloft, the paralyzed sheik appeared to smile at the crowd before he vanished behind a protective ring of aides and police officers.

Mr. Yassin, the 61-year-old founder and spiritual guide of the militant Islamic group **Hamas**, was in Gaza again after eight years in Israeli jails, and his return was celebrated here as a great victory, raising the group's popularity among an increasingly embittered population.

The crowd surged forward to welcome its hero, trampling a fence and waving the black and green **Hamas** flags and Palestinian banners.

"Greetings to the Brigades, Izz al-Din!," young men chanted, invoking the armed wing of **Hamas**, which has carried out suicide attacks in Israel. People held up pictures of the sheik and pointed a finger skyward, indicating their faith in God.

Amid the cheering, Abdel Aziz al-Rantisi, a political leader of **Hamas**, introduced the sheik, vowing, "**Hamas** will continue the holy struggle until the liberation of Palestine!"

Speaking in a thin voice, Mr. Yassin delivered brief greetings and thanked Jordan's King Hussein for securing his release. "This scene of the Muslim youth has moved me to tears," the sheik said, his remarks repeated by an aide over loudspeakers. "This Muslim youth will be the pioneers of the future."

Gaza Gives Freed Sheik Welcome Fit for a Hero

"We are all one people, and we will remain one people," the sheik added, sending a message of conciliation to Yasir Arafat, the Palestinian leader, who has jailed scores of **Hamas** members after recent suicide bombings. "I send my regards to Yasir Arafat and hope he will gain the freedom of the homeland."

Banners and posters around the stadium praised Mr. Yassin as a living saint, showing that he rivals Mr. Arafat here as a national icon.

A slogan welcomed back the "sheik of the intifada," a tribute to Mr. Yassin's role in making **Hamas** a driving force in a seven-year uprising against Israeli occupation. Another slogan greeted the "teacher of the generations."

A banner showed Mr. Yassin at the center of a pantheon of **Hamas** heroes, flanked by Yahya Ayyash, an assassinated bomb-maker, and by Imad Aqel, a fallen guerrilla commander. One mural showed the sheik and an exploding grenade. Another showed his image over broken shackles and the words: "I shall soon return from my captivity and light up the world with my faith."

As the crowd waited for the sheik's arrival, people clapped rhythmically to **Hamas** songs blasted over loudspeakers to a deafening beat. "We salute you Sheik Ahmad Yassin," went the lyrics of one tune, and another sent "a thousand greetings to the **Hamas** soldier." In a separate seating section, **women** in Islamic dress clapped and sang along, and mothers of **Hamas** prisoners held framed portraits of their sons.

Pressing against a fence to catch a glimpse of the returning sheik who was once his neighbor, Muhammad Mushalah, who lost a son in the uprising, said that today's events had given him new hope. "This raises people's morale, and God willing, things will get better," he said. "This will unite the ranks, and perhaps the sheik will reach an agreement with the head of the Palestinian Authority that will settle the people down."

After the stadium rally had ended, scores of people streamed down the sandy alleys of Gaza's ramshackle Sabra neighborhood in a pilgrimage to Mr. Yassin's simple cinderblock home. The whitewashed walls of the house had been covered with welcome slogans and stenciled images of the sheik, and over the door a banner proclaimed: "Islam is the solution."

The sheik sat inside, teary-eyed as well-wishers bent to kiss him.

"I still can't believe he's out of jail," said the sheik's brother, Badr Yassin, as he looked on. "My feelings are indescribable. Today is a victory."

Graphic

Photos: **Hamas** leaders and family members surrounded Sheik Ahmed Yassin, the founder and spiritual guide of **Hamas**, on his arrival at his home in Gaza, above, while a woman danced in Yarmuk Stadium as thousands of Palestinians rallied to celebrate his release from an Israeli prison. (Photographs by Rina Castelnovo for The New York Times)

Load-Date: October 7, 1997

Hamas political leader says he might be sent to Jordan

USA TODAY

April 4, 1997, Friday,

FINAL EDITION

Copyright 1997 Gannett Company, Inc.

Section: NEWS;

Length: 605 words

Body

The jailed leader of the political wing of the Palestinian group

Hamas says he believes there's a deal to send him to Jordan now that Israel has dropped its bid to extradite him from the USA.

Israel has accused Mousa Mohammed Abu Marzook, 47, of being responsible for attacks that killed scores of Israelis in recent years. However, Abu Marzook was not accused of personally committing any acts of violence.

"There is no reason to support their accusations. These are unfounded charges," Abu Marzook, a longtime resident of the USA, told Reuters in an interview Thursday in a New York prison.

He has denied involvement in any violence. He opposes the 1993 accords signed by Israel and Palestine Liberation Organization leader Yasser Arafat, which created Palestinian self-rule in the occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip.

Abu Marzook gave up his appeal against the extradition in January. Israel said Thursday that it was suspending its 18-month-old request for reasons "relating to security and the prevention of terrorism." Israeli officials had feared the extradition would spark violence, adding to the clashes that have erupted in the West Bank since Israel broke ground two weeks ago for 6,500 homes for Jews in Arab east Jerusalem.

Abu Marzook has lived in the USA as an engineering student and businessman since 1982. He said that if he returned to Jordan, "I will continue doing my job, to keep my commitment to serving

Hamas political leader says he might be sent to Jordan

my people."

ZAIRE FIGHTING: Newly appointed Prime Minister Etienne Tshisekedi of Zaire offered several top posts to rebels, snubbing supporters of longtime foe President Mobutu Sese Seko as he unveiled part of his new Cabinet. Tshisekedi said he would offer the coveted post of defense minister to rebels who have captured much of eastern Zaire. Rebel officials rejected the offer. They said the forces of Laurent Kabila want only to topple Mobutu after nearly 32 years of dictatorship.

MEXICAN MILLIONS: Raul Salinas' lawyers denied a report that the ex-president's brother received millions in cash from a Mexican drug cartel and stashed the money in a secret Swiss bank account. The lawyers said the money came from a trust fund that belonged to several prominent Mexican industrialists. *The Miami Herald* reported that Swiss authorities believe \$ 100 million in Salinas' bank account came from cartel payoffs during Carlos Salinas' 1988-94 term. Switzerland has been investigating Raul Salinas ever since an \$ 84 million secret bank account was discovered and its assets frozen in 1995. Raul Salinas awaits trial in a Mexican jail. Carlos Salinas denies any wrongdoing.

PERU HOSTAGES: Peruvian police said they have isolated guerrilla inmates in a maximum-security prison high in the Andes. Such a move could suggest that a deal to resolve the country's 31/2-month hostage crisis was in the works. Rebels have been holding 72 hostages at the Japanese ambassador's residence since Dec. 17. They have demanded the release of fellow rebels. Peru has refused.

COLOMBIA PRISON: Inmates killed at least five prison guards and took 15 hostages during a riot at a jail in northern Colombia on Thursday, prison authorities said. Police and soldiers surrounded the prison in Valledupar, in Cesar province.

THOU SHALT PRAY POLITELY: Prominent Dominican monk Raimondo Sorgia, 67, has published a "good manners guide" for Italy's "extraordinarily" bad-mannered churchgoers. On Sorgia's no-no list: chewing gum, shoes that squeak, high heels that clatter and mini-skirted women who make it difficult for male churchgoers "to concentrate on uplifting and spiritual thoughts." One of the worst new forms of bad manners, writes Sorgia: chatting on cellular telephones during Mass.

Hamas political leader says he might be sent to Jordan

Graphic

PHOTO, B/W, Reuters

Load-Date: April 4, 1997

End of Document

DOCTOR SAID TO MOONLIGHT AS TERRORIST

St. Louis Post-Dispatch (Missouri)

March 13, 1994, SUNDAY, THREE STAR Edition

Copyright 1994 St. Louis Post-Dispatch, Inc.

Section: NEWS; Pg. 3A; PROFILE DR. MAHAMOUD AL-ZAHAR

Length: 536 words

Dateline: GAZA CITY, OCCUPIED GAZA STRIP

Body

Soft-spoken Dr. Mahamoud al-Zahar trains medical students and nurses by day - and runs a terror group by night.

He just smiles when asked whether he actually does the latter. He lets others, Palestinians and Israelis, confirm that he is a top operative of **Hamas**, the military arm of the Islamic Brotherhood.

With a smile, al-Zahar goes on grading a batch of exams from nursing students. Five pistol shots ring out outside, somewhere on the campus of the Islamic University of Gaza, where he is dean of the School of Nursing.

"Think nothing of it," he says.

He gets up to point out several bullet holes in the glass partitions of an office nearby. "These shots were fired by the (Israeli) soldiers. One has to protect himself."

From his demeanor, it would be unlikely to think of him as anything but an excellent surgeon and former chairman of the Arab Medical Association. But in the files of Shin Bet, the Israeli secret service, al-Zahar is classified as one of the ranking men of **Hamas**.

The group opposes the Israeli-PLO peace agreement, which grants autonomy to Palestinians in the occupied territories. During discussions of the agreement al-Zahar's words harden. The peace agreement, he said, is merely "Israeli occupation by another name and under far more comfortable conditions for Israel."

So **Hamas** fights it. "We speak to the people with leaflets that say the truth," al-Zahar said. "And at the same time the armed units are attacking the soldiers."

Israeli records show that **Hamas** has carried out at least 139 attacks against military targets in the occupied territories or inside Israel, killing 27 soldiers and 18 Israeli civilians.

Israeli officials believe the numbers are actually higher, but there is no solid evidence connecting other attacks to **Hamas** units.

One attack for which **Hamas** claims responsibility was the shooting of a pregnant settler, Zipora Sasson, as she returned to her home in Ariel a week before the Hebron massacre. At least 40 shots were fired at her pickup truck.

DOCTOR SAID TO MOONLIGHT AS TERRORIST

Hamas' strategy is particularly vicious in the occupied territories. The goal is simple: Kill as many settlers as possible to try to destabilize the Israeli government and the peace process. Part of the goal is to entice radical settlers to retaliate.

That, say Israeli officials, is precisely what Israeli settler Dr. Baruch Goldstein did in a shooting rampage inside Hebron's Tomb of the Patriarchs, killing at least 30 Palestinians at prayer.

Like al-Zahar, Goldstein was a surgeon and an extremist. Goldstein was a follower of the radical Kach Party, which wants every Arab removed from Israel, and is the ideological opposite of **Hamas**.

After the Hebron massacre, **Hamas** reacted like the PLO of old: denouncing the shooting and vowing revenge. And, like the PLO of old, **Hamas** tries to justify its terrorism by saying attacks are the last resort.

Hamas is sorry when innocent civilians die, like Zipora Sasson, al-Zahar says. But it is the only choice, he said.

"We have been pushed into taking the violent way. The cycle of violence that exists here is the result of the occupation. Whether it hits soldiers or old men or **women** or children, we cannot come out of the cycle of violence unless the occupation is ended," he said.

Load-Date: March 14, 1994

**ALBRIGHT ASKS ARABS TO FORSAKE MILITANTS / SHE URGED THEM TO
STOP SENDING AID TO HAMAS / AND OTHERS. THERE WAS ALSO THE
WOMEN'S ISSUE.**

The Philadelphia Inquirer

SEPTEMBER 15, 1997 Monday SF EDITION

Copyright 1997 Philadelphia Newspapers, LLC All Rights Reserved

The Philadelphia Inquirer

Found on Philly.com

Section: NATIONAL; Pg. A06

Length: 605 words

Byline: Barry Schweid, ASSOCIATED PRESS

Dateline: AMMAN, Jordan

Body

Employing straight-talking diplomacy, Secretary of State Madeleine K. Albright urged wealthy Arab countries yesterday to deny financial aid to Islamic militants waging a war of terror against Israel.

She also made a pitch for women in Arab societies, telling foreign ministers from Saudi Arabia and five other Arab states that they should put the issue high on their agenda.

Nearing the end of her first trip to the Middle East as secretary of state, Albright made no claims of a breakthrough in Arab-Israeli peacemaking. She has set up some preliminary talks in Washington and New York later in the month that could pay off eventually.

One set of talks will involve Israeli and Palestinian diplomats; the other, Israeli and Syrian.

"Small steps are better than no steps," she said at a news conference here after meeting with King Hussein.

She said she hoped that would "reenergize the peace process and dig us out of this crisis of confidence."

The king praised her efforts. "There is something fresh in the air. There is something new in the air," he said. "Someone who speaks the truth, not diplomatically, but accurately."

"There seems to be willingness on both sides, but there is a gap where Israel would like to start and where Syria would like to start," she said in a speech to 1,000 American, British and French troops at a Saudi air base from which jets patrol the skies over southern Iraq.

"You are the teeth that keep him in line," Albright said of Iraqi President Saddam Hussein. "When tested, you bite."

ALBRIGHT ASKS ARABS TO FORSAKE MILITANTS / SHE URGED THEM TO STOP SENDING AID TO
HAMAS / AND OTHERS. THERE WAS ALSO THE WOMEN'S ISSUE.

It was a fast-paced day in searing heat, beginning in Jiddah, the Saudi Red Sea port; moving on to Abha, a resort in the Saudi mountains near the Yemen border where six Persian Gulf foreign ministers met; to the Prince Sultan air base; and then to Jordan for a meeting with King Hussein. With the possibility of a short trip to strife-beset Lebanon still open, Albright was due to fly home to Washington today.

Albright's appeal to Saudi Arabia, Kuwait, Oman, Qatar, Bahrain, and the United Arab Emirates to deny funds to Hamas and other militant Islamic groups was aimed at contributions raised in the countries.

"The Arab states have a responsibility, which you also have recognized to support the peace process and work against the enemies of peace," Albright said, "to do your utmost to ensure that no assistance of any kind reaches the practitioners of extremist violence such as Hamas."

The speech to the foreign ministers gathered at Abha was coupled with an appeal for help from the Palestinian Authority. State Department spokesman James Rubin said Saudi Arabia immediately pledged \$10 million to Yasir Arafat's group.

It was at the session with Arab foreign ministers that Albright raised the women's issue. The first woman to serve as secretary of state, she was received by the Saudi royal family correctly, even with some warmth.

In Jerusalem, meanwhile, Israel said yesterday that it would return half of the tens of millions of dollars in Palestinian tax revenues it is withholding as a "goodwill gesture" following Palestinian steps to battle terrorism.

The army also announced it would lift the "internal closure" that confines Palestinians to their individual communities, although a general closure keeping Palestinians out of Israel will remain in effect.

The travel restrictions were imposed after a Sept. 4 bombing in Jerusalem that killed five Israelis and the three suicide bombers.

Despite the conciliatory gestures, tensions escalated yesterday when a group of Jewish settlers took over three buildings in an Arab neighborhood in disputed East Jerusalem, raising fears of new violence in the troubled city.

Load-Date: October 18, 2002

Mystery Surrounds Identities Of Two Jerusalem Bombers

The New York Times

August 5, 1997, Tuesday, Late Edition - Final

Copyright 1997 The New York Times Company

Distribution: Foreign Desk

Section: Section A; ; Section A; Page 8; Column 5; Foreign Desk ; Column 5;

Length: 611 words

Byline: By NEIL MacFARQUHAR

By NEIL MacFARQUHAR

Dateline: JERUSALEM, Aug. 4

Body

Israeli officials said today that the bombs used to blow up a produce market in downtown Jerusalem last week were similar in design to the explosive device used in the March attack on a Tel Aviv cafe by Hamas, the militant Islamic group.

The officials said they believed that the two suicide bombers killed in the Jerusalem attack belonged to a Hamas unit. But their fingerprints were not on file and no one has stepped forward to identify the bodies, even after pictures of their still-intact faces were broadcast on Israeli television.

Israeli officials acknowledged that they know almost nothing about the attackers, their motives and who, if anyone, helped them carry out the bombing that left 13 dead. That stands in marked contrast to previous suicide bombings, when Israeli authorities moved swiftly to arrest suspects and those who were said to have assisted them.

"We don't know anything about the cell that did it," said one Israeli official, speaking, like his colleagues, on condition of anonymity.

Israeli soldiers continued their sweeps through the areas of the West Bank still under Israeli control and the police were kept on a heightened state of alert throughout the country.

In one instance of violence, the shooting of an Arab in the southern West Bank late Sunday night, Israeli investigators said it might have been a revenge attack by a Jewish settler for the market bombing or the man might have been the victim of a village vendetta.

Troops arrested about 30 men overnight, bringing the total to about 150 since the bombing. Officials said that by detaining known members of Hamas and related organizations they hoped to be able to gather leads about the identities of the bombers.

None of the public mourning rituals that usually follow a suicide bombing were evident in Palestinian communities. That, coupled with the failure of anyone to identify the photos of the bombers, has prompted Israeli officials to

Mystery Surrounds Identities Of Two Jerusalem Bombers

investigate the possibility that the attackers were recruited from Islamic organizations outside Israel, the West Bank and Gaza.

But officials also said that a known **Hamas** operative in the Gaza Strip had been scouring the black market for explosives just before the bombing, adding that investigators have enough links to previous attacks to be convinced that **Hamas** was behind this one.

"Without a doubt we think that it has a direct link to **Hamas**," said another Israeli official. "There were nails in the bomb, there were the same explosives and the same pattern of other attacks carried out by **Hamas**."

Officials said the two briefcases used in the attack were loaded with 20 pounds of TNT apiece and designed in a configuration similar to the bomb that blew up in a Tel Aviv cafe in March, killing three **women** and wounding 12 other people.

The March bombing was carried out by a unit of **Hamas** activists from the village of Surif, in the southern West Bank, an area still under Israel's military control.

At first Israeli security forces thought that the number of **Hamas** supporters in the village was relatively small, but mass arrests led them to a huge arms and explosives cache in tunnels.

In that and other cases, officials said cooperation with the Palestinian forces had helped track down those responsible. In late July, for example, the Palestinian authorities uncovered a bomb lab in Beit Sahour near Bethlehem in part through information provided by Israeli security services.

Although there have been a few tentative meetings between the two security services to try to cooperate on solving last week's bombing, the Israeli officials said the information sharing had not reached the level that led them to solve previous cases.

Load-Date: August 5, 1997

End of Document

Militants' 'mercy bullet' to peace

The Daily Telegraph (Sydney, Australia)

March 25, 1997, Tuesday

Copyright 1997 Nationwide News Pty Limited

Section: FULLPAGE, WORLD; Pg. 30

Length: 349 words

Body

BEIRUT: The militant Islamist group **Hamas** said today the Middle East peace process was dying and it was time to deliver the final blow.

"We in the Islamic Resistance, **Hamas**, call upon our people and all Islamic, Palestinian, and Arab forces to deliver the mercy bullet to the dying peace process, and to unite efforts in resisting the criminal plots of the enemy," **Hamas** said in a statement faxed to an international news agency in Beirut.

Hamas, which claimed responsibility for a Tel Aviv suicide bombing that killed three Israeli **women** on Friday, called on the Palestinian police to stop co-operating with Israeli authorities.

"Halting the intelligence co-operation with the enemy . . . is the preliminary and obvious response to his settlement practices and plots," **Hamas** said.

"We call upon the Palestinian police to stop trying to halt the Intifada which is the only path out of the current impasse of the Palestinian cause."

The **Hamas** call coincided with a statement today by Mohammad Dahlan, Palestinian Preventive Security chief in the Gaza Strip, that the Palestinian Authority had stopped its security activities and its intelligence co-operation with Israel because Israel was violating agreements by continuing to establish Jewish settlements.

Israel last week began work on building 6500 homes for Jews on the outskirts of Arab East Jerusalem, angering Palestinians who want the eastern part of the city to become capital of a Palestinian State, and sparking violent demonstrations.

Hundreds of Palestinian demonstrators clashed with Israeli troops in the West Bank and soldiers shot and wounded an Arab at a Gaza Strip roadblock on the fifth straight day of violence.

Israeli security forces remained on alert for attacks by Palestinian militants three days after a suicide bomber killed three **women** in a Tel Aviv cafe.

Yesterday, in the wake of Friday's blast, Israel demanded that the PLO rein in its militants.

One more blow against peace . . . a Palestinian hurls a petrol bomb towards Israeli soldiers during riots in the old city area near the Jewish settlement of Beit Hadassah

Militants' 'mercy bullet' to peace

Load-Date: March 4, 2002

End of Document

Death squad raided

Sunday Tasmanian (Australia)

April 13, 1997, Sunday

Copyright 1997 Nationwide News Pty Limited

Length: 278 words

Body

Jerusalem THE last fugitive member of a **Hamas** terrorist cell responsible for the deaths of 11 Israelis has surrendered to Palestinian authorities amid continued Arab rioting on the West Bank.

The "death squad" from the Islamic resistance movement **Hamas** is believed responsible for seven attacks against Israelis since late 1995, including kidnapping, murder, drive-by shootings and the bombing on March 21 at the Apropos cafe in Tel Aviv that killed three Israeli **women** and the bomber.

Ironically, the death of the bomber in that attack _ in which Israeli officials believe the bomb was detonated prematurely by a faulty timing device _ led to the discovery of the **Hamas** cell.

The trail of the bomber, Mousa Ghneimat, who died in the explosion, led investigators to his village, Sourif, north-west of Hebron, and the discovery of the six-member **Hamas** squad that had operated for 18 months.

The Israeli army evicted the families of three of the **Hamas** suspects in Sourif on Friday and welded their homes shut in advance of planned demolitions in retaliation for their alleged crimes. The action ignited clashes with stone-throwing Palestinians.

Israeli soldiers responded by firing rubber bullets, injuring a girl and a youth.

Officials of United States President Bill Clinton's administration met representatives of PLO Chairman Yasser Arafat in Washington on Friday but peace efforts remained deadlocked and Palestinians rioted for the fourth straight day in Hebron.

Arab violence has continued almost daily for more than three weeks since Israeli bulldozers began clearing a site on March 18 for 6500 units of new Jewish housing in East Jerusalem.KRT

Load-Date: March 8, 2002

ARAFAT'S DANCE: SOOTHE THE RADICALS AND TALK TO ISRAEL

The Philadelphia Inquirer
AUGUST 22, 1997 Friday SF EDITION

Copyright 1997 Philadelphia Newspapers, LLC All Rights Reserved

The Philadelphia Inquirer
Found on Philly.com

Section: NATIONAL; Pg. A01

Length: 1252 words

Byline: Barbara Demick, INQUIRER STAFF WRITER

Dateline: RAMALLAH, West Bank

Body

At a time when Israel and the United States are demanding that the Palestinians crack down on Islamic radicals, Yasir Arafat has a different idea - invite them to a conference.

And that's exactly what he did.

The Palestinian leader last night wrapped up two days of meetings with representatives of **Hamas** and Islamic Jihad, two militant Islamic groups considered terrorist organizations by the U.S. government, in what was billed as the "National Unity Conference for Facing the Coming Challenges." Essentially thumbing his nose at Israel, Arafat was photographed in a warm embrace with Abdel Aziz Rantizi, a **Hamas** leader, and the picture was prominently displayed in Israeli newspapers yesterday.

The meetings infuriated the Israeli government, which has demanded massive arrests of Islamic militants in the aftermath of the July 30 suicide bombings in Jerusalem's open-air market that killed 16 people. Arafat's conduct reinforced the belief among many Israelis that he cannot be trusted on an issue of utmost importance to Israel - its security.

"Arafat is two-faced," Danny Naveh, an adviser to Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu, fumed yesterday. "On the one hand, he says he is against terrorism and afterward he runs to hug the killers of **women** and children."

Arafat's actions underscore his need to satisfy his own Palestinian critics at a time when his proudest achievement, the 1993 peace accord with the Israelis, is in jeopardy. The same man who assures American mediators that he will act decisively against terrorism is driven by domestic political considerations to adopt a defiant tone when addressing a Palestinian constituency struggling to survive an Israeli economic blockade. Israel imposed the closure on the West Bank and Gaza in response to the Jerusalem bombings.

"There is an attempt to humiliate the Palestinian people, to starve the Palestinian people," Arafat told Palestinians in Gaza Wednesday, saying he spoke "in the name of our martyrs, our prisoners, our wounded."

ARAFAT'S DANCE: SOOTHE THE RADICALS AND TALK TO ISRAEL

Yesterday, the State Department said Arafat's remarks were regrettable.

"What [Arafat] did say wasn't particularly constructive in trying to restore confidence and trust" between Israelis and Palestinians, State Department spokesman James Rubin said. "We wish that he had not said some of the things he said."

The blockade, the delays in implementing the scheduled withdrawal of Israeli forces from the West Bank because of Israeli security concerns, and Arafat's venomous current relationship with the Netanyahu government, all undermine Arafat's popularity and give ammunition to Islamic militants who oppose any political deal with Israel.

Leading the pack is **Hamas**, an Islamic movement that evolved in the 1980s as a militant rival to Arafat's Palestine Liberation Organization and is now the chief organized opposition in the West Bank and Gaza. **Hamas** is an extensive, and by no means monolithic, organization that includes an extreme military wing that frequently takes responsibility for terrorist attacks and more moderate factions that run health clinics and mosques, and distribute humanitarian aid in Gaza and the West Bank.

In a poll taken by the Jerusalem Media & Communication Center in May, 10 percent of Palestinians said **Hamas** was the political faction they most trusted, versus 38 percent for Arafat's Fatah party. But **Hamas** activists, including Rantizi, claim support is running as high as 50 percent today because of frustration over the peace process and dissatisfaction with the Palestinian Authority's reign.

"The Israelis have no right to dictate what is a legitimate party and what is not," Hannah Ashawri, an Arafat adviser, said during the lunch break of the unity conference yesterday in Ramallah. "This conference is an internal Palestinian affair. We are listening to various political parties that have a platform and we have to respect their right to disagree with us."

Mahmoud Musleh, a **Hamas** representative from the West Bank, defended the right of his faction to have its views aired in public.

"We have got to be realistic. The peace process is going backwards - not forwards. Resistance is our only option," he said.

Nevertheless, the two-day meeting appeared to be less of a genuine policy debate than an occasion for public speechifying - the message aimed as much at the international diplomatic community as at the Palestinian audience. Arafat himself used the meeting to elaborate on the defiant tone he has taken in his public speeches in the three weeks since the Jerusalem bombing.

In a speech in Gaza on Wednesday, Arafat recalled the intifadah, the seven years of rock-throwing and violence that preceded the peace accords, and warned that it could happen again.

"We can erase it all and do it again from the beginning. There is nothing removed from us. All options are open," Arafat said. He did add a concessionary note, saying that the majority of the Israeli and Palestinian people support peace.

Arafat also reiterated his refusal to submit to Israeli demands that the Palestinian Authority arrest nearly 200 **Hamas** activists who Israeli security say are suspected of complicity in terrorism.

After a wave of terrorist bombings in early 1996, Arafat ordered the arrest of more than 900 **Hamas** and Islamic Jihad members, although many were later released. There have been fewer than a dozen arrests this time, despite the efforts of U.S. peace envoy Dennis Ross to boost security cooperation.

Three weeks after the Jerusalem attack, Israeli security has been unable to identify the two suicide bombers or trace the responsible faction. Arafat says there is no evidence anybody within the Palestinian self-rule areas was involved - hence, his reluctance to crack down on **Hamas**.

ARAFAT'S DANCE: SOOTHE THE RADICALS AND TALK TO ISRAEL

Within Israeli political and defense circles, there are mixed views on how decisively Arafat should move against Hamas. Israel's leading newspaper, Haaretz, yesterday wrote in an editorial that a massive roundup of Hamas could lead to civil war among the Palestinians, ultimately leading to Arafat's collapse and the ascension of Hamas.

In a telephone interview, David Bar-Illan, a Netanyahu aide, said he understood why Arafat was fearful politically of rounding up Hamas activists, but believed Arafat's reluctance would ultimately be counterproductive.

"Every time he has tried to placate these people by drawing them into his political circle, he has given them respectability and legitimacy that has made them bolder," Bar-Illan said.

Bar-Illan told reporters: "The efforts to appease and placate the terror organizations are a direct contravention of the Oslo accords, and are the most counterproductive step the Palestinian Authority can take at this point."

To push Arafat into action, the Israeli government is withholding millions of dollars of tax revenues that are owed the Palestinian Authority. (Yesterday approximately \$10 million of \$40 million owed was transferred to the Palestinians.) The strict closure also remains on the Palestinian territories, preventing more than 60,000 Palestinians from commuting to their jobs in Israel.

As a retaliatory measure of its own, the Palestinian Authority yesterday instituted a blockade of Israeli products - toilet paper, cigarettes, cookies, soda and electrical appliances - into self-rule areas. The authority also decided to continue similar meetings in a smaller forum beginning next week.

"I wouldn't say that this is war. But defiance, definitely yes," Nabil Shaath, a Palestinian negotiator, said as he left the conference yesterday in Ramallah.

Notes

Analysis

Graphic

PHOTO;
PHOTO

Yasir Arafat (left) greets Abdel Aziz Rantizi of Hamas at the unity conference. The photo was prominently displayed in Israeli newspapers yesterday. The meetings have upset Israelis. (Associated Press, NATI HARNIK)

Load-Date: October 18, 2002

Arafat infuriates Israel but he's the safer choice

The Record (Kitchener-Waterloo, Ontario)

August 26, 1997 Tuesday Final Edition

Copyright 1997 Metroland Media Group Ltd

Section: INSIGHT; Pg. A9; Opinion

Length: 1136 words

Byline: William Drozdiak

Body

When Yasser Arafat kissed and embraced the leaders of **Hamas** and Islamic Jihad at a meeting of Palestinian factions last week, the conciliatory gestures toward radical Muslim groups suspected of perpetrating terrorist acts outraged much of Israel and the western world.

Was Arafat condoning violence against Israel and preparing for the kind of armed confrontation that has spilled so much blood in the Middle East between two peoples fighting over the same land? Or was he engaged in a clever ploy to co-opt the enemies of peace and thus strengthen his hand for future negotiations with the right-wing government of Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu?

Nearly four years after he signed the Oslo peace accords, Arafat finds himself trapped by conflicting pressures that threaten to undermine his self-governing authority, destroy his fragile partnership with Israel and shatter his dream of establishing a Palestinian state in Gaza and the West Bank, with East Jerusalem as its capital.

The self-styled father of the Palestinian revolution is renowned for his survival skills in times of political peril. But this time, his fate seems intertwined more than ever with an Israeli government that profoundly distrusts him, yet loathes even more the extremist alternatives to his leadership.

Washington Post

An impassioned debate has gripped Israel over whether the country's interests are best served by weakening or strengthening Arafat. A month after the Israeli government imposed tough sanctions and security measures after a suicide bombing that killed 14 people and two terrorists in a Jerusalem market, Israelis are starting to question whether those measures may inflict more harm than good on their country.

Arafat has resorted to ambiguity to mask his intentions until the dust settles. At the Palestinian unity conclave in Gaza, he waved the sword and the olive branch with equal gusto.

"There was an uprising for seven years. Who did it? Our lion cubs, our children. This glorious uprising. Seven years. We can . . . do it again from the beginning. There is nothing far from us. All options are open to us."

But he also offered a vigorous defence of the peace process. "We must not forget that most of the Israeli people voted for peace. I say to the supporters of peace in Israel: We are with you to make this peace of the brave, a just and comprehensive peace, not the peace of the weak or the cowards."

Arafat infuriates Israel but he's the safer choice

Just before the bombers struck, Arafat was confronting criticism about alleged corruption in his ruling entourage. Many Palestinians, having seen their incomes plunge 40 per cent since the Oslo accords were signed, were also voicing bitter complaints about the absence of a peace dividend.

Netanyahu's decision after the bombing to block access to jobs for 100,000 Palestinians and to suspend the transfer of \$40 million in tax revenues to Arafat's Palestinian Authority has only escalated the frustrations of many Palestinians and further damaged their faith in the peace process.

In this political climate, Arafat's top aides say he had no choice but to reject Israeli and American demands that he round up more than 200 suspected Islamic activists and dismantle the terrorist infrastructure. They argue that if he caves in to such conditions, his political legitimacy would be greatly eroded and the popularity of **Hamas** and other implacable foes of the peace process would continue to surge.

Hamas gains

"Every time the peace process stumbles it translates into gains for **Hamas**," said Ziad Abu Amr, a leading member of the Palestinian Legislative Council. "Arafat is not ready for power-sharing and wants to rally his people behind him, but he feels genuinely threatened by Netanyahu and his schemes. He needs a lot of support, and not more pressure."

Israeli cabinet hardliners scoff at claims that Arafat's behavior helps peace prospects by blunting **Hamas**'s influence. "Arafat is two-faced," said cabinet secretary Danny Naveh. "On the one hand, he says he is against terrorism and afterward, he runs to hug the killers of **women** and children. . . . He must fight these organizations and not embrace them."

But some cabinet members and much of the opposition Labor party argue that Israel needs to ponder what may lie in store if it persists in mortifying Arafat. With **Hamas**'s support growing steadily, they suggest Israel must consider the consequences of rubbing Arafat's nose in the dirt.

Defence Minister Yitzhak Mordecai urges greater understanding of Arafat's predicament. "Given the difficulties facing him, Arafat is trying within the Palestinian camp to find as wide a common denominator as possible. But in the end, he also knows that **Hamas** is the main threat to the Palestinian Authority," he said.

Uri Savir, chief of staff to former Labor prime minister Shimon Peres and a key architect of the Oslo accords, also warns that U.S. and Israeli pressure on Arafat could backfire. "What is the alternative? Do we want to deal with **Hamas**?" he asked. "Whatever you may think of Arafat, if we lose him as a partner, we may lose the peace process."

For his part, Netanyahu is standing firm in his demand that Arafat must show his determination to salvage the peace process by arresting terror suspects, confiscating weapons and uprooting underground cells as he did last year after 57 Israelis died in a series of bomb attacks.

"We say to the Palestinians that they must make a very simple choice -- it is either to embrace **Hamas** or to embrace peace. But you can't do both," Netanyahu said Thursday, even though his own government released Abdel Aziz Rantissi, the **Hamas** political leader whom Arafat publicly kissed, from an Israeli jail this year.

The Israeli prime minister emphasized that Arafat's actions on security co-operation remain the key to progress in reaching a comprehensive peace settlement.

Some Israelis say Arafat may be co-operating in private. He met personally with Ami Ayalon, the head of Israel's General Security Service, to discuss his dilemma about **Hamas**. Palestinian intelligence agents turned over to their Israeli counterparts samples of explosives found in a **Hamas** bomb factory. And Arafat's police forces have quietly arrested a dozen key members of Islamic radical groups.

Arafat infuriates Israel but he's the safer choice

But a top security source close to Netanyahu says what has proved most infuriating is Arafat's reluctance to move against known terrorist ringleaders now on the loose, such as Mohammed Deif and Muhi Adin Sharif, who are in charge of **Hamas**'s military operations and are thought to have masterminded several bombings.

"Arafat knows where they are and may even be sheltering them," the source said. "What he must realize is that the more he plays along with **Hamas**, the weaker he becomes. And unless he moves soon, there are plots being hatched that will lead to more bombings and cause the collapse of the peace process."

Graphic

Black & White Photo; A masked Palestinian student burns a mock Israeli flag with a Nazi swastika at a **Hamas** rally at Islamic University in Hebron. The Pales-tinian students call for renewed violence against the Jewish state.

Load-Date: September 21, 2002

End of Document

Peace deadlock revives hopes of extremists: Holy war revisited: With the way of peace blocked, violent militants seek to regain their lost influence.

The Ottawa Citizen

March 26, 1997, Wednesday, FINAL EDITION

Copyright 1997 CanWest Interactive, a division of CanWest Global Communications Corp. All Rights Reserved

Section: NEWS; Pg. A6

Length: 812 words

Byline: NORMA GREENAWAY; THE OTTAWA CITIZEN

Dateline: Gaza City

Body

His real name is Hassan Salameh. His code name within the murky world of the militant Islamic group **Hamas** is Abdullah, meaning slave of Allah.

Israelis despise him and fear his type of holy warrior. Mr. Salameh has been behind Israeli bars for months now, awaiting trial on charges of masterminding three suicide bombings inside Israel early last year that left 24 men, **women** and children dead.

For the most part, Palestinians regard him as a hero, someone who has proved his willingness to sacrifice for the sake of ending Israel's occupation of Arab lands won in war. "We respect anyone who struggles against the occupation," said Ghazi Hamad, editor of the new Islamic newspaper in Gaza, known as Al Resala, or The Message. "Hassan is one of them. He paid everything for his homeland."

The discrepancy in the two views on people like Mr. Salameh helps explain the political challenge Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu and Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat face in the quest to find a formula for ending the violence-plagued stalemate in the Israeli-Palestinian peace process. Analysts say both leaders are keenly aware **Hamas** is ready and willing to exploit the vacuum after suffering more than a year of waning popularity.

Support for **Hamas** dropped sharply after last year's series of suicide bombings for which Palestinians paid a high economic and political price. The peace process went on hold, and Palestinian workers and many of their exports were prevented from entering Israel for months.

Some analysts suggest a new bombing attack in Tel Aviv last week indicates **Hamas** believes Palestinian opinion could be moving its way again.

By coincidence, Mr. Salameh was back in the public eye, his **Hamas** loyalties on full display inside an Israeli military court just outside Gaza's northern border. The stocky, bearded prisoner used a rare encounter with journalists to eagerly defend the deadly suicide bombing at a Tel Aviv cafe as legitimate resistance.

Hamas claimed responsibility for the attack in anonymous phone calls to Channel 1 television and Tel Aviv police headquarters.

Peace deadlock revives hopes of extremists: Holy war revisited: With the way of peace blocked, violent militants seek to regain their lost influence.

"I'm not with killing women, I'm not with killing children," Mr. Salameh said as he waited to make a long-scheduled preliminary appearance before the court. "But I'm with defending my rights, my people, my country by any means I see as my duty."

He said the three women killed in the Tel Aviv blast were the "victims" of Mr. Netanyahu's policy of building new homes for Jews on captured Arab land in East Jerusalem.

His analysis, which Mr. Netanyahu angrily rejects, is the popular opinion among Palestinians. It also echoes the view of the Palestinian leadership, although, unlike Mr. Salameh, Mr. Arafat and his top officials condemned the bombing.

Palestinian analysts agreed some move is required from Mr. Netanyahu to prevent Hamas from capitalizing on the stalemate. Zaid Abu Amr, a member of the Palestinian Legislative Council, said Palestinians will naturally look for alternatives if they conclude the current peace process has reached a dead end.

"It doesn't mean support is shifting to Hamas," Mr. Amr said in an interview. "It goes there by default. If you lose faith in the peace process and the credibility of the Palestinian Authority, then it benefits Hamas."

As a result, Mr. Amr argued, Mr. Arafat is in a tight political bind over intensified Israeli demands to round up and incarcerate suspected Islamic militants. "He can't duplicate what he did last year," he said. Mr. Amr was referring to the mass roundups of Islamic militants after a string of bombings in February and March, which Mr. Arafat conducted at the behest of Shimon Peres, then Israel's prime minister.

Mr. Netanyahu, who defeated Mr. Peres in last May's election, is seen as trying to kill the peace process, Mr. Amr said. "Arafat can't sound and look like he's defending Netanyahu's policies."

Polls show Hamas, which opposes Mr. Arafat's 1993 peace deal with Israel, has less than 10 per cent support among Palestinians. Khalil Shikaki, who regularly surveys Palestinian public opinion, said there has been no significant recent increase in support of such militant groups as Hamas and Islamic Jihad. He also said 56 per cent of those surveyed in a recent poll said they supported a political solution to the current impasse.

But the newspaper editor, Mr. Hamad, said more and more Palestinians are coming to the conclusion the current peace process won't achieve their goals, the prime one being an independent state with East Jerusalem as its capital.

He predicted that support for "armed resistance" will increase if Israel continues its settlement policies and negotiations prove a waste of time. Mr. Hamad left no doubt where he personally stands. "For me, I think our enemy doesn't understand any language other than force."

Load-Date: March 27, 1997

**A VOLATILE MIX FUELING SUICIDE BOMBERS< A LIFE STEEPED IN
RELIGION, POVERTY AND< HATRED TOWARD ISRAEL PROVES IDEAL FOR
HAMAS RECRUITERS.**

The Philadelphia Inquirer

MARCH 19, 1996 Tuesday SF EDITION

Copyright 1996 Philadelphia Newspapers, LLC All Rights Reserved

The Philadelphia Inquirer

Found on Philly . com

Section: NATIONAL; Pg. A01

Length: 2397 words

Byline: Alan Sipress, INQUIRER STAFF WRITER

Dateline: AL-FAWWAR REFUGEE CAMP, West Bank

Body

Ibrahim Sarahneh told his aged mother he was going on a picnic. He and a few friends planned a weekend by the Dead Sea, a brief getaway from his dreary life as a construction laborer in this warren of concrete block and corrugated metal homes south of Hebron.

In truth, the 25-year-old Palestinian knew he'd never see his mother again. His handlers from the **Hamas** militia had provided him with a duffel bag stuffed with two Italian antitank mines containing 15 pounds of TNT. Also inside were 10 pounds of nails and metal bearings, plus four liters of gasoline, according to Israeli bomb experts.

Sarahneh was dropped off at a hitchhiking post near the Israeli seaside city of Ashkelon on a Sunday morning three weeks ago. With the flick of a battery-operated detonator, he blew himself up - along with a **female** Israeli soldier.

An hour before, a young friend from the Al-Fawwar camp, Majdi Abu Wardeh, 19, had boarded the Number 18 bus in downtown Jerusalem with a similar duffel bag. The bag exploded, disemboweling the bus and killing 26 people, including Abu Wardeh. The bombing triggered a series of suicide attacks by Islamic extremists that has rocked the historic Israeli-Palestinian peace process.

To many outsiders, it seems unfathomable that young men would blow themselves up in order to kill Israelis at a time when peace between Arabs and Jews seems closer than at any point this century. Leaders from nearly 30 countries met in Egypt last week for an unprecedented summit to address this very threat.

"Those who held this conference in Egypt and want to know why these things happen, they should come here and see where Ibrahim and Majdi come from," said Mohammed Abu Rabbia, a close friend of the Sarahneh family.

The portraits that emerge from places like Al-Fawwar are not as simple as those offered by much of the Western media, which suggest these young extremists are motivated largely - or perhaps solely - by the desire to attain paradise by becoming a Muslim martyr.

A VOLATILE MIX FUELING SUICIDE BOMBERS< A LIFE STEEPED IN RELIGION, POVERTY AND< HATRED TOWARD ISRAEL PROVES IDEAL FOR HAMAS RECRUITERS.

"It's not possible that only religious belief drives him to commit such an act," said Anat Kurz, an expert on unconventional warfare at Tel Aviv University. "There are millions of Muslims around the world, but we don't see waves of suicide bombers."

There is no profile that fits all suicide bombers, but these young men do have much in common. They have come of age under Israeli occupation. They have seethed at the petty humiliations and the systematic abuses their families say have been inflicted upon them by Israel.

Every young stone-thrower killed or maimed by Israeli soldiers fuels a resentment that is stoked by Palestinian nationalism and a thirst for revenge. A Palestinian released from an Israeli prison with allegations of torture is a potential ***Hamas*** recruit. When young men such as these embrace a religion that provides them discipline and purpose, the results can be volatile.

Many of these recurring threads - revenge, religions, nationalism, despair - were wound tightly in the personality of Ibrahim Sarahneh.

After Israeli authorities discovered the involvement of Sarahneh and Abu Wardeh, the Al-Fawwar camp was sealed under the strictest of curfews. Its 6,000 residents have been ordered to remain in their homes, cut off from the outside world. Only for two hours last Friday were a few visitors allowed into the camp.

During that interlude, the family and friends of the two men offered some clues to the motivations of suicide bombers. Their testimony, along with comments from relatives and close friends of five other suicide bombers interviewed for this article, provides a chronicle of revenge, religion and despair.

Like the other bombers, Sarahneh was young and unmarried. And like all the others, he was personally devout. As a teenager, he had studied at an Islamic high school and then enrolled at Hebron University, taking up religious studies.

But six years ago, Sarahneh's widowed mother suffered a heart attack and was forced to quit her job as a janitor in an Israeli hospital. Now her son Ibrahim dropped out of school to become the family's sole breadwinner, first as a gofer in a spice shop and then as a laborer.

His horizons had shrunk to the boundaries of this camp, where his family had lived since Israel's creation in 1948 after fleeing - they said they were chased - from their village inside present-day Israel. Now Sarahneh's life was wrapped in the suffocating refugee aroma of baking bread and open sewage.

The peace between Israel and the Palestinians seemed a cruel hoax. While the Israeli army last year pulled out of six West Bank cities, hundreds of camps and villages were still under military occupation.

Al-Fawwar's unpaved alleys remained squalid and, if anything, more crowded. Sarahneh and his brothers were still banned from working at better-paying jobs inside Israel. Israeli settlers in their new cars continued to drive the West Bank road outside the camp as if they owned it.

Since 1993, realism has won out in Israeli and Palestinian societies. Both have chosen to scale down nationalist dreams and craft an uncomfortable peace. But in places like Al-Fawwar, the deep wounds of the conflict have not healed simply because PLO leader Yasir Arafat and Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin shook hands.

"Myself, if I can't experience real independence, I will teach my 5-year-old kid to resist against the occupation, to resist with everything possible: stones, guns and bombs," Abu Rabbia said. "The Israelis forced Ibrahim to do what he did. Ibrahim is a great martyr."

* Raed Shaghnoobi, 21, told his family in the West Bank village of Burqah that he would be taking a brief trip to Bethlehem to attend the graduation ceremony of a friend.

A VOLATILE MIX FUELING SUICIDE BOMBERS< A LIFE STEEPED IN RELIGION, POVERTY AND< HATRED TOWARD ISRAEL PROVES IDEAL FOR HAMAS RECRUITERS.

Instead, his **Hamas** handlers outfitted him with one of the deadly duffel bags. On March 3, exactly a week after the terror attacks by Abu Wardeh and Sarahneh, Shaghnoubi boarded a Number 18 bus in downtown Jerusalem and blew it up. He killed himself and 19 others.

Two days before the bombing, Shaghnoubi had approached the imam of the local mosque and asked permission to lead Friday prayers. The request was exceptional, but no one gave it much thought. Shaghnoubi had long been one of the most religious young men in the village.

He faithfully made his daily prayers. He refused to gamble on cards with his friends. He taught Koran classes for youngsters in the village and played soccer on the mosque team.

"It was house to mosque," said childhood friend Mohammed Jamal. "That was his life."

The vast majority of Muslims adamantly reject suicide bombings. The Koran frowns on killing oneself, and Islamic teaching condemns the murder of noncombatants. Nor is Islam the only religion that glorifies martyrdom.

Even so, Shaghnoubi's particularly zealous view of Islam is a common ingredient in the welter of emotions and beliefs that motivates suicide bombers.

The relatives of Salah Nazzal, 27, who blew up a bus in October 1994 in Tel Aviv, said he had often locked himself away in the library of the local mosque in his West Bank city of Qalqilya. One of his final actions before going underground was to redecorate the front room of his parents' home with a floor-to-ceiling picture of the holy mosque in Mecca.

The West Bank families of Suffian Jabarin, 28, and Labib Azam, 23, who last year destroyed buses in Jerusalem and Ramat Gan, respectively, killing a total of 11 people, also described them as devout young men.

And in Al-Fawwar, graffiti for **Hamas** was scrawled not only on the concrete outside Sarahneh's home. It was also scratched onto the walls inside his family's house.

For many young Palestinians, the strict discipline and absolutist ideology of militant Islam fill a void left by the breakdown of families, schools and other sources of personal identity during a generation of Israeli occupation.

"Islam is a powerful religion. The language is powerful, and the message is powerful," said Eyad Sarraj, a psychologist who is chairman of the Gaza Community Mental Health Program. "The afterlife is only for those who sacrifice themselves for God. These young people go to their death really believing they are not dying."

Shaghnoubi's family and friends say he was easy prey for **Hamas** cadres who sought to reduce him to a human bomb. Like many suicide attackers, his family were refugees from a village now inside Israel.

They were poor folk - 12 people crammed into a concrete hovel, often surviving on handouts from nearby farmers. Shaghnoubi had enrolled as a student at a U.N.-run teachers college in Ramallah but still worked odd jobs, turning his meager earnings over to his mother.

"He was suffering from all kinds of problems," said Garib Al-Seif, a longtime friend. "Maybe people took advantage of his economic distress to change his mind."

Hamas recruiters could have reminded Shaghnoubi of the paradise promised in the Koran for Muslim martyrs. It is a place closest to God in a garden of broad shade trees and flowers heaped high, with the choicest fowl and fruit, thrones encrusted with gold and precious stones, and 72 "**female**" companions with beautiful, big and lustrous eyes."

* Raed Zakarneh, 19, never bothered to tell his family where he was going. But he made clear where he had been.

He drove a blue Opel crammed with explosives into a bus stop in the central Israeli city of Afula in April 1994. He left behind what would become his final testament - an interview he had given to an Israeli Arab newspaper, in

A VOLATILE MIX FUELING SUICIDE BOMBERS< A LIFE STEEPED IN RELIGION, POVERTY AND< HATRED TOWARD ISRAEL PROVES IDEAL FOR HAMAS RECRUITERS.

which he accused Israeli security forces of having tortured and threatened to rape him while he was held in army prisons.

He also filed a complaint with the International Committee of the Red Cross, and even brought his allegations to a member of the Israeli parliament.

In his interview with Al-Ittihad newspaper, Zakarneh detailed a variety of physical and psychological abuse he said was meant to force him to confess to killing Arabs who had collaborated with Israel.

For the first three days, he said, he was kept with his eyes covered and hands cuffed. He said he was made to stand up until he dropped to the ground, then was beaten until he returned to his feet. Zakarneh also described having been deprived of food and confined, for days at a time, in a box whose sides measured only a yard long.

"The worst was the investigator continuously threatened to rape me if I didn't sign a confession," he was quoted as saying. His charges could not be corroborated.

When Zakarneh was freed and he returned to his home in the northern West Bank village of Qabatya, his father barely recognized him. He had grown sullen and agitated.

Soon after, Zakarneh disappeared. His father said he never heard from him again until the bombing, when Zakarneh killed seven Israelis and himself. He had become the first suicide bomber to bloody the Israeli-Palestinian peace signed seven months earlier.

* In the lives of subsequent suicide attackers, violence and alleged abuse at the hands of Israelis continued to be a frequent theme. The militants' indiscriminate bombings are perhaps the ugliest hangovers from a generation of conflict.

Shaghroubi's brother Mohammed had been shot eight times in the leg while being pursued by Israeli soldiers, villagers said. Abu Wardeh's 16-year-old sister had lost her teeth when she was struck in the mouth by a rubber bullet. Emam Emawi, 24, who killed himself in a failed car bombing last year in the Gaza Strip, had earlier been struck in the thigh with an exploding Israeli bullet, according to his mother.

Before Nazzal blew up the Tel Aviv bus in 1994, he recorded a video, calling himself a "living martyr." Assault rifle in hand, he pledged to avenge the death of his 14-year-old brother Hussein, shot in the head by an Israeli soldier.

Nazzal also reported to his family that he'd been beaten and tortured during five stints in Israeli prisons. Family members said he had been kept blindfolded and shackled in solitary confinement, and denied food and drink and toilet facilities for days at a time.

Israeli officials deny that they engage in torture. Israeli and international human rights groups say that torture is a common feature of interrogation in Israeli prisons.

* Majdi Abu Wardeh had told his father he was heading to Ramallah to take a new job. Wardeh's father, a geography teacher at a U.N. vocational school, was angry. He wanted Abu Wardeh to remain in school, where he was learning to lay tiles.

But to Abu Wardeh, the payoff from school seemed paltry, and his future seemed bleak.

"There's nothing here," said Mohammed Abbas, a friend in Al-Fawwar camp, where Israeli security forces reportedly found another 15 young men prepared to follow Abu Wardeh's example. "It's a kind of pressure cooker. If you don't open it at the top, it's going to explode."

Within the cauldron that produces suicide bombers, there is another ingredient: Sarraj, the psychologist, calls it "an environment of despair, humiliation, poverty and hopelessness."

A VOLATILE MIX FUELING SUICIDE BOMBERS< A LIFE STEEPED IN RELIGION, POVERTY AND< HATRED TOWARD ISRAEL PROVES IDEAL FOR HAMAS RECRUITERS.

Often, the attackers recruited by **Hamas** and Islamic Jihad seemed to be the most determined members of their families. The shackles of poverty and occupation cut especially deep.

Jabarin, who blew up a bus in Jerusalem last year, had been working as a construction laborer in Israel for 12 years, since he was 16. He had been the main money-earner in a family of six brothers, most of whom were denied permission to work in Israel, his sister said.

In Burqah, the villagers had hope for Shaghnoubi. He was one of about 300 refugees studying amid the pines and palms on the campus of the U.N. teachers college outside Ramallah.

But the college itself had become a hub for **Hamas** organizing. Another student, Mohammed Abu Wardeh, 20, had recruited his cousin Majdi Abu Wardeh and Majdi's friend Sarahneh from Al-Fawwar. Then, he signed up Shaghnoubi. After the three bombings, Palestinian police raided the campus earlier this month. Mohammed Abu Wardeh was seized and sentenced to life in prison.

Scores of other students were arrested. Among those later released was a young **Hamas** sympathizer raised in a refugee camp near Nablus. He said he well understood what motivated his peers to take their own lives in such a brutal way.

"There's no work. Even if you graduate, no job awaits you," the young man said. "People want to live without humiliation, and everything in life is a humiliation for these people. If you don't have a coin in your pocket, what kind of life do you have to look forward to?"

Graphic

PHOTO AND MAP;

PHOTO (2)

1. Majdi Abu Wardeh, 19, killed 26 people on a bus in Jerusalem.
2. Palestinian police demonstrate how an explosive belt is worn. Also at their news conference in Gaza City this month, they showed the various weapons confiscated during three nights of raids. Recent suicide bombers have carried duffel bags filled with explosives. (Associated Press, ADEL HANA)

MAP (1)

1. Al-Fawwar refugee camp (The Philadelphia Inquirer)

Load-Date: October 28, 2002

Gaza ready to enjoy its new freedom

The Independent (London)

May 26, 1994, Thursday

Copyright 1994 Independent Print Ltd

Section: INTERNATIONAL NEWS PAGE; Page 15

Length: 451 words

Byline: SARAH HELM in Gaza City

Body

AFTER midnight on the Gaza City beach, the crowds are still out, strolling under the stars. The beach road is jammed with cars, and a line of new restaurants are doing good business.

"You like whisky, perhaps?" asked a cafe owner, smiling under his fairy lights, and then peering into the darkness to make sure nobody had overheard. After eight years under Israeli-imposed curfew, Gazans, young and old, are reclaiming the nights as theirs, learning to enjoy life on the beaches, in the parks and in the streets. The self-denial of the intifada, in protest at the occupation, is being thrown to the winds.

For the first time in many years alcohol is being quietly offered in public places. Women are starting to venture on to the streets unveiled. The revellers know, however, that, while Israeli soldiers have now moved back, the "moral police" of Gaza are still among them. Hamas, the Islamic Resistance Movement, is watching.

In his apartment overlooking the beach, Hassan Deeb, a Hamas intellectual, has been monitoring the evils of the night. Women, he says, have been walking in public with men; walking in a "bad fashion" and dressing against Islamic law. He has heard people singing in the street. "They should be punished. They should be whipped."

The sound of gunfire may have died down in Gaza but a new struggle is under way for control of the social mores. The battle lines are drawn between the militant fundamentalists of Hamas, and the secularists of the Palestine Liberation Organisation.

In the 1970s, the Islamic movement in Gaza focused mainly on propagating its social and religious message. Hamas was only formed as another movement resisting the Israeli occupation after the intifada began in 1987. Gaza is more Islamic than the more cosmopolitan West Bank, which explains why women dress more modestly, alcohol is frowned on, and there are no cinemas or theatres.

The Islamic message has been spread from the mosques, and reinforced through fear imposed by Hamas' armed thugs. And Hamas was assisted by the Israeli-imposed curfew. "Too much freedom is not good," says Mr Deeb. "It is in the night that people steal and commit their sins."

Now, however, the PLO-brokered self-rule has become a reality and the majority of Palestinians in Gaza and Jericho want to give their new-found freedoms a chance.

The ability of Hamas to halt the new secularism in Gaza will depend on the readiness of the Palestinian police to stand up to it. Meanwhile, the new PLO self-rule authority is coming under pressure from Hamas to introduce

Gaza ready to enjoy its new freedom

Islamic laws into the new Palestinian legal code: imprisonment for adultery, for example. But PLO leaders insist, for now, that the law will be secular.

Load-Date: May 26, 1994

End of Document

Violence sweeps Gaza despite truce; teen dies

Pittsburgh Post-Gazette (Pennsylvania)

November 20, 1994, Sunday,

FIVE STAR EDITION

Copyright 1994 P.G. Publishing Co.

Section: WORLD,

Length: 675 words

Byline: Said Ghazali, The Associated Press

Dateline: GAZA CITY, Gaza Strip

Body

Hundreds of Muslim militants stoned Palestinian and Israeli troops yesterday in Gaza and attacked a Jewish settlement despite a truce to pull rival Palestinian factions back from the brink of civil war.

Israeli troops opened fire, and Arab reporters said a 17-year-old rioter was killed as the mob stoned a watchtower at the Netzarim settlement. The army said it was trying to verify the casualty.

Violence also spilled into the West Bank yesterday, with at least nine Palestinians wounded in stone throwing battles with Israel troops. Merchants throughout the West Bank and Gaza Strip observed a general strike called by **Hamas**, the leading Islamic opposition group.

The unrest followed bloody clashes with Palestinian police that left 13 Palestinians dead and over 150 wounded on Friday.

In Gaza City, supporters of **Hamas** and of PLO chief Yasser Arafat staged rival marches yesterday.

"This is your peace, Arafat, arrests and killings," chanted some 700 **Hamas** followers as they walked to the home of one of those killed Friday. **Hamas** leaders drove alongside the march in a van, apparently ready for a quick getaway in case of attempts to arrest them.

But Palestinian police did not interfere, honoring a one-day truce hammered out overnight. Under the agreement, police would permit marches and Muslim leaders pledged to restrain the crowds.

In front of Gaza City's central jail, about 3,000 backers of the PLO's mainstream Fatah movement rallied to support Arafat, popularly known as Abu Ammar.

"Abu Ammar, don't worry, the Fatah men are backing you," chanted the crowd, raising Palestinian flags and waving to police.

Friday's clashes were the worst since Arafat took charge of Gaza and the West Bank town of Jericho in July.

Arafat was huddled with advisers at his seaside headquarters yesterday. "I don't want to comment on this now," Arafat said when asked about his showdown with **Hamas** and Islamic Jihad, a small, radical faction.

Violence sweeps Gaza despite truce; teen dies

Tensions had been building recently, due to a series of suicide bombings and shootings aimed at Israelis. Arafat, under pressure from Israel to clamp down, arrested scores of militants who derided him as a traitor.

About 300 supporters of the Muslim militant group **Hamas** converged on an Israeli army checkpoint outside the Jewish settlement of Netzarim yesterday and pelted soldiers with stones. Rioters destroyed the checkpost, raised a Palestinian flag there and then followed troops to Netzarim, where they stoned the watchtower.

Troops fired tear gas and bullets from inside, shooting a 17-year-old who later died of his wounds, Palestinian reporters said.

The protesters also stoned about two dozen Palestinian police trying to stop their advance. The Palestinian forces left the area without firing, but returned later and dispersed the crowd.

Violence spread to Arab east Jerusalem and the West Bank.

In Jerusalem, police fired tear gas and stun grenades to break up a protest by several dozen Palestinian **women** calling for the release of Palestinian prisoners held in Israel.

In the West Bank town of Tulkarem, Israeli troops fired to disperse **Hamas** protesters, and Israel radio said nine were wounded.

In the town of Hebron, hundreds of **Hamas** followers burned pictures of Arafat and stoned Israeli soldiers who responded with tear gas and bullets.

Each side has blamed the other for causing the bloody clashes following Friday prayers at a Gaza mosque.

Senior **Hamas** leader Ibrahim Yazuri said Arafat orchestrated the attack because of pressure from Israel to rein in Islamic militants.

"I don't know what happened to Arafat. He must have lost his mind. He surely lost control," said Yazuri.

In Amman, Jordan, **Hamas** spokesman Ibrahim Ghosheh vowed to retaliate against Arafat's self-rule government.

"We are ready for this ... battle, and we'll confront the (self-rule) authority the same way we've confronted the Zionist enemy throughout the years," he said.

In Lebanon, residents of Palestinian refugee camps protested the Gaza killings yesterday by burning effigies of Arafat and Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin.

Load-Date: November 23, 1994

ISRAEL LEVELS THE HOUSE OF SLAIN BOMBER

St. Louis Post-Dispatch (Missouri)

March 15, 1996, Friday, THREE STAR Edition

Copyright 1996 St. Louis Post-Dispatch, Inc.

Section: NEWS; Pg. 3A

Length: 244 words

Dateline: RAFAT, WEST BANK

Body

Israel blew up the house of the slain master bomb maker for the Islamic militant group **Hamas** on Thursday. Meanwhile, dozens of Palestinian students paid tribute at his grave.

The demolition of terrorist Yehiya Ayyash's home in the West Bank town of Rafat was an ironic footnote to the life of the Islamic militant notorious for masterminding deadly explosions.

The 30-year-old Ayyash - nicknamed "The Engineer" - orchestrated seven suicide bombings before a booby-trapped cellular phone exploded in his hands two months ago. Israel is believed to be behind his assassination.

Ayyash's house was demolished as part of Israel's crackdown on **Hamas** militants following four suicide bombings in Israel that have killed 58 people since Feb. 25. **Hamas** said the bombers attacked to avenge Ayyash's death.

Ayyash's wife and two young sons had lived in the two-story cinder-block house that was reduced to a pile of rubble by two explosions Thursday.

Soldiers ordered residents in a 200-yard radius around the home to clear out, and then blew up the building. The army imposed a curfew that prevented reporters from talking to villagers.

The senior Israeli officer on the scene, identified only as Lt. Col. Haim, said, "This will deter suicide bombers because they know that what they leave behind will be destroyed." But **Hamas** has generously supported families of suicide bombers and activists jailed by Israel. A neighbor of the Ayyash family said **Hamas** would build them a new house.

Graphic

Photo by Chris Stanfield - End of the Line - Lindenwood College guard Stacia Parsell drives by Anna Stark of David Lipscomb College of Nashville, Tenn., in first-round action at the NAIA Division I **Women's** Basketball National Championship in Jackson, Tenn. Lindenwood lost the game 86-60 and is finished for the season.

Load-Date: March 15, 1996

ISRAEL LEVELS THE HOUSE OF SLAIN BOMBER

End of Document

ISRAELIS INTENSIFY WAR ON MILITANTS

St. Louis Post-Dispatch (Missouri)

October 21, 1994, FRIDAY, FIVE STAR Edition

Copyright 1994 St. Louis Post-Dispatch, Inc.

Section: NEWS; Pg. 1A

Length: 691 words

Dateline: TEL AVIV, ISRAEL

Body

As Israelis buried their dead from the Tel Aviv bus bombing, authorities ordered sweeping arrests of suspected terrorists and sealed the autonomous Gaza Strip and occupied West Bank on Thursday.

Facing public demands for a crackdown on militants in the wake of Wednesday's bombing, the government also was reported to have ordered the demolition of the home of a Palestinian suspected in the suicide attack, which killed 21 people.

The suspect, Salah Abdel-Rahim Hassan Assawi, 27, appeared in a videotape distributed Thursday by the fundamentalist **Hamas** group. He held an Israeli-made automatic rifle and said he was about to die in an attack on Israel.

The Israeli Cabinet ordered the West Bank and Gaza Strip sealed indefinitely.

Ministers decided at an emergency Cabinet meeting to extend the powers of the security services, but details were kept secret. "As for the actions of the security services, the government decided to put at their disposal additional means required in order to intensify actions against **Hamas** and its military wing," the Cabinet said in a statement.

The statement, issued after a four-hour meeting, did not elaborate.

The fledgling self-rule government in Gaza deplored the decision to prevent Palestinians from going to work in Israel as collective punishment that could slow the peace process.

"This is an attempt to make the Palestinian people kneel down," said Palestine Liberation Organization Chairman Yasser Arafat.

Israel's military options are limited in Gaza. With the area under Arafat's authority, any Israeli military action could destroy the peace process. But support was widespread in Israel for closing off Gaza and the West Bank to keep away **Hamas** militants who have stunned the nation with three attacks in the last two weeks.

Speaking at a ceremony for fallen soldiers Thursday evening, Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin vowed that Israel would outlive the Islamic fundamentalists who seek its destruction. "To those who are trying to harm us, the kidnappers and gunmen and bombers: Israeli soldiers and security forces will find you sooner or later, and your fate will be bitter," Rabin said.

ISRAELIS INTENSIFY WAR ON MILITANTS

The government authorized more money for Shin Bet, the internal security service, charging it with a concerted effort to locate cells of Hamas. It also ordered the arrest of suspected militants and the use of "more efficient" interrogations, in the words of one official.

"We need to use other methods, which it's best not to talk about," said Housing Minister Binyamin Ben-Eliezer.

Police Minister Moshe Shahal said the government also planned "an international campaign" to cut off donations to Hamas from the United States, Britain, Iran and other countries. Shahal said American charities for Hamas were centered in Chicago and Texas.

In the videotape distributed by Hamas, Assawi said, "There are many of us young people from Izzedine al-Qassam ready to carry out (suicidal) actions. We will continue such actions." Izzedine al-Qassam is Hamas' armed wing.

Hamas has not said explicitly that Assawi was the bomber, but the timing and context of the tape release made it clear that the tape was referring to the Tel Aviv bombing, and Israeli authorities believe that Assawi did it.

Assawi said his bombing attack would be revenge for the killing of his 14-year-old brother during the uprising against Israeli occupation and for the deaths of three militants who kidnapped a soldier last week.

At a suburban Tel Aviv cemetery, meanwhile, funerals of the bus passengers were held in dizzying succession.

Thousands followed the coffin of Galit Rosen, a film student who was to celebrate her 23rd birthday today. She was riding the No. 5 bus to a dance audition.

The day before, Rosen had put the finishing touches on a short movie, called "Countdown."

Tzipora Ariel, 64, was buried to the sound of quiet weeping of friends and relatives. She had been on her way to a weight control group on Dizengoff Street when the bomb exploded.

Friends of David Lido, 74, said he was going to work at his drapery store when the bus exploded.

"What the Nazis didn't finish, the Arabs did," said Zvia, daughter of Lido, a Holocaust survivor.

Graphic

PHOTO; (1) Color Photo by AP - Salah Abdel-Rahim Hassan Assawi, thought to be the Tel Aviv bus bomber, in a videotape distributed Thursday by Hamas. (2) Photo by AP - Palestinian women argue with an Israeli soldier Wednesday at Erez, the main crossing point for Palestinian workers from the Gaza Strip. Israel closed the border after the bus bombing.

Load-Date: October 22, 1994

**FOR MANY IN GAZA, MILITANTS ARE HEROES ARAFAT FACES A
CHALLENGE: HE MUST WORK WITH ISRAEL AND KEEP THE TRUST OF HIS
OWN PEOPLE.**

The Philadelphia Inquirer

October 22, 1994 Saturday FINAL EDITION

Copyright 1994 Philadelphia Newspapers, LLC All Rights Reserved

The Philadelphia Inquirer

Found on Philly.com

Section: NATIONAL; Pg. A01

Length: 1233 words

Byline: Carol Morello, INQUIRER STAFF WRITER

Dateline: GAZA CITY, Gaza Strip

Body

Adel Darwish Masharawi has a new set of heroes: the men the rest of the world scorns as terrorists.

Israel is still reeling from the kidnapping of an Israeli soldier, who was killed when Israeli troops attempted a rescue, and Wednesday's bomb on a Tel Aviv bus in which 21 passengers died.

But in Gaza, the most desperately frustrated corner of the Middle East, many people consider the Islamic militants who died carrying out their vengeance just ordinary folk pushed into martyrdom.

"Most people consider the bus attacker a hero," said Masharawi, a 22-year-old tailor, as he sipped a cola beside the Mediterranean on a beach where young men tanned their bare chests and women bundled up in long sleeves and head scarves gossipped.

"He lost a brother during the intifadah, and he wanted revenge for what the Israelis did to the group who kidnapped the soldier. Many other young men in Gaza support what happened and hope to be like them."

It is here in Gaza, where Islamic fundamentalism has its strongest foothold among Palestinians, that Yasir Arafat and his fledgling Palestinian Authority face a crucial test of autonomy. If he does not finesse it, the outcome could be increased support for the Islamic fundamentalists who reject peace with Israel, and more violence that could doom any peace.

Arafat faces a crisis of credibility after he ordered his police force to arrest hundreds of activists for Hamas, the Arabic acronym for the Islamic Resistance Movement, in searching for the kidnappers of the soldier who died during the rescue attempt in the Israeli-controlled West Bank.

The Izzedine al-Qassam Brigades, Hamas' military wing of zealous young men ready to undertake suicide missions, issued a leaflet calling the Palestinian police force "a creation of the Israeli occupiers." It warned the

FOR MANY IN GAZA, MILITANTS ARE HEROES ARAFAT FACES A CHALLENGE: HE MUST WORK WITH
ISRAEL AND KEEP THE TRUST OF HIS OWN PEOPLE.

police to release all Hamas prisoners. And it called on its militants to resist arrest by Palestinian police, and to carry their struggle throughout Gaza, the West Bank, Jerusalem and even to Washington.

The PLO did not buckle.

"There's only one authority in this country, and that's the way it's going to be," Marwan Kanafani, Arafat's spokesman, said yesterday.

But with widespread sympathy for Hamas in Gaza, it appears an uneasy truce has been called between Hamas and the PLO, making it difficult for Arafat to crack down too hard on militants who are not directly implicated in violence.

"This is a time for tolerance, understanding and rationalism, not a time to lament, adopt and implement extreme decisions that will only put Arafat in a more desperate condition," Kanafani said. "What happened in Tel Aviv was horrible and cruel. But we can't change the acts of people when the atmosphere and environment in which they live is one of desperation."

From Jerusalem came reports that the Israeli government needs a few weeks to reassess the security situation before resuming talks with the PLO on Palestinian elections.

But Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin warned in a newspaper interview published yesterday that "the peace process may be halted if we cannot guarantee peace with security."

Kanafani argued that the violence underscores the need to extend Palestinian self-rule in the West Bank, have the PLO take charge of border crossings and receive international aid being withheld because of concerns about Arafat's fiscal accountability.

"None of that has happened," Kanafani said. "It doesn't help Palestinians feel things have changed in their lives, that they've come a long way from occupation to freedom. We failed, all of us, in giving Palestinians a sense of a new future, a society in which they could dream of something good for themselves and their children."

Casting about for some way to curb the violence perpetrated by Hamas, Israeli security forces are considering expelling Hamas leaders. The cabinet has authorized more money for security police to track down Hamas cells and has ordered the arrest of more suspected militants.

Fayez Abu Rameh, a lawyer who heads the Gaza lawyers syndicate, said the only effective way to combat Hamas is by boosting the economy and creating jobs. More than half the men in Gaza were unemployed before Israel sealed its border to Palestinian workers in an effort to give Israelis a thin cushion of security.

"People are interested in calm," Abu Rameh said. "Their future depends on it, and violence impedes that. But the Israelis were here for 27 years, and didn't put an end to violence. How do they expect Arafat to do so in a few months?"

The plight of Riyadh Shuki al-Egal supports Abu Rameh's argument. The 44-year-old taxi driver supports his wife and eight children on the money he earns sharing a stand with three other drivers. He said he has not had a day off since the PLO took control of Gaza in early May. By midday yesterday, the four drivers had collected barely \$5 in fares among them.

He is a bitter, disappointed man with too much time on his hands that he whittles away discussing his lot in life and politics. He said he sympathizes with the kidnappers and the suicide bomber.

"We were looking for a better life, with big, new construction projects employing many workers," he said, fingering his key chain in the shape of a Palestinian flag. "That's not what we got."

But it will take more than jobs to persuade many Hamas supporters to cease their campaign of violence.

FOR MANY IN GAZA, MILITANTS ARE HEROES ARAFAT FACES A CHALLENGE: HE MUST WORK WITH ISRAEL AND KEEP THE TRUST OF HIS OWN PEOPLE.

Ghassan Deeb, a schoolteacher who serves on a Gaza Islamic committee headed by a **Hamas** leader, said **Hamas** would struggle against Israel until "all of Palestine, from the sea to the (Jordan) river" is controlled by Muslims. His solution is for "every Jew to go back to his own country, wherever he came from."

The urgency of the task is most evident at the Palestine Mosque, a stronghold of **Hamas** in a lower-middle-class neighborhood of Gaza City. At Friday prayers, hundreds of men overflowed the three-story mosque, kneeling on the marble steps and in sand as fine as talc to say prayers for the Izzedine al-Qassam "martyrs."

Some children wore Izzedine al-Qassam T-shirts printed with drawings of a masked man waving an AK-47 in front of Jerusalem's al-Aqsa Mosque.

"I support **Hamas**, and acts like kidnapping the soldier," said 10-year-old Ahmed, who sported one of the green shirts.

One man who gave his name as Son of Izzedine al-Qassam justified attacks on Israeli soldiers and civilians alike in retribution for Israeli attacks on Palestinians as old as the 1948 War of Independence and as recent as this year's massacre of Palestinian worshipers by a right-wing Israeli settler in Hebron.

Others drew a fine distinction between the bus attack in which so many civilians died and the kidnapping of the Israeli soldier.

"I am against attacking civilians," said Ra'ed el-Shawa, a 22-year-old merchant from a prominent Gaza family. "But they had a right to kidnap the soldier because they were looking for a way to free Palestinian prisoners in Israeli jails."

The continued imprisonment of both **Hamas** activists and Palestinian nationalists who resisted Israeli occupation weighs heavy on many Palestinians in Gaza.

"We all support peace, but not this peace," said Masharawi, the tailor who has been laid off indefinitely since the Israeli border closure eliminated the market for the chair covers he sews in a Gaza factory.

"What kind of peace is this when prisoners are still in jail, when borders are closed in front of us? We feel we are living in a big jail."

Graphic

PHOTO;

PHOTO (1)

1. Muslim men bow during Friday prayers at the Palestine Mosque in the Gaza Strip. Many who prayed yesterday support the Islamic fundamentalist group

Hamas, whose military wing bombed an Israeli bus Wednesday in Tel Aviv killing 21. (Associated Press, DAVID BRAUCHLI)

Load-Date: October 21, 2002

FOR MANY IN GAZA, MILITANTS ARE HEROES ARAFAT FACES A CHALLENGE: HE MUST WORK WITH
ISRAEL AND KEEP THE TRUST OF HIS OWN PEOPLE.

End of Document

SCORES ARE HURT IN MIDEAST CLASH

The New York Times

March 23, 1997, Sunday, Late Edition - Final

Copyright 1997 The New York Times Company

Distribution: Foreign Desk

Section: Section 1; ; Section 1; Page 1; Column 3; Foreign Desk ; Column 3;

Length: 734 words

Byline: By SERGE SCHMEMANN

By SERGE SCHMEMANN

Dateline: JERUSALEM, March 22

Body

Palestinians and Israeli soldiers clashed anew in the narrow streets of Hebron today in continuing flashes of violence ignited by Israel's decision to build a new housing project for Jews in East Jerusalem.

The brawl raged for three hours as Israeli soldiers fired volleys of tear gas, rubber bullets and some live ammunition against Palestinian youths pelting them with stones. One Palestinian shopowner said he had also seen a Jewish settler take aim with a rifle and fire.

At the end of the melee, Asheleleh Street, the narrow street that saw the brunt of the action, was littered with thousands of stones and tear-gas canisters.

Hebron hospitals reported that 80 Palestinians had been treated for injuries, including one who lost an eye and three who were reportedly hit by live ammunition and were in serious condition.

The violence came the day after a Palestinian suicide bomber struck in a Tel Aviv cafe, killing himself and three Israeli women and reviving a terror weapon not used for more than a year. An anonymous caller to the Israeli police said the blast was the work of the militant Islamic movement Hamas.

Hamas's militant wing issued a statement in Gaza today threatening more violence over the construction of the housing on a hill in southeastern Jerusalem known in Arabic as Jamal Abu Ghneim and saying Israel "must bear responsibility for this wonderful martyrdom operation."

"The Zionist determination in building the dirty settlement on Abu Ghneim mountain will push us to resume our powerful attacks against Zionists and to teach the arrogant Netanyahu a lesson he will never forget," said the statement, signed by the Qassam Brigades and referring to Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu.

The statement said the military wing had an "independent organizational base outside the Palestinian autonomous areas," implying that the Palestinian Authority of Yasir Arafat would not be able to halt it.

SCORES ARE HURT IN MIDEAST CLASH

Several hours after Friday's attack, Mr. Arafat's police reportedly rearrested a **Hamas** leader who had told a **Hamas** rally earlier in the day that "only the holy warriors carrying explosives on their shoulders and exploding the enemies of God" would stop the Israeli bulldozers from building the housing project.

The leader, Ibrahim Maqadmeh, a 47-year-old dentist, was regarded by Israel as the head of a secret **Hamas** terror apparatus. He was also detained by the Palestinians after the suicide bombings a year ago, and his recent release was roundly denounced by the Israelis as a signal for **Hamas** to revive its attacks.

Mr. Netanyahu has charged that by releasing Mr. Maqadmeh and other militants, Mr. Arafat gave a "green light" to **Hamas** and other organizations to resume terror attacks, and that the violence in the last three days in Bethlehem and Hebron had been deliberately encouraged by Mr. Arafat.

In a telephone interview, Mr. Netanyahu said: "We see a deliberate strategy of inciting demonstrations and then controlling them. This is a double game -- you can claim that the street is spontaneously protesting, then that you are exercising control."

Several hours after the attack, Mr. Arafat telephoned Mr. Netanyahu to express his condolences. In what Israeli news reports described as a "very tense" conversation, Mr. Netanyahu reportedly told Mr. Arafat that he had to rearrest the Islamic militants he had released and to rein in the violence, or the negotiating process was in danger of collapse.

Mr. Arafat has rejected the charge that he gave any "green light" to terrorists, and his lieutenants have accused Mr. Netanyahu of creating the atmosphere of resentment that has led to violence.

In Washington, Dennis Ross, the State Department's Middle East mediator, declined to assign blame beyond **Hamas**, saying, "Leaders obviously can affect the environment, and leaders obviously have to take steps to try and shape what can be done, but in this instance **Hamas** is the one that bears the prime responsibility."

The Israeli radio said the suicide bomber had been identified by the police as Mousa Abu Deiyah Ghneimat, 28, of Zurif, near Hebron. The village was sealed off, several houses were searched, and a several people were arrested, including Mr. Ghneimat's wife and three brothers.

Today's clashes in Hebron were the most intensive of the recent eruptions and the first in which the Israelis were reported to have used live ammunition. There was no Israeli confirmation of that report.

Graphic

Photo: Arab anger over Israel's proposed East Jerusalem housing development brought continued violence to Hebron yesterday. The Palestinian police grappled with protesters after a stone hit an Israeli soldier, left. (Agence France-Presse) (pg. 1); A Palestinian police officer (right) and an Israeli soldier gave first aid to a wounded Arab during a fierce three-hour clash yesterday in Hebron. (Reuters) (pg. 8)

Maps showing the area of violence: Clashes between Israeli forces and Palestinians continued in Hebron. (pg. 8)

Load-Date: March 23, 1997

Hebron violence stings peace bid

The Daily Telegraph (Sydney, Australia)

March 24, 1997, Monday

Copyright 1997 Nationwide News Pty Limited

Section: WORLD; Pg. 22

Length: 490 words

Body

JERUSALEM: Violent clashes on the West Bank and new threats from the **HAMAS** terrorist group overshadowed efforts by Israeli and Palestinian leaders to revive the peace process.

Tensions were running high on the West Bank as violent clashes between rock-throwing Palestinians and Israeli soldiers firing rubber bullets and teargas injured dozens.

Twenty-three protesters and three Palestinian police, along with three Israeli soldiers and three cameramen working for foreign news organisations, were injured in clashes in Hebron, Palestinian officials said.

As the violence escalated to levels unseen since the peace process began, Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu and Palestinian President Yasser Arafat spoke on the phone for the first time since the crisis was sparked by the start of construction last Tuesday of homes for 30,000 Jews in east Jerusalem.

Mr Netanyahu accused Mr Arafat of bearing a "heavy responsibility" for Friday's suicide bombing of a Tel Aviv cafe by Muslim militant group **HAMAS** in which three Israeli **women** were killed and 46 injured.

Mr Netanyahu called on Mr Arafat to prove he still wanted peace.

He also resisted calls from within his right-wing coalition to break off talks with the Palestinians.

"We are going to see very quickly if the Palestinian Authority is a peace partner -it must choose between peace and terrorism," Mr Netanyahu said.

Mr Arafat yesterday denounced the bombing at the crowded Tel Aviv cafe.

"This terrible act we condemn completely," Mr Arafat said in an interview at his Gaza City office.

He also said he would respond to a reported call for more suicide bombings by **HAMAS** military leader Ibrahim alMukadmeh, who went to ground after the deadly attack.

"If he has done that I'll not keep silent," Mr Arafat said.

"If he has done that he will be investigated.

"At the same time we condemn what happens against our people in Bethlehem, in Hebron," he said, adding that 189 people were injured during yesterday's protests against the new Jewish neighbourhood.

Hebron violence stings peace bid

An anonymous caller claimed responsibility for the bomb attack in the name of the Islamic Resistance Movement (**HAMAS**), saying it was in retaliation for the Jewish settlement in east Jerusalem.

HAMAS threatened Israel it would launch new attacks if it did not abandon its controversial housing project in disputed east Jerusalem.

"The Zionists' insistence on building a settlement on the Abu Ghneim hill will force us to continue our attacks against the Zionists," it said in a statement.

Israeli police said the suspected bomber, Mussa Adbel Qader Abu Diya, had been arrested several times for belonging to **HAMAS** and for staying illegally in Israel.

Meanwhile, Israeli police said the bombing suspect did not have a permit either to stay or to work in Israel, but had succeeded in finding jobs in two restaurants in Rishon le Zion, south of Tel Aviv.

Four Israelis have been questioned by police for employing Diya illegally.

Load-Date: March 4, 2002

**'SORDID BUSINESS IN JORDAN' RAISES POLITICAL RUCKUS : 10,000
CHEER LEADER'S;
RETURN;
NETANYAHU'S CLOUT WITH ARAFAT LESSENS**

St. Louis Post-Dispatch (Missouri)

October 7, 1997, Tuesday, FIVE STAR LIFT EDITION

Copyright 1997 St. Louis Post-Dispatch, Inc.

Section: NEWS, Pg. 03A

Length: 549 words

Byline: AP

Dateline: GAZA CITY, GAZA STRIP

Body

The spiritual leader of **Hamas** returned home to a delirious welcome from 10,000 supporters Monday, part of a prisoner exchange that left Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu struggling to explain why he struck a deal with the sponsors of bombings against Israeli civilians.

Sheik Ahmed Yassin, the quadriplegic and nearly blind founder of **Hamas**, was greeted by ecstatic crowds in a stadium in Gaza City that was draped with black, green and red Palestinian flags and banners.

Yassin's return means that Netanyahu will have much less leverage in demanding that Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat crack down on **Hamas**, which opposes peace agreements with Israel and has carried out more than a dozen suicide bombings in Israel since 1994. Arafat was conspicuously absent from the homecoming for his biggest political rival, apparently unwilling to be seen standing next to **Hamas** leaders delivering fiery anti-Israel speeches.

The exchange of Yassin for two Mossad agents captured in a failed assassination attempt on a **Hamas** leader in Amman, Jordan, last month was worked out in more than a week of secret talks between the two countries. It put Netanyahu in the awkward position of having to contradict his tough-on-terrorism credo to ensure the safety of the two spies.

Israeli security officials said the two captured Israeli agents were flown to Israel on Monday about the same time that Yassin was en route to Gaza. A Jordanian government statement said Jordan freed the two agents Monday as part of the deal negotiated by King Hussein.

Netanyahu said Monday night that the government had decided to set up a committee to investigate the failed assassination attempt. But he said: "As prime minister, I have the highest responsibility to fight in every possible way against terror. This is a war. There are no concessions in the war against terror."

As part of the swap, Israel also freed 20 Palestinian and Jordanian prisoners, who returned home Monday. Israeli and Jordanian officials said more prisoners would be released in the next two weeks.

'SORDID BUSINESS IN JORDAN ' RAISES POLITICAL RUCKUS : 10,000 CHEER LEADER'S; RETURN;
NETANYAHU'S CLOUT WITH ARAFAT LESSENS

A Jordanian military helicopter carrying Yassin touched down outside Arafat's headquarters in Gaza City at 4:25 p.m. Monday.

Yassin was carried off the helicopter in a wheelchair as Palestinian women wailed with joy and supporters tried to hug and kiss him. He was then driven in an ambulance to the Yarmouk Sports Stadium, where he called for Palestinian unity.

"There must be no divisions among the Palestinian people," the ailing Yassin whispered to an aide, who repeated the words aloud. The supporters, many of whom had waited in the sun for hours, cheered, whistled and chanted, "Allahu Akbar!" - "God is great!"

Palestinian officials put a positive spin on Yassin's return, noting he had previously spoken of halting attacks and working with Arafat. They said his presence would mean the center of authority in Hamas would shift back to Gaza and out of the hands of more radical leaders abroad.

U.S. Envoy In Region

U.S. envoy Dennis Ross began a new round of Mideast peace talks Monday, shuttling between Israeli and Palestinian leaders to set up the first talks in seven months.

In his first trip back to the region since the sides agreed to renew talks last week, Ross met with Israeli Foreign Minister David Levy and Yasser Arafat's deputy, Mahmoud Abbas.

Graphic

PHOTO, Photo From AP - Sheik Ahmed Yassin, the spiritual leader of Hamas, is given a raucous greeting as he returns to the Gaza Strip late Monday. Suha Arafat (second from right), wife of Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat, and Yassin's wife, Halima (right), were among the welcoming party.

Load-Date: October 8, 1997

Israel attacks Arafat for hugging radicals

Courier Mail (Queensland, Australia)

August 22, 1997, Friday

Copyright 1997 Nationwide News Pty Limited

Section: NEWS; Pg. 19

Length: 500 words

Byline: GOLLER H

Body

ISRAEL said yesterday that Palestinian President Yasser Arafat had to choose between hugging and kissing Islamist leaders and making peace with the Jewish state.

The warning came after Abdelaziz Rantissi, a prominent leader of the Muslim militant **Hamas** movement, embraced Mr Arafat during a "national unity meeting" of Palestinians in the Gaza Strip.

The photograph topped Israel's newspaper Haaretz yesterday.
QNP

"He (Arafat) is two-faced," said Danny Naveh, a senior adviser to Israeli Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu.

"On the one hand he says he is against terrorism and afterwards he runs to hug the killers of **women** and children."

Mr Rantissi, released from an Israeli jail earlier this year, said **Hamas**'s participation at the meeting did not mean it had buried its differences with Mr Arafat or agreed to halt its violent resistance to Israel.

He said **Hamas** backed the Palestinian Authority's resistance to Israeli demands. Israel wants Mr Arafat to crack down on militants following a suicide attack that killed 16 people, including two bombers, in a Jerusalem market last month.

A statement claimed responsibility for the attack in the name of **Hamas** but could not be authenticated.

Hamas and Islamic Jihad have killed scores of Israelis in suicide attacks over the past few years.

"If Arafat is truly a partner to peace the way he claims he is, he must fight these organisations and certainly not embrace them," Mr Naveh, Mr Netanyahu's Cabinet secretary, said.

"If they (**Hamas** and Islamic Jihad) would turn their actions not on Israelis but on Arafat and the Palestinian Authority, would it take Arafat more than a few hours to wipe out these organisations?"

Mr Arafat said Israeli measures imposed since the market bombing aimed to "starve and humiliate" Palestinians by keeping workers from jobs inside Israel, freezing funds owed the Palestinian Authority, and barring goods from entering Gaza.

Israel attacks Arafat for hugging radicals

In Washington, State Department spokesman James Rubin said the United States would judge Mr Arafat "by deeds" in the area of security co-operation.

A meeting of US, Israeli and Palestinian officials on security co-ordination was scheduled for early this morning, Israel Radio said.

In Amman, Jordan, more than 2000 Islamist and secular radical Arab leaders met in a solidarity conference yesterday and proclaimed armed resistance as the only answer to Israel's takeover of Jerusalem.

The gathering was the first anti-Israeli rally of this scale officially allowed in Jordan since Amman signed a peace treaty with the Jewish state in 1994.

Meanwhile, the international committee monitoring the uneasy truce in south Lebanon met late on Wednesday amid a surge in violence in the region which has left 10 people dead and almost 50 wounded since Monday.

Lebanon has filed three complaints to the committee, including one over the shelling of Sidon by the Israeli-allied South Lebanon Army on Monday.

Six civilians were killed and 38 others wounded in the attack on the port city of 200,000 people.

Agence France-Presse

Load-Date: March 1, 2002

End of Document

Palestinians demand 'big attack'

The Record (Kitchener-Waterloo, Ontario)

January 11, 1997 Saturday Final Edition

Copyright 1997 Metroland Media Group Ltd

Section: FRONT; Pg. A8; News

Length: 389 words

Dateline: JERUSALEM

Body

JERUSALEM - A day after pipe bomb explosions in Tel Aviv, a memorial rally Friday for a Muslim militant bomb maker drew 15,000 Palestinians who chanted, "We want a big attack" on Israel.

No Palestinian group has claimed responsibility for Thursday's twin bombs, packed with nails, which injured 13 people. A radical PLO faction suspected by Palestinian police denied involvement.
Associated Press

U.S.-brokered talks between Israel and the Palestinians remained deadlocked Friday over a timetable for an Israeli troop withdrawal from West Bank rural areas.

In Jerusalem, 3,000 Israeli police and paramilitary border police were on alert for attacks by Palestinian militants, patrolling near mosques and closing downtown streets as Muslims marked the start of the holy month.

This year, the start of Ramadan roughly coincided with the anniversary of the assassination of Yehiya Ayyash, the chief bomb maker of the Muslim militant group **Hamas**.

Ayyash was killed Jan. 5, 1996, by a bomb-rigged mobile phone in an operation widely attributed to Israel. In retaliation, **Hamas** carried out four suicide bombings last February and March, killing 63 people and has threatened attacks to mark the anniversary.

In a stadium in the West Bank town of Nablus, about 15,000 **Hamas** supporters attended an Ayyash memorial.

A four-metre-high drawing of Ayyash flanked by two rifles stood on the stage. Ayyash's son, Bara, 3, was held up by his grandfather on stage.

"We want a big attack!" they chanted.

"Netanyahu, prepare thousands of coffins, because many like Yehiya Ayyash will rise up," said a local **Hamas** leader, Maher Haraz.

Outside the Al Aqsa Mosque compound, police frisked young men and asked worshippers from the West Bank to deposit their identity cards in boxes at the gates until the end of prayers.

The prayer leader at Al Aqsa, Islam's third-holiest shrine, sharply attacked Israel in his sermon to about 70,000 faithful, including **women** wearing white head scarves and men in knitted prayer caps.

Palestinians demand 'big attack'

"Israel is beating the drums of war and aggression against Muslims and Islam," said Sheik Hamed Beitawi, a senior **Hamas** figure, in the sermon broadcast to Muslims around the world.

In Paris, Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat warned that Israeli attempts to expand Jewish settlements in the West Bank and Gaza "literally sabotage the whole peace accord."

Graphic

Black & White Photo; (Benjamin) Netanyahu

Load-Date: September 21, 2002

End of Document

AWAITING PROSPERITY, GAZANS STARTING TO HAVE MORE FUN

The Philadelphia Inquirer

January 15, 1995 Sunday FIRST EDITION

Copyright 1995 Philadelphia Newspapers, LLC All Rights Reserved

The Philadelphia Inquirer

Found on Philly.com

Section: NATIONAL; Pg. A12

Length: 638 words

Byline: Donna Abu-Nasr, ASSOCIATED PRESS

Dateline: GAZA CITY, Gaza Strip

Body

Two plump women, dressed Islamic-style in long drab robes and oversized scarves, peered cautiously into the gym. The sight of the treadmills was as foreign to them as the aerobics class they just signed up to take.

Their instructor took a deep breath, recited a few verses from the Koran, Islam's holy book, and strode into the room to teach what she had studied only in theory - exercise.

But before the instructor turned on the Arabic disco music, the two homemakers knelt in a corner to say afternoon prayers. Only then did they shed their robes to take their first tentative aerobic steps.

PLO Chairman Yasir Arafat's eight-month-old autonomy government may not have brought Gazans the prosperity they dreamed about, but the self-rule experiment is stirring a secular revolution in the Gaza Strip.

For the first time since the Israeli occupation began 27 years ago, Gazans are having fun.

The new openness has angered the Muslim fundamentalist group Hamas, whose activists sometimes use intimidation to enforce Muslim tenets. They would, for example, shout insults or lob stones or acid at women not dressed modestly, as Islamic custom dictates.

"The one positive element the Palestinian authority has brought to the people is freeing them from Hamas' strict monopoly on morals," said Eyad Sarraj, a Gaza psychiatrist.

"This has given encouragement to people who enjoy life," he added.

In Gaza now, residents can buy a massage. Music blares from wedding receptions and car stereos, while bands and singers are barely able to meet the demand. Dusty refugee camps have installed pinball machines in game rooms, and snack shops now offer pizzas and croissants.

Before autonomy, streets were decorated with banners honoring martyrs killed in clashes with Israel. Now restaurants and shops are garishly trimmed with streamers woven among Palestinian flags and pictures of Arafat.

AWAITING PROSPERITY, GAZANS STARTING TO HAVE MORE FUN

Local weather reports - a novelty - have begun to appear on Gaza's own radio and television stations, the Voice of Palestine and Palestine Television, though the two still offer scant news and entertainment.

And even the police have joined in the fun. At a party at the Palestine Hotel recently, a plainclothes secret service officer hopped on the table and did a belly dance, his pistol jiggling on his hip, before showering himself with one-dollar bills.

Hamas fundamentalists see it all as a slackening of Muslim values, although Gaza remains, even by some Arab standards, very conservative. Liquor is not served, and **women** rarely dance in public.

Hamas activists, meanwhile, have accused Arafat's government of trying to distract Palestinians from widespread, deepening poverty.

Sheik Ahmed Bahar, a **Hamas** preacher, said the Palestinian authority should concentrate on the struggle against Israel instead of encouraging decadence.

"Such displays of immorality and corruption, like the opening of movie theaters and nightclubs, won't liberate Jerusalem," said Bahar.

So far **Hamas** has not orchestrated a campaign against the openness, although two movie theaters were torched during clashes between Palestinian police and **Hamas** supporters that left 13 dead on Nov. 18.

"People will soon wake up from their drunkenness and see the grim reality around them," said **Hamas** activist Mahmoud Zahhar.

For the moment, however, Gazans are excitedly exploring their new outlets.

"When Arafat's bodyguards saw my club's sign, they abandoned him and rushed in, saying, 'At last we can live the way we did in Beirut,' " said Mustafa Hammad, the owner of a center offering massages, saunas and whirlpool baths.

But cultural hurdles remain. At Hammad's latest **women**'s fitness club, his second, a conservatively dressed woman asked a **female** assistant in a whisper: "And for this sauna, what should I wear?"

"Nothing," whispered back assistant Raja Hussein, causing the woman to blush.

Load-Date: October 28, 2002

MORE CLASHES IN MIDEAST

Philadelphia Daily News

MARCH 25, 1997 Tuesday PM EDITION

Copyright 1997 Philadelphia Newspapers, LLC All Rights Reserved



Section: NATIONAL; Pg. 20

Length: 407 words

Byline: Reuters

Dateline: JERUSALEM

Body

The Palestinian Authority yesterday rejected Israel's demand it crack down on Muslim militants and said it had suspended security ties with the Jewish state amid Israeli fears of more suicide bombings.

Hundreds of Palestinian demonstrators clashed with Israeli troops in the West Bank and soldiers shot and wounded an Arab at a Gaza Strip roadblock on the fifth straight day of violence.

Israeli security forces remained on alert for attacks by Palestinian militants three days after a suicide bomber killed three women in a Tel Aviv cafe.

"We could have expected after such a horrendous, murderous attack like this that all the security forces would go out of their way to do the maximum," Defense Minister Yitzhak Mordechai told Israel Television on yesterday, in reference to the Palestinians.

"And they are not doing this at the required intensity or at full force. We repeat and demand they do it and demand of ourselves to fight terrorism."

Israel had also demanded Sunday that the PLO rein in militants following Friday's blast claimed by the Islamist group Hamas.

"We will not accept or deal with the Israeli conditions and will treat them as if we didn't hear them," Palestinian Preventive Security chief in the Gaza Strip Mohammad Dahlan said at a news conference.

Israel also demanded the Palestinian Authority increase security cooperation, which Israel's military intelligence chief said Palestinians had conditioned on a change in Israeli settlement policy.

"We stopped both security activities and intelligence cooperation as a result of the Israeli violations of the agreement by continuing to establish settlements," Dahlan said.

MORE CLASHES IN MIDEAST

Hamas has threatened more suicide bombings if Israel presses ahead with the construction, begun last week, of a Jewish settlement in Arab East Jerusalem, which the PLO wants as capital of a future Palestinian state.

Hamas said the Middle East peace process was dying and it was time to deliver the final blow.

"We in the Islamic Resistance, **Hamas**, call upon our people and all Islamic, Palestinian, and Arab forces to deliver the mercy bullet to the dying peace process, and to unite efforts in resisting the criminal plots of the enemy,"

Hamas said in a statement faxed to an international news agency in Beirut.

Meanwhile, Israeli and Jordanian military officials met in Tel Aviv yesterday to discuss the lessons of an attack earlier this month by a Jordanian soldier who killed seven Israeli schoolgirls.

Graphic

PHOTO;

PHOTO

Palestinian protesters, one carrying slingshot, run from tear gas in Bethlehem yesterday (ASSOCIATED PRESS)

Load-Date: October 17, 2002

End of Document

Bloodshed a blow to peace

Hobart Mercury (Australia)

September 6, 1997, Saturday

Copyright 1997 Nationwide News Pty Limited

Length: 754 words

Body

AN unprecedented triple suicide bombing on a busy pedestrian mall dealt a bloody setback on Thursday to Middle East peacemaking, and Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu warned that Israel would no longer tolerate such attacks by Muslim extremists.

Seven people died, including the three suicide bombers, when explosions ripped through packed cafes and glass storefronts along the crowded outdoor Ben Yehuda mall in the mid-afternoon sunshine.

In a separate development, news services quoted Lebanese security officials as saying helicopter-borne Israeli commandos infiltrated deep into southern Lebanon early yesterday, clashing with defending Lebanese guerillas and army troops.

Reports said 11 Israeli troops died. The security sources in Lebanon said there were heavy casualties, most of them on the Israeli side, and fighting was continuing three hours after it began.

Five days before Secretary of State Madeleine Albright was to leave on a Middle East mission to try to revive the moribund peace process, the bombers staged a well-coordinated strike in the heart of West Jerusalem's trendiest downtown shopping area, filled with Israelis and tourists.

More than 190 people were injured by the triple blasts which occurred within seconds of each other along a one-block area, blowing out store windows, upending cafe tables and chairs, shredding awnings and Israeli flags and leaving a ghastly aftermath of screaming, tears, blood, bodies and death.

Amid the hysteria, the radical Palestinian group **Hamas**, the Islamic Resistance Movement, claimed responsibility for the bombings and threatened in a leaflet to stage more if Israel did not release **Hamas** prisoners by September 14.

Visiting the wounded at Jerusalem hospitals, Netanyahu said Israel would act against Palestinian terrorists if Palestinian President Yasser Arafat refused to do so.

Israel's security Cabinet was meeting last night to decide on appropriate steps.

Referring to Arafat's embrace of **Hamas** leaders at a unity gathering last month, Netanyahu fumed that Arafat was "hugging and kissing **Hamas** instead of fighting them" and was "letting their leaders run free [to] blow up **women** and children." That, he said, sent a signal to **Hamas** _ that "they can hurt us without any repercussions".

"We are not willing to continue this way," Netanyahu added. "Let it be clear from this moment onwards our way will be a different path. We are not willing to continue on the same path." Whether that signalled a pullback from the Israel-PLO peace accords struck at Oslo in 1993 remains to be seen, but Netanyahu's first steps were predictable.

Bloodshed a blow to peace

The army declared a full closure of Palestinian self-rule areas in the West Bank and Gaza Strip, forbidding thousands of Palestinians from entering Israel. The closure had only recently been relaxed since bombings on July 30 at a Jerusalem market.

Arafat condemned Thursday's bombings as an attack against Israelis, Palestinians and the peace process, and he said he believed their masterminds were abroad. He called the closure of self-rule areas a collective punishment against Palestinians and warned economic sanctions were "a good platform for fanaticism".

Senior Palestine Liberation Organisation security chiefs said their police would start arresting West Bank **Hamas** leaders for plotting against the self-rule Palestinian Authority.

They detained two **Hamas** leaders late on Thursday.

However, some Israeli Cabinet ministers demanded the Israeli army be given a freer hand to fight Muslim extremists, even if it meant going into areas now under Palestinian self-rule.

Israel television analysts described a new sense of vulnerability and despair among Israel's crack intelligence and security services, which once had a network of agents and collaborators in Palestinian areas to help them. Since the Oslo accords, they had lost much of that network, analysts said.

They still had not uncovered the cell behind the July 30 bombings.

Thursday's attack in Israel left carnage and terror along Ben Yehuda St, and while rescue workers were still rushing the injured away on stretchers, crowds of angry Israelis gathered shouting "Death to the Arabs!" and "Death to peace!" Witnesses said the bombers were disguised _ including one dressed as a woman and another posing as an old man.

Police said they set off more than 6kg of explosives among them, packed with nails, screwbolts and shrapnel.

Police identified the dead Israelis as a 12-year-old girl, a man and two teenage girls.

KRT

Load-Date: March 8, 2002

NIGHTLIFE RETURNING TO GAZA

Dayton Daily News (Ohio)
May 25, 1994 WEDNESDAY,
CITY EDITION

Copyright 1994 The Dayton Daily News

Section: NEWS,

Length: 241 words

Byline: ASSOCIATED PRESS

Dateline: GAZA CITY, GAZA STRIP

Body

Gazans are reclaiming the night, once lost to the Israeli army's hated 8 p.m. curfew.

Giddy with post-occupation joy, couples sometimes dance in the streets.

Wedding parties have been sighted after dark. Restaurant shacks are mushrooming on the beach.

But this revival of Palestinian social life is arousing Islamic militants who seek a role in government and continued influence over public morality.

In almost seven years of protests against Israeli occupation, Palestinians avoided public displays of happiness to show respect for those killed and injured in clashes with soldiers.

Such sobriety meshed almost perfectly with the moral codes demanded by fundamentalists, which ban alcohol and dancing and forbid women from wearing revealing clothes, especially bathing suits.

Anyone who dared challenge the rules during occupation risked punishment from masked members of the Islamic Resistance Movement, or Hamas.

Now Hamas leaders are warning those days are not over.

"Anybody who asks to sell or buy a beer, he will be punished," declared Hassan Deeb, a religious authority and Hamas official. "According to the law, they should be whipped."

But more moderate Palestinians suggest the strict religious codes go too far.

"We can't throw people in jail for drinking a beer," said Freih Abu Medein, a member of the interim governing council.

"Lots of women want to go swimming, but it's still conservative," said Majda Thabit, 28. "We are afraid of Hamas."

Graphic

NIGHTLIFE RETURNING TO GAZA

PHOTO, Palestinian women enjoy visit to the beach at Gaza City, , ASSOCIATED PRESS

Load-Date: September 1, 1994

End of Document

Arrest after cafe killings

Sunday Mail (SA)

March 23, 1997, Sunday

Copyright 1997 Nationwide News Pty Limited

Length: 328 words

Body

GAZA: Palestinian security forces have arrested a top **Hamas** military operative after a suicide bombing killed three Israeli **women** in a Tel Aviv cafe, security sources said.

The arrest of Ibrahim Makadme followed a blast in an outdoor cafe packed with people as Israel celebrated the Jewish Purim carnival. About 50 patrons and passers-by, including several children, were hurt in the explosion, claimed to have been caused by a man carrying two bags into the cafe.

The blast also shook the peace process following the tensions ignited by the Israel decision to start building in the Gar Homa neighborhood in Arab East Jerusalem.

Makadme's arrest followed a phonecall from Palestinian President, Mr Yassir Arafat, to Israeli Premier, Mr Benjamin Netanyahu, to express his regret over the **Hamas** suicide bombing.

Makadme had recently been released from a Palestinian jail, a move Mr Netanyahu claimed signalled a green light to the **Hamas** and Islamic Jihad movements to strike at Israel.

Police found the identity papers of a Palestinian, 28, from the village of Surif, outside Hebron, near the bombed cafe. Soldiers who entered Surif village were met by Palestinian youths who pelted them

Arrest after cafe killings

with stones.

The soldiers arrested five young men inside the house after beating them, said witnesses. It was claimed the house belonged to Mussa Abdel Qader Abu Diya, 28, who had a permit from security forces to enter Israel for his job at a restaurant in Tel Aviv.

Israel Radio reported that Mr Netanyahu demanded that Mr Arafat crack down on the infrastructure of the **Hamas** and other radical groups in the autonomous Palestinian areas.

"Only if you prove your commitment to fighting terror can we move forward on the peace process," the broadcast claimed he said.

The radio said Israeli police had set up roadblocks on all routes into Tel Aviv for fear of further attacks by Muslim fundamentalists.

Israeli and Palestinian security chiefs also held a weekend emergency meeting in an effort to curb more violence.

Load-Date: March 10, 2002

Suicide bomber deals blow to peace process

The Tampa Tribune (Florida)

March 22, 1997, Saturday,

FINAL EDITION

Copyright 1997 The Tribune Co. Publishes The Tampa Tribune

Section: NATION/WORLD,

Length: 346 words

Byline: A Tribune wire report

Body

SUMMARY: **Hamas** claims responsibility for a bomb that killed at least four people in Tel Aviv and threatens to further delay peace talks.

TEL AVIV, Israel - A nail-packed bomb ripped through a crowded sidewalk cafe Friday, killing three **women** and the Muslim suicide bomber, wounding 46 and plunging the Israeli-Palestinian peace process into crisis.

Hamas, the leading Palestinian Islamic fundamentalist movement, claimed responsibility for the attack, the first of its kind in a year.

The bombing came after weeks of mounting tension in Israeli-Palestinian relations over the Israeli government's decision to build a Jewish settlement near Jerusalem.

The explosion occurred as the country was beginning a holiday weekend to celebrate Purim, which marks the liberation of the Jews of ancient Persia.

Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu, who earlier this week suggested accelerating peace talks, said the bombing may postpone negotiations.

"We are not prepared to go on this way," Netanyahu said.

He said Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat encouraged bombings by freeing Ibrahim Maqadmeh, head of the military wing of the Muslim group **Hamas**, which claimed responsibility for Friday's bombing.

Just after the blast, Maqadmeh told thousands of **Hamas** supporters rallying in the Gaza Strip: "Jerusalem will not be restored by negotiations, but only by holy war, whatever the sacrifices."

Palestinian leaders denied Netanyahu's claim and Arafat telephoned Israeli President Ezer Weizman to express his condolences.

Arafat and others condemned the bombing and blamed the Netanyahu government for provoking militants by breaking ground this week on the Jewish settlement at Har Homa, south of Jerusalem.

The settlement issue also provoked clashes Friday in the West Bank cities of Hebron and Bethlehem, where Palestinian youths threw stones at Israeli soldiers, who fired tear gas and rubber bullets.

Suicide bomber deals blow to peace process

The United States vetoed a U.N. Security Council resolution against the Jewish construction in east Jerusalem. It was the second time this month the United States has blocked council action on the issue.

Load-Date: March 23, 1997

End of Document

BOMBINGS CONDEMNED

COURIER-MAIL

April 11, 1995 Tuesday

Copyright 1995 Nationwide News Pty Limited

Length: 771 words

Body

KEYWORD-HIT Bombings condemned Crackdown on militants GAZA: Palestinian police yesterday launched a crackdown on Islamic militants in Gaza after suicide car bombers killed seven Israelis in two attacks near Jewish settlements. An aide to PLO leader Yasser Arafat, under pressure from Israel and peace talks patron Washington to make more than a token effort to cripple Muslim guerrilla groups in self-ruled Gaza, also issued a rare denunciation of radical Islamists. Islamic Jihad has confirmed it was one of its members who crashed a car full of explosives into a bus carrying soldiers and settlers near Kfar Darom. Hamas, another militant Muslim group, said a member of its military wing ran his explosives-laden car into an Israeli convoy at the nearby settlement of Netzarim. Six soldiers, including two women, were among the dead. At least 150 members of Islamic Jihad and the Islamic Resistance Movement Hamas were arrested yesterday in the Gaza enclave, Palestinian officials said. In Zion Square in the heart of Jerusalem, scores of right-wing Jews angry over the bombings blocked streets late yesterday and fought with police trying to disperse them, witnesses said. Palestinian police later detained more than 140 suspected Hamas and Islamic Jihad activists opposed to the peace accord between Israel and the Palestine Liberation Organisation. In the Hamas stronghold of Khan Yunis in southern Gaza, police exchanged fire with Hamas gunmen before arresting two of them, Palestinian sources said. They said the two were wanted for the killing of suspected collaborators with Israel.

QNP High-profile roundups of militants have sometimes followed past attacks on Israelis, but PLO officials, treading gingerly with the Islamic groups that enjoy near-mythic popularity in Gaza, have often later ordered discreet, wholesale releases. Khaled Salam, economic aide to Arafat, said such actions served only to spur Israel into continuing to bar job-starved Gaza residents from working in the Jewish state. "All the sectors of the Palestinian public must play a role in openly rejecting the acts of this minority," he said. Mr Arafat, who rules most of Gaza under the 1993 peace deal, condemned the bombings as a terrorist operation by "enemies of peace". Hamas released a farewell video of its suicide bomber cradling an AK47 rifle and saying he was taking revenge for the bombing death of a member in Gaza one week ago. The two bombings, which a Hamas source said were not co-ordinated, increased pressure on Arafat to bear down on the Islamists who have vowed to wreck the peace accord as Israel says further implementation of self-rule hinges on improved security. More than 60 Israelis have been killed in Islamic suicide bombings over the past year, casting a deepening shadow over Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin's prospects of selling expanded West Bank self-rule to his people. "Anyone suspected of involvement (in the bombings) will be arrested," PLO official Tayeb Abdel Rahim said after an urgent meeting of senior PLO security officials in Gaza. Israeli security chiefs had been expecting an attack since wanted Hamas activist Kamal Kheil died in a mysterious explosion in a Gaza City apartment a week ago. The PLO said Kheil blew himself up accidentally while handling explosives but Hamas said he was killed by Israeli agents and vowed revenge. A military court on the Gaza Strip yesterday sentenced an Islamic Jihad activist to 15 years in jail, a day after the double suicide bombings. Samir Ali al-Jedi was the first member of an organisation opposed to the PLO-Israel peace to be tried, convicted and sentenced for militant activities since Palestinian self-rule was established last May, Palestinian officials said. They confirmed a report by the Palestinian Press Agency, Wafa, quoting a special military court in the enclave saying Jedi was given the jail sentence after an all-night court session. Jedi was

BOMBINGS CONDEMNED

convicted of ""incitement, for tampering with general security and exploiting minors" among other things, Wafa said. Palestinian officials said Jedi was a member of Islamic Jihad and responsible for training child guerrillas as young as 10 for attacks against Israel. A PALESTINIAN policeman stands back as he views what little is left of a Palestinian suicide bomber's car after it exploded next to a bus carrying Israeli soldiers and settlers. Six soldiers died and another 45 Israelis were injured. ISRAELI Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin walks past the burnt-out ruins of a Israeli passenger bus, blown apart by an Islamic Jihad suicide bomber. ISLAMIC Jihad suicide bomber Khaled al-Khatib.

Graphic

PIC OF A PALESTINIAN POLICEMAN STANDING BACK AS HE VIEWS WHAT LITTLE IS LEFT OF A SUICIDE BOMBER'S CAR AFTER IT EXPLODED NEXT TO A BUS CARRYING ISRAELI SOLDIERS AND SETTLERS AND HEAD SHOT OF ISLAMIC JIHAD SUICIDE BOMBER KHALED AL-KHATIB

Load-Date: October 1, 2003

End of Document

PALESTINIANS KILL 2 ISRAELIS ON BUS / AMBUSH IS BLAMED ON HAMAS

The Philadelphia Inquirer

MARCH 20, 1995 Monday FINAL EDITION

Copyright 1995 Philadelphia Newspapers, LLC All Rights Reserved

The Philadelphia Inquirer

Found on Philly.com

Section: NATIONAL; Pg. A03

Length: 680 words

Byline: Alan Sipress, INQUIRER STAFF WRITER, This article includes information from the Associated Press.

Dateline: JERUSALEM

Body

Palestinian gunmen opened fire yesterday on a bus carrying Israeli settlers near the West Bank city of Hebron, killing two passengers and injuring five.

The evening attack was the most serious violence since negotiators had agreed earlier this month to complete the withdrawal of Israeli troops from West Bank cities, towns and refugee camps by July. But it was not expected to interrupt the current Israel-PLO talks, aimed at clearing the way for Palestinian elections during the summer.

The ambush, attributed by Israeli television to the armed wing of the Islamic group Hamas, took place as the bus was transporting passengers from Jerusalem home to the settlement of Kiryat Arba, considered one of the most militant Jewish communities in the West Bank. Kiryat Arba was home to Baruch Goldstein, the New York-born settler who gunned down more than two dozen Muslim worshipers in a Hebron mosque in February 1994.

Settlers accused soldiers who were escorting the bus in a separate vehicle of failing to shoot back at the assailants.

"We kept shouting at the soldiers to do something," said Ofer Dov of Kiryat Arba, an 18-year-old passenger.

Dov said the bus had about 60 passengers. "We all hit the floor. The driver was hit and he opened the doors. There were a few children, and we took them off," he said.

There were conflicting reports about whether the bus was ambushed from a passing car or a house.

Israeli reports identified the dead as veteran settlers Yehuda Fartosh, of Kiryat Arba, and Nahum Hoss, 31, a close associate of settlement leader Rabbi Moshe Levinger of Hebron.

The wounded included three women and a 12-year-old, hospital officials said.

The Hebron area has long been a particularly volatile area of the West Bank, partly because of the proximity of settlers to large Arab neighborhoods. About 6,000 Israelis live in Kiryat Arba, on the edge of Hebron, and another 450 reside in the very center of the city, home to at least 80,000 Palestinians.

PALESTINIANS KILL 2 ISRAELIS ON BUS / AMBUSH IS BLAMED ON HAMAS

After the attack, furious settlers rampaged last night through the heart of the city, stoning Arab shops and cars, until the Israeli army imposed a curfew. Israeli soldiers, meanwhile, fanned out in search of the assailants, detaining several dozen Palestinians for questioning.

A 14-year-old Palestinian boy, Samer Abu Asba, was later shot in Halhoul, a town near Hebron, by gunfire from an Israeli car, Palestinian sources and Israel Radio said.

The attack ended nearly two months of relative calm after the Jan. 22 suicide bombing by Islamic militants of a military bus stop near the coastal Israeli town of Beit Lid. Twenty Israeli soldiers and a civilian, as well as the two suicide bombers, were killed in that assault.

Since then, three Palestinian teenagers have been shot dead by Israeli soldiers in the West Bank and Gaza Strip. The Palestine Liberation Organization also blamed the death of a fourth Palestinian in the Gaza Strip on Israeli soldiers, though Israel disputes the contention. During the same period, an Israeli was strangled by Palestinians in his taxi outside Jerusalem.

The ambush last night was condemned by PLO officials, who said they opposed any attacks against civilians.

"We condemn this attack and share the families' grief over their sons. Nothing, not even this kind of violence, can stop the peace process," said Riyad Zanon, health minister of the PLO autonomy government in the Gaza Strip.

Two days earlier, the PLO's largest faction, Yasir Arafat's Fatah party, had decided to continue the peace talks with Israel despite the slow progress.

Uri Dromi, the Israeli government spokesman, said last night that Israel also would remain at the negotiating table despite the ambush.

"We are committed to the peace process," Dromi said. "The problem is, you can't make any progress when these attacks happen. We have to fight these terrorist organizations."

Michael Eitan, a lawmaker from the opposition Likud party, criticized the Israeli government.

"There's a direct link between the government's policy of reconciliation and surrender and the rivers of blood of this illusionary peace," he said.

Graphic

PHOTO;

PHOTO (1)

1. An Israeli woman wounded in the attack is rushed to a Jerusalem hospital.

The bus was ambushed on its way to the Kiryat Arba settlement. (Associated Press, JEROME DELAY)

Load-Date: October 28, 2002

Middle East

The Tampa Tribune (Florida)

August 2, 1995, Wednesday,

FINAL EDITION

Copyright 1995 The Tribune Co. Publishes The Tampa Tribune

Section: NATION/WORLD,

Length: 289 words

Byline: A Tribune Wire Service Report

Body

- Israel rejected ties with Cuba

JERUSALEM - Israel rejected recent Cuban proposals to renew diplomatic relations in order to avoid upsetting the United States, officials said Tuesday. - Don't extradite leader, Hamas warns Clinton

JERUSALEM - The militant Islamic group Hamas warned President Clinton not to extradite a Hamas leader to Israel, issuing a statement Tuesday threatening a "wave of anger and retaliation throughout the Arab and Islamic world."

Hamas demanded the release of Mousa Abu Marzuk, head of the group's political wing. Asia - China talks cordial, but no breakthroughs on Wu

BANDAR SERI BEGAWAN, Brunei - A meeting Tuesday between Secretary of State Warren Christopher and his Chinese counterpart was described in positive terms by both sides but produced no breakthroughs on the thorny issues of Taiwan and the arrest of Harry Wu. After Christopher and Chinese Foreign Minister Qian Qichen met for 90 minutes, there was no sign that Wu was any closer to freedom. Europe - Kurds march for freedom

BERLIN - Chanting "Freedom for Kurdistan," about 8,000 Kurds marched through Berlin on Tuesday behind the coffin of a woman who died during a hunger strike in support of Kurds imprisoned in Turkey. Police said 11 people were arrested in fringe clashes, though the march was generally peaceful. - Germany gets first woman rabbi since Holocaust

OLDENBURG, Germany - A 44-year-old Swiss woman became Germany's first female rabbi since the Holocaust on Tuesday, stirring controversy within the country's small Jewish community. Bea Wyler's appointment to head two Jewish congregations in Lower Saxony state was sharply criticized by Ignatz Bubis, an Orthodox Jew who heads the Central Council of Jews in Germany.

Notes

BRIEF; WORLD NEWS WATCH

Load-Date: August 4, 1995

Middle East

End of Document

Israelis shot in new blow to peace deal;
INTERNATIONAL

Evening Standard (London)

February 14, 1994

Copyright 1994 Associated Newspapers Ltd.

Section: Pg. 23

Length: 264 words

Byline: Joseph Finklestone

Body

ARAB extremists opposed to the PLO-Israeli peace accord have shot dead an Israeli secret policeman and wounded his two colleagues in an ambush on a car in Ramallah on the occupied West Bank.

The ambush followed a weekend during which several Arabs suspected of collaborating with Israel were found murdered in the occupied territories.

Qassem, the military wing of the Islamic resistance movement **Hamas**, claimed responsibility for the attack on the Shin Bet Israeli agents. In a call to a news agency, a Qassem spokesman described the ambush as 'a congratulatory gift to the Palestinian people to mark the Moslem holy month of Ramadan'.

The murdered Arabs - 10 have been killed in the last 10 days - are also thought to have been victims of **Hamas** or Islamic Jihad extremists. Both groups have stepped up their attacks on so-called collaborators despite pleas to stop the executions from PLO chief Yasser Arafat.

Leading PLO representatives at the peace talks with Israel have themselves received death threats from **Hamas** and other extremist groups, according to Israeli sources.

Qassem has also claimed responsibility for the recent murders of two Israeli civilians near Tel Aviv. But successful **Hamas** attacks on Shin Bet men are rare. The undercover agents, often disguised as Arabs or **women**, are the most feared Israeli group in the occupied territories and have been responsible for numerous killings and terrorist arrests.

A particularly worrying aspect of the Arab 'collaborator' murders is that two were being blamed on the main PLO faction, Fatah. The faction is said to be split.

Load-Date: February 16, 1994

Bombers play a guessing game

The Daily Telegraph (Sydney, Australia)

March 14, 1996, Thursday

Copyright 1996 Nationwide News Pty Limited

Length: 543 words

Byline: BRUCE WILSON

Body

WITH world leaders in Egypt to condemn terrorism, questions are being focussed more on when the next bomb will strike, rather than on the conference agenda.

THIS is the absolute crunch time for Israel and the Middle East peace process, a time to hold the collective breath and see if the terrorists will make a mockery of a spectacular diplomatic effort and kill again.

"These are very, very tough times for Israel and the peace accords," said one ambassador in Jerusalem.

"One more bomb, and everything could be lost." This reflected the general belief that tensions between Israeli security forces and Palestinians are the worst since 1967.

He and other diplomats fear that another terrorist attack on civilians in Israel is more than likely between now and the elections called for May 29. Almost all observers I spoke to this week hold the unhappily logical fear that the bomb will come over the next two days.

"What would you do?"

asked one Western diplomat. "The world is focused on Egypt on an antiterrorist conference, led by the President of the United States. If you were a terrorist group, how could you resist a bomb during that?" This fear runs across the diplomatic community.

The Australian embassy in Tel Aviv yesterday issued a warning to visiting Australian citizens to avoid public transport and crowded public places in Israel during the summit in the Egyptian Red Sea resort, Sharm el-Sheikh.

There are two organisations likely to mark the summit with a lethal bang, as it were. One is **Hamas**, a semi-legitimate Palestinian political party apparently divided between a militant wing and a moderate one, with the militants winning power.

The other is Islamic Jihad, which apparently has no political ambitions, just a desire to kill Jews and which has been ominously quiet.

Most observers are convinced that the election announcement led to the recent wave of bombings they started on February 25 as a date for the elections was being debated by the Israeli parliament - and to today's summit.

What has puzzled diplomats is why **Hamas** apparently totally changed tack on February 25. It had put forward candidates in the first Palestinian elections, which while comfortably won by Yasser Arafat and his PLO, gave **Hamas** a genuine political voice.

Bombers play a guessing game

"**Hamas** has taken credit for all the bombings, yet they look so much more motiveless and the work of Islamic Jihad," one diplomat said.

Small but tragic incidents are pushing Palestinians in the former occupied territories into a dangerous and unpredictable mood.

One of these involved the death yesterday of a Palestinian boy, aged three months, from an asthma attack after an ambulance carrying him was refused safe conduct through an Israeli checkpoint. The ambulance was turned back because the father's papers were no longer valid.

This is exactly the kind of incident designed to inflame emotions - the family is from Bethlehem, which despite its Christian connotations, is a centre of Palestinian discontent.

Marching in Bethlehem, a group of well-dressed middle-class Palestinian **women** carried a banner that read in bright red capitals YES TO PEACE - NO TO THE SIEGE.

But privately one, Yahswe Fatim, a mother of three, asked: "What can we do? **Hamas** is not our friend, but **Hamas** has the bombs."

Load-Date: March 4, 2002

Palestinians rent asunder by veil issue

The Independent (London)

June 5, 1991, Wednesday

Copyright 1991 Independent Print Ltd

Section: FOREIGN NEWS PAGE; Page 6

Length: 616 words

Byline: From MICHAEL SHERIDAN in Gaza

Body

A STRUGGLE has broken out between the Palestine Liberation Organisation and its Muslim fundamentalist rivals involving duels with automatic weapons, abusive graffiti and fisticuffs over the vexed issue of schoolgirls' veils.

The dispute between the PLO's largely secular left-wing factions and fundamentalists belonging to two Islamic underground groups threatens to divide the nationalist movement and undermine the credibility of Palestinian negotiators who have met the US Secretary of State, James Baker.

Aware of the damage, both sides sought to declare hostilities at a close yesterday, but on walls all over Gaza, freshly-painted rival red and black graffiti blossomed like a Chinese wall poster campaign. In the West Bank city of Nablus, all was quiet after several days of tension that saw a clash between rival marchers, and a bizarre incident in which fundamentalist gunmen wounded a PLO activist and then charged into the Anglican Hospital to stab him on the operating table. He survived and is now safely under arrest in an Israeli hospital.

But it is in Gaza, not Nablus, that the key to the dispute can be found. The West Bank is a sideshow for the Islamic extremists. Support for Hamas, the Islamic resistance movement, and for its guerrilla offshoot, Islamic Jihad, is probably little more than 10 per cent of the populace there. In Gaza, however, between 30 and 40 per cent of the 800,000 inhabitants are reckoned to support Hamas. The PLO's factions, including Yasser Arafat's Fatah group, are on the defensive.

The latest contest arose over the issue of hijab, the Islamic dress code requiring women to wear veils or headscarves. Virtually every woman in Gaza observes the custom. "It started when some Hamas shebab youth activists saw that some schoolgirls of about 16 or 17 were not wearing their veils," explained a Palestinian journalist. Since the disastrous end of the Gulf War (from a Palestinian perspective), there has been popular pressure to ease up on revolutionary discipline such as self-imposed strikes, a ban on entertainment and, in Gaza, the enforcement of Islamic dress.

"Anyway the girls said no, and the shebab started hassling them," the journalist continued. A local restaurant owner who is an adherent of the tiny Palestine Communist Party intervened. He was beaten up and taken to hospital.

"Hamas considers the unveiled to be collaborators of a kind," proclaimed a slogan near the restaurateur's flyblown establishment, where a fat man was grilling kebabs with apparent unconcern. "Parading without the the veil is the start of The Fall," it said.

Palestinians rent asunder by veil issue

"The Communist Party calls on our brothers in **Hamas** to use a democratic dialogue," read a plaintive red daubing next to it.

"Communism" decreed a larger display of **Hamas** calligraphy "is a cancer inside the nation's body and we will cut it out."

"The Islamic movement said from the start it would not force the girls to wear hijab," explained Atif Udwan, who is close to **Hamas**, an illegal group under Israeli military law. "But we called on them to think about it. Wearing hijab prevents girls from falling into the net of collaboration or otherwise bringing shame on their families."

It is plain from listening to Dr Udwan that the issue of the veil is merely a symbolic crystallisation of a range of matters in which the fundamentalists diverge from Mr Arafat and the PLO. "We consider the US our main enemy," said Dr Udwan. "The Baker meetings are just talk, talk talk. Let them meet him if they want." Dr Udwan said **Hamas** was trying to avoid a clash with the PLO. "But if you look at the history of liberation movements - in Algeria, in Vietnam - well, it is full of such clashes," he said.

End of Document

ARAFAT'S COPS HELP ISRAELIS

Philadelphia Daily News

APRIL 11, 1997 Friday PM EDITION

Copyright 1997 Philadelphia Newspapers, LLC All Rights Reserved



Section: NATIONAL; Pg. 31

Length: 331 words

Byline: Associated Press

Dateline: JERUSALEM

Body

Raising hopes for an end to the deadly Mideast impasse, Palestinian police helped Israel crack a cell of the Islamic militant group Hamas yesterday and officials said Yasser Arafat had pledged to work with Israel to stop suicide bombings.

Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu credited the Palestinians for helping to find the body of a missing Israeli soldier and said the Hamas cell that killed him also was responsible for at least other 13 deaths, including a March 21 suicide bombing in a Tel Aviv cafe that killed three women.

Arafat promised to help stop such bombings this week in a meeting with the head of Israel's Shin Bet security agency, Israeli and Palestinian officials said yesterday.

The meeting was the first high-level contact between Israel and the Palestinians since Israel broke ground three weeks ago for a new Jewish neighborhood in the part of Jerusalem claimed by the Palestinians. It raised hopes that the daily - and deadly - clashes in the West Bank could end.

But in the town of Hebron yesterday, hundreds of Palestinians threw stones and firebombs at Israeli troops who responded with rubber-coated bullets, injuring seven people.

The body of 20-year-old Sgt. Sharon Edri was discovered yesterday in the village of Zurif, outside Hebron. The army said he was killed by Hamas. Residents said Israeli troops arrested more than 20 villagers.

Netanyahu, speaking from the Hague, Netherlands, said the Palestinians' arrest of two members of the Hamas cell had led them to Edri, who the army said was shot and killed Sept. 9 while hitchhiking from his army base.

"I wish to make it clear that in the last part of this operation we received very specific support from the Palestinian Authority," said Netanyahu, who has accused Arafat of having tacitly approved attacks against Israel.

But he added: "Full cooperation, both in prevention of violent demonstrations and in the war against terror, is still not being carried out, and it is important that it should be carried out."

ARAFAT'S COPS HELP ISRAELIS

Load-Date: October 17, 2002

End of Document

U.S. ponders next step as tensions escalate

The Record (Kitchener-Waterloo, Ontario)

March 25, 1997 Tuesday Final Edition

Copyright 1997 Metroland Media Group Ltd

Section: FRONT; Pg. A4; News

Length: 324 words

Dateline: JERUSALEM

Body

JERUSALEM - Hundreds of Palestinian protesters clashed with Israeli troops in the West Bank for a fifth consecutive day Monday as escalating tensions had the U.S. pondering whether to send its Middle East mediator back to the region.

In Israel, security forces remained on alert for possible attacks by Palestinian militants three days after a suicide bomber killed three women in a Tel Aviv cafe.

Israel demanded Sunday that the PLO rein in militants following Friday's blast claimed by the radical group Hamas if it wanted the peace process to continue.

Reuters; Associated Press

The Palestinians were in little mood to co-operate.

"We will not accept or deal with the Israeli conditions and will treat them as if we didn't hear them," said Mohammad Dahlan, chief of Palestinian Preventive Security.

Hamas has threatened more suicide bombings if Israel presses ahead with the construction, begun last week, of a Jewish settlement in east Jerusalem, which the Palestinians want as the capital of a future Palestinian state.

"We in the Islamic Resistance, Hamas, call upon our people and all Islamic, Palestinian, and Arab forces to deliver the mercy bullet to the dying peace process, and to unite efforts in resisting the criminal plots of the enemy," Hamas said in a statement.

In Hebron, meanwhile, several dozen Palestinians threw stones at Israeli troops in renewed clashes Monday. This time, however, Palestinian police moved in quickly -- forming human chains and firing in the air.

In Bethlehem the Palestinian police did little to stop about 200 Palestinians who threw stones at Israeli troops. Israeli soldiers fired tear gas and rubber bullets, injuring 17 Palestinians.

Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu has accused Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat of giving the green light to violent acts by militants.

Arafat, currently on a nine-country world tour, has blamed the violence on hardline Israeli policies, including the settlements issue.

Graphic

Black & White Photo: Associated PRes; A Palestinian man is grabbed by a Palestinian police officer during clashes in the West Bank town of Hebron on Monday, where dozens of Palestinians threw stones at Israeli troops who retaliated with tear gas and rubber bullets.

Load-Date: September 21, 2002

End of Document

In Gaza Strip, most-wanted fugitive trips Mideast peace

The Gazette (Montreal, Quebec)

March 25, 1996, Monday, FINAL EDITION

Copyright 1996 CanWest Interactive, a division of CanWest Global Communications Corp. All Rights Reserved

Section: NEWS; Pg. A1 / FRONT

Length: 1223 words

Byline: NICHOLAS GOLDBERG; NEWSDAY

Dateline: KHAN YUNIS, Gaza Strip

Body

On the outer wall of Mohammed Dief's cinder-block house in this squalid refugee town is a sketch of the Islamic holy book, the Koran, superimposed over a map of Palestine.

Several feet away, under a shuttered window, is another, somewhat cruder drawing: a machine gun, thick, black and menacing.

No one will open the door of the low, tin-roofed house, even though his mother and several other women are home, conversing quietly inside. Neighbors refuse to stop on the narrow unpaved alley outside the house, whispering only that it is too dangerous. Lurking all around, they say, are the plainclothes "mukhabarat" - the Palestinian secret police - watching each person who comes near. Four days ago, the mukhabarat took away Mohammed Dief's father.

"I really must go," says a neighbor, refusing to discuss the significance of the graffiti, or anything else. "It is very dangerous to talk right now while the search is on." The man being sought is the most-wanted fugitive in Gaza. As chief of the Izzedin al-Qassem brigades, the military wing of the Islamic militant group Hamas, Dief is said to have ordered the death of more than a dozen Israelis - even before masterminding the most recent wave of suicide bombings, which killed 60 people and threw the future of the Middle East peace process into doubt.

Palestinian officials say they have been close to catching Dief six times now, but that he has escaped each time. A week ago Saturday, they got a tip that he was at the Jabalya refugee camp in Gaza, but when soldiers arrived 10 minutes later, Dief was gone - having fled, apparently, on a bicycle. On Thursday, sources said, they were told he might be in the Shajaiya neighborhood of Gaza, but when hundreds of police officers raided the house, a Hamas activist threw a grenade out the door. Two Palestinian police were hurt and Dief - if he was there at all - escaped.

"He's a real fox," said Brig.-Gen. Zacharia Balousha, deputy director of Palestinian intelligence. "He uses several aliases, and changes his appearance from time to time with the help of different disguises. He moves from house to house, so it is difficult to locate him."

Palestinian officials say that they are committed to catching him, and that sooner or later they will succeed. "He can't remain in hiding forever," said Nasser Yousef, chief of the Palestinian security forces. "We will find him, arrest him, and try him."

In Gaza Strip, most-wanted fugitive trips Mideast peace

But in the wake of the bombings, the Israelis are no longer satisfied by such answers. Several senior Israeli officials insisted last week that the Palestinians know how to find Dief and could arrest him any time they wanted.

Arrest Would Be Symbolic Test

Although the police under Palestinian Authority president Yasser Arafat have closed Hamas-run schools, taken over mosques and apprehended more than 900 Hamas and Islamic Jihad activists since the wave of suicide bombings began - including 35 of the 37 Hamas leaders on a list provided by Israel - the arrest of Dief has turned, for the Israelis, into a symbolic test of Arafat's resolve to root out terror.

As the peace talks lay in limbo and the Israeli elections barreled closer, beleaguered Prime Minister Shimon Peres said this month he would not take the next step in the peace process - withdrawing Israeli troops from the West Bank city of Hebron later this month - until Dief is apprehended.

In his old neighborhood of Khan Yunis, Dief's newfound notoriety has made him something of a hero. Here, amid the angry pro-Hamas graffiti and the fading photographs of the martyred fighters, neighbors remember him as a quiet and polite boy, fairly religious and well-spoken.

"As I understand it, he was part of the machine of Hamas," said Roni Shaked, a former security official who is an expert on Hamas. "From school to high school to university to Izzedin, all through Hamas. That's how it works. All the good activists start young. You don't become Hamas when you're 21."

As a top leader of Izzedin al-Qassem, Dief is in the forefront of the battle against the Oslo peace agreements between Israel and the Palestinian Authority. Since the signing of the Oslo agreement in 1993, hundreds of people have been killed in bus bombings and other suicide attacks by members of Izzedin al-Qassem, who believe that Israel must withdraw from the land of Palestine, and an Islamic state must be proclaimed in its place.

Officials of the Israeli Shin Bet security force say it was Dief who was responsible for operations that killed two Israeli teachers near Beit El, and four Israeli vegetable merchants in Gaza. They say he gave the order to kidnap and kill soldier Arye Frankenthal in July 1994. When Nachson Wachsmann, an American citizen in the Israeli army, was kidnapped and killed in October 1994, it was again Dief who gave the orders and negotiated with the Israelis, according to the Shin Bet.

Dief worked closely with Yahya Ayyash, the master bomb-maker who was known as The Engineer, and who was assassinated in January, presumably by Israel. He gave the order, according to the former head of the Shin Bet, to carry out suicide bombings of buses in Jerusalem and Ramat Gan in 1995.

'Very directly involved' in killings

During the most recent round of bombings, it was Dief who sent his deputy, Hassan Salameh, to recruit Mohammed Abu Wardeh, who in turn selected the suicide bombers.

"This is not speculation, it's not theories," a senior Israeli official said recently. "It's known from our interrogations. He was very directly involved in all these killings."

If allegations are accurate, Dief is clearly one of the most dangerous terrorists on the loose in the occupied territories. But something more has driven Israel to make Dief the linchpin of future peace talks: his relationship to Arafat's Palestinian Authority.

According to senior Israeli security officials, Dief is one of the Hamas leaders who has been talking for months to officials of the Palestinian Authority about a possible ceasefire agreement. Sources say those talks continued up until the days just before the Feb. 26 bombing of the No. 18 bus in Jerusalem.

The battle to find Dief goes to the heart of the Palestinian-Israeli conundrum at this crucial moment in the peace process. Peres, under tremendous pressure in the weeks before the May 29 general election here, feels he must demand - not ask - that Arafat crack down. Threatening and blustering, Peres has dropped the rhetoric of peace for

In Gaza Strip, most-wanted fugitive trips Mideast peace

the vocabulary of war, in a desperate bid to win back centrist voters who are threatening to defect. No matter what Arafat does, Peres is under pressure to say it's not enough.

Arafat and other Palestinian leaders, however, are caught in a bind of their own. Their constituents - facing closed borders and tough restrictions of movement that they consider "collective punishment" - are angry as well, and are not in the mood to see their leaders take orders from Israel. Arafat must walk a fine line.

That has left some Palestinian officials arguing that Dief is not quite as important a figure as the Israelis would have one believe. "He is not Rambo," said Freih Abu-Midain, the Palestinian justice minister.

- The man who is believed to be responsible for a wave of suicide bombings continues to elude capture by Palestinian officials.

Load-Date: March 26, 1996

End of Document

**Israel to free 1,200 jailed Palestinians;
Move is seen as honoring accord with PLO, but others call it too little too
late.**

The Tampa Tribune (Florida)

October 7, 1995, Saturday,

FINAL EDITION

Copyright 1995 The Tribune Co. Publishes The Tampa Tribune

Section: NATION/WORLD,

Length: 429 words

Dateline: JERUSALEM

Body

Israel announced Friday it will release 1,200 Palestinian prisoners over the next few days, signaling its intention to swiftly honor a key commitment under the newly ratified accord with the PLO.

Palestinians called the announcement too little too late, and said Israel's refusal to free at least two of 27 **female** detainees broke promises made at the negotiating table.

In a possible boost for the accord, Palestinian officials said the militant Islamic **Hamas** movement, which vehemently opposes peace with Israel, has tentatively agreed to stop attacking Israelis from PLO-run areas.

An Associated Press Report

A four-man delegation left for Sudan to seek approval from **Hamas** leaders based there, officials said, speaking on condition of anonymity. If the non-violence pact is approved, it would remove a major threat to Israel-PLO peace.

The pact would be a crucial part of an agreement between the Muslim militants and the PLO to include **Hamas** in Palestinian politics, but it was not clear whether the group's hard-line leaders abroad would approve an end to attacks on Israel.

Hamas has carried out a series of suicide bombings that have killed dozens of Israelis since Israel and the PLO made peace two years ago.

Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin on Friday warned the PLO that the accord's success lay in the Palestinian ability to rein in Islamic militants.

"The main test is the achievement of peaceful coexistence ... the main obstacle to this is terrorism, murderers of Israelis, enemies of peace, the **Hamas** and Islamic Jihad," Rabin told Israel television's Arabic news program.

Success, Rabin said, lay in anchoring the accord with economic progress and reducing friction.

The latest Israel-PLO pact, on expanding West Bank autonomy, barely won the approval of Israel's parliament early Friday, squeaking by with a 61-59 vote.

Israel to free 1,200 jailed Palestinians; Move is seen as honoring accord with PLO, but others call it too little too late.

The agreement, signed last week at the White House, calls for an Israeli troop withdrawal from Palestinian cities by the end of the year, the deployment of 12,000 armed Palestinian police in the West Bank and Palestinian general elections by spring.

"Within two weeks we should be in charge of all the civil authorities in the West Bank," said top Palestinian negotiator Jamil Tarifi.

Other Palestinian officials were less optimistic about the transition and criticized Israel's decision not to release all 27 Palestinian women prisoners.

President Ezer Weizman had the power to pardon 14 of the 27 Palestinian women prisoners. He pardoned 12 on Friday but would not pardon one woman who murdered an Israeli and another who killed a suspected Arab informant.

Notes

WORLD NEWS WATCH

Load-Date: October 9, 1995

End of Document

Israel braces for second suicide strike

THE AUSTRALIAN

March 25, 1997, Tuesday

Copyright 1997 Nationwide News Pty Limited

Section: WORLD; Pg. 9

Length: 501 words

Byline: CHRISTOPHER WALKER

Body

MIDDLE East tensions remained high yesterday after the Islamic Resistance Movement (***Hamas***) threatened more suicide attacks, violence continued in various parts of the occupied West Bank and the Palestinian Authority rejected Israel's conditions for the resumption of peace talks.

After Israel's announcement on Sunday that it was suspending the peace talks, an emergency session of the security Cabinet demanded that the Palestinian Authority fulfil all its obligations to "fight terrorism as an essential step for continuing the political process". It laid down six conditions for the resumption of political talks, including a demand that the Palestinian Authority tighten security co-operation with Israel; prevent the incitement of violence and hostile propaganda; fight "terrorist" organisations and destroy their infrastructure; arrest and punish "terrorists"; confiscate illegal arms; and examine extradition requests presented by Israel.

The Times, AFP

Talks on security issues are to continue.

The decision was taken in response to last Friday's bomb attack on a Tel Aviv restaurant in which three Israeli ***women*** and a suspected Palestinian suicide bomber died.

An adviser to Palestinian leader Mr Yasser Arafat said: "We categorically reject these conditions, which are a violation of the intermediate autonomy accords."

In its statement threatening more attacks, ***Hamas*** claimed to have an organisational structure in place and ready to strike against Jewish targets based outside the areas under Mr Arafat's control.

Mr Netanyahu said after the meeting in Tel Aviv: "I am not suspending talks, because our people are meeting their people, but the first item on the agenda is the fulfilment of the Palestinian obligation to fight terrorism. They have to start complying with that, or else we cannot move." The Palestinians maintained that Israel had caused the breakdown in relations by its decision last Tuesday to defy world opinion and send the bulldozers to begin building at Har Homa, a new settlement for 32,000 Jews on land annexed by Israel after its conquest from Jordan in the 1967 war.

Referring to Har Homa by its Arabic name, ***Hamas*** said in a leaflet given to a Western news agency: "The persistence of the Zionists to build the dirty settlement on Jabal Abu Ghneim will compel us to continue our attacks, striking against the Zionists."

Israel braces for second suicide strike

The statement, treated as authentic and signed "Iz elDeen, al-Qassam Brigades, **Hamas** Movement Military Branch, Jerusalem-Occupied Palestine", went on in response to Mr Netanyahu's public pledge to continue with Har Homa despite Friday's bomb: "We do not need much effort to prove our truthfulness and the seriousness of our threats . . . to teach the arrogant Netanyahu a lesson he will not forget for days and years."

In Hebron, stone-throwing Palestinian mobs attacked soldiers guarding the 450 Jewish settlers for the third day in succession, hurling Molotov cocktails and shouting a new inflammatory slogan: "We do not want peace, we want **Hamas**."

Load-Date: March 1, 2002

End of Document

IN HOT SPOTS OF MIDEAST, SIGNS OF COOPERATION

St. Louis Post-Dispatch (Missouri)

April 11, 1997, Friday, THREE STAR EDITION

Copyright 1997 St. Louis Post-Dispatch, Inc.

Section: NEWS, Pg. 05A

Length: 219 words

Byline: AP

Dateline: JERUSALEM

Body

Palestinian police helped Israel crack a cell of the Islamic militant group **Hamas** on Thursday, and officials said Yasser Arafat had pledged to work with Israel to stop suicide bombings.

Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu credited the Palestinians for helping to find the body of a missing Israeli soldier and said the **Hamas** cell that killed him also was responsible for at least other 13 deaths, including a suicide bombing that killed three **women** March 21 in a Tel Aviv cafe.

Arafat, the Palestinian leader, promised to help stop such bombings Tuesday night in a meeting in Gaza City with Ami Ayalon, the head of Israel's Shin Bet security agency, Israeli and Palestinian officials said Thursday.

The meeting was the first high-level contact between Israel and the Palestinians since Israel broke ground three weeks ago for a new Jewish neighborhood in east Jerusalem, claimed by the Palestinians as a future capital. It raised hopes that the daily - and deadly - clashes in the West Bank could end.

But in the West Bank town of Hebron on Thursday, hundreds of Palestinians threw stones and firebombs at Israeli troops who responded with rubber bullets, injuring seven people.

Netanyahu said the Palestinians' arrest of two members of the **Hamas** cell had led them to the body of Sgt. Sharon Edri, who was killed Sept. 9.

Load-Date: April 11, 1997

Israeli Arab stabs Toronto woman, child

The Ottawa Citizen

July 23, 1997, Wednesday, FINAL EDITION

Copyright 1997 CanWest Interactive, a division of CanWest Global Communications Corp. All Rights Reserved

Section: NEWS; Pg. A9

Length: 372 words

Byline: CITIZEN NEWS SERVICES

Dateline: TEL AVIV

Body

An Israeli-Arab man carrying a sword and a knife stabbed a Toronto woman and her daughter yesterday, police said.

Earlier, the man tried to run over a group of British tourists with his car, police spokesman Linda Menuhin said.

She said 11 people were lightly injured in the two incidents. Israel Radio said seven people were taken to hospital.

Frank Diamant, executive vice-president of B'nai Brith Canada identified the Canadians as Eilene Muskat, 45, and her daughter, Stephanie, aged 12.

They were treated at Ichlov hospital and released, Mr. Diamant said.

Mr. Diamant denounced the "cowardly attack by a Hamas follower."

Israel Radio said the attacker was a supporter of the militant Hamas group but Ms. Menuhin did not confirm this and said his motives remain unclear.

Tel Aviv police chief Shlomo Aronitsky said the investigation is looking into every possibility.

"It could have been a car accident that developed, it could have been intentional, we're checking," he said.

Ms. Menuhin said the man tried to run over a group of about 20 tourists in a plaza in the Jaffa quarter of Tel Aviv, injuring eight or nine.

Israel Radio said the British tourists were Jewish teenagers in Israel on a summer tour. The radio also said there were no skid marks on the street, which suggested the action was not an accident.

The Canadian couple were sitting at a sidewalk restaurant.

"The driver got out holding a sword and a commando knife and went towards the civilians and tried to stab a number and succeeded," said police officer Daniel Konson, who arrested the man.

Mr. Konson tied up the attacker and led him to a nearby police station, Ms. Menuhin said.

Israeli Arab stabs Toronto woman, child

There, the attacker told police he couldn't remember anything and was otherwise not co-operating with his questioners, she said.

Israel Radio said the man, identified as a 32-year-old from the northern city of Nazareth, was known to police as a **Hamas** supporter and an activist in extremist organizations.

Hamas, which opposes Israeli-Palestinian peace-making, has claimed responsibility for several deadly attacks against Israel in the last years including a March bombing of a Tel Aviv cafe which killed three Israeli **women**.

Load-Date: July 24, 1997

End of Document

ISRAELIS TO BEGIN PRISONER RELEASE

COURIER-MAIL

October 26, 1993 Tuesday

Copyright 1993 Nationwide News Pty Limited

Length: 421 words

Byline: AAPINTNEWS

Body

KEYWORD-HIT

Israelis to begin

prisoner release

JERUSALEM: Israel committed itself yesterday to start releasing jailed
Palestinians despite the kidnap-killing of two soldiers by Muslim
militants

.

Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin

, defending the peace he made with Yasser Arafat's Palestine

Liberation Organisation last month, said Israel had kept a pledge to
avoid violence.

But he said militant Palestinians were doing "everything they can
to heighten terror" and turn Israelis against the peace accord.
QNP

The army said gunmen of the Muslim fundamentalist movement **Hamas**,
disguised as Israeli
observers, abducted and shot dead two army reservists in the
occupied Gaza Strip on Sunday.

Hamas, the chief Palestinian rival to the PLO, opposes peace moves
with Israel and says it will continue to fight to overthrow the Jewish

ISRAELIS TO BEGIN PRISONER RELEASE

state.

Hamas and Islamic Jihad fundamentalists have killed eight Israelis since news of the PLO-Israeli agreement deal on Palestinian self-rule emerged in early September.

The Israeli army said yesterday the release of about 700 Palestinian prisoners would begin overnight.

"But the army will continue its unrelenting battle against terrorist and extremist elements who are continuing to perpetrate attacks. Members of **Hamas** and Islamic Jihad will not be released," a spokesman said.

Israel holds about 13,000 Palestinian prisoners and Mr Rabin, in talks with the PLO, has agreed to start freeing them gradually.

The release, initially to include only **women**, the sick and the old and the young, is intended to shore up Palestinian backing for the peace pact providing for Israeli withdrawal from the Gaza Strip and the West Bank town of Jericho. Angry Israeli hardliners such as Gaza settlers' leader Zvi Hendel, reacting to the killing of the two army reservists, called on Mr Rabin to cancel the mass release.

"It is certainly impossible to free murderers today, in this period, when terror continues to run wild," Mr Hendel said.

But Mr Rabin maintained his stand.

"We will support and encourage those (Palestinians) who want to be faithful to their obligation to the agreement," he said.

A **Hamas** leaflet directed at Mr Rabin said: "Your soldiers and settlers will be our targets everywhere and we will not let you sleep or move in our land safely. Death will chase you everywhere."

Mr Rabin said Mr Arafat's Fatah movement had kept its promise to refrain from attacks

ISRAELIS TO BEGIN PRISONER RELEASE

on Israelis, adding that overall violence in the occupied territories had dropped by about 50 percent since the peace agreement was signed.

Reuter

MR Rabin . . . vow to avoid violence.

Graphic

PIC OF MR RABIN

Load-Date: November 28, 2003

End of Document

Violence flares in wake of bomb

Scotland on Sunday

March 23, 1997, Sunday

Copyright 1997 The Scotsman Publications Ltd.

Section: Pg. 21

Length: 1115 words

Byline: By Trevor Royle, Diplomatic Editor

Body

FIERCE Israeli-Palestinian clashes flared yesterday in the West Bank town of Hebron in the wake of the suicide bombing in Tel Aviv which killed three women. The militant Hamas group which carried out the bombing on Friday threatened more attacks against the Jewish state.

Israeli soldiers in Hebron fired live ammunition, rubber bullets and teargas at hundreds of Palestinian rioters who threw petrol bombs and rocks.

Hospital officials said at least 20 Palestinians were shot and another 80 treated for other injuries or teargas inhalation in some of the most serious Israeli-Palestinian violence in months.

During the day, in an attempt to stop the Middle East peace process going off the rails, Palestinian security forces re-arrested Ibrahim al-Maqadmeh, the recently freed leader of the Islamic group Hamas.

The Palestinians are the only people who have any chance of controlling Hamas, and Maqadmeh is the leader of Izzedin al-Qassam, the military wing which claimed responsibility for the Tel Aviv suicide bombing.

Shortly after the attack Maqadmeh had called for a new Palestinian uprising at a rally for thousands of Hamas supporters: "Only the Mujaheddin, the ones who rigged their bodies with explosives and destroyed the enemies of God, can stop the bulldozers,"

The bombing has shocked the people of Israel and it led to continuing violence yesterday in the Palestinian Authority where hundreds of Palestinian youths shouting "God is greatest" threw petrol bombs and rocks at Israeli soldiers in the West Bank town of Hebron. The security forces responded with teargas and baton charges.

The unrest on the West Bank has also been fuelled by the US decision to cast its second veto in two weeks to defeat a Security Council resolution demanding that Israel halt work on the plan to build 6,500 homes for Jews at Jabal Abu Ghneim, or Har Homa, in Arab East Jerusalem.

Earlier in the week, amid international condemnation, Israel turned the hillside into a building site which became a battleground as Palestinians demonstrated against Israeli security forces.

More than any other factor, this was the spark to the tinderbox. Hamas leaders claimed Friday's bomb attack was revenge for Jabal Abu Ghneim, while the Israeli government line was that Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat was to blame and that he had a duty to get his house in order. "We're not going to give in to terrorism," said a source close to prime minister Benjamin Netanyahu. "We're not going to buckle under it."

Violence flares in wake of bomb

Yesterday in Washington, President Bill Clinton's Middle East envoy Dennis Ross claimed that Israeli-Palestinian peace efforts had weathered shocks such as suicide bombings in the past, but many in the Middle East believe it is now hanging on a wing and a prayer. On the one hand Netanyahu has accused Arafat of tacitly giving Hamas a 'green light' to strike against the Jewish state by freeing Maqadmeh and other militants arrested last year after suicide bombers killed 59 people in Israel. On the other, Palestinians have accused the Israelis of fomenting unrest by forging ahead with Har Homa.

Once more the men of violence have returned to haunt the statesmen's attempts to bring peace to the Holy Land. This is a land where politics are all too often accompanied by violence and where death comes not just to the agents of change but also to innocent bystanders.

Now, with the latest killings and with the Israeli government's hardline condemnation of the Palestinians, the search for stability is on increasingly shaky ground. Part of the problem is Hamas itself, or at least its military wing which is vitally opposed to the peace process mainly because it legitimises Arafat's position. It supported last year's suicide bombing campaign both as a means of undermining Arafat's position and of inciting Israeli retaliation.

Although some pragmatic Hamas groups favour participation in the electoral process, this hardline faction prefers to keep up the pressure through acts of violence.

In that way it can persuade the Palestinians that Israel is not intent on keeping to the Oslo Accord and that opposition is preferable to co-operation. With a 40% unemployment rate in the Palestinian Authority it is a telling argument which appeals to many of the poor and dispossessed. As further evidence of Israeli opposition Izzedin al-Qassam need point no further than to the bulldozers which were busy reclaiming Palestinian land in East Jerusalem.

And it is that point which will govern the outcome of the current crisis. When the peace process began with the signing of the Oslo Accords in 1993 it was underwritten with the premise that the Israelis would trade land for peace. So far, though, it has not been a great deal for the Palestinians. Oslo allowed for up to 90% of the West Bank to be given to the Palestinians: they have received less than half.

During last year's election campaign Netanyahu promised his supporters that he would provide "peace with security" -a subtle variation on the Oslo Accord - now he may have to take strong measures to preserve his credibility, especially if this is the first of a series of new attacks, as many Israelis believe.

In an attempt to stave off the threat he will almost certainly increase pressure on Arafat to clamp down on Hamas. This could include re-arresting suspects, blowing up their houses, putting their villages under curfew (as they have already done in the village of the suspected bomber) and blockading Palestinian-ruled settlements on the West Bank. There have even been suggestions that he could deploy his own security forces within the Palestinian areas.

"Every attack enables the slowing down, the stopping, of the process, and makes it possible for Netanyahu to say that the PLO are terrorists," claims Shlomo Avieneri, a political scientist at Hebrew University. "A historical window of opportunity to achieve a reconciliation with the Palestinians is slowly closing."

For their part Palestinians are just as angry and disillusioned as the Israelis. Not only do they complain that Netanyahu has been acting without consulting them but they also believe he is not sincere in his promises to make meaningful troop withdrawals from the West Bank or to negotiate Palestinian demands for a state with Jerusalem as its capital.

Any lingering trust between the sides was destroyed when Netanyahu ordered the bulldozers to start breaking up the ground on the wooded hillside close to Bethlehem.

"Netanyahu started the incitements," said Mahdi Abdel Hadi, head of the Palestinian think-tank Passia.

"You cannot provoke and incite people over something so holy and precious as Jerusalem.

To make peace means to share with other people."

Violence flares in wake of bomb

Load-Date: March 25, 1997

End of Document

PLO radicals bend towards pragmatism

The Independent (London)

February 11, 1993, Thursday

Copyright 1993 Independent Print Ltd

Section: INTERNATIONAL NEWS PAGE; Page 11

Length: 967 words

Byline: From SARAH HELM in Bethlehem

Body

WALID is a 27-year-old Palestinian Marxist, just released after six years in jail for the attempted murder of an Israeli security officer. He lives in Dheisheh refugee camp, a centre of left-wing militancy in the Israeli-occupied West Bank.

An activist of the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine (PFLP), a militant faction of the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO), Walid has had little experience of Israeli authority other than arrest, detention and curfews. Recently, however, he and other secular Palestinian faction leaders have been pampered and cajoled by the Israeli military authorities.

"They asked us round for coffee. They offered to help us find jobs and to support our camp committee. I said I have been in jail. Why now are you offering us this? I laughed at them. The officer replied that the policy now is not to imprison us but to meet us and offer us support," Walid said.

His experience suggests that Israeli attempts to influence Palestinian politics have come full circle. Not so long ago it was the Islamic groups, primarily the Islamic Resistance Movement, which were encouraged as a counter to the radical PLO factions. Now, as the deportation of more than 400 Islamic militants in December showed, **Hamas** is Israel's main enemy in the occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip.

In addition to the deportation, Israeli efforts are under way to build up the secular factions - even the most militant "rejectionist" groups like the PFLP, whose leaders oppose the peace talks as a sellout. "It is clear they want us to damage **Hamas**," says Walid.

The secular Palestinian factions suspect such overtures as cynical manipulation. Nevertheless, for all the public claims of new PLO-**Hamas** unity since the deportations, on the streets many secular leaders do, like the Israelis, fear the influence of **Hamas**. In Dheisheh they are building their own response.

Standing on the main road through Bethlehem, behind tall wire fences, this camp has always been a very public symbol of Palestinian defiance. Twelve from the camp were killed in the intifada and hundreds jailed.

Historically, the camp has nurtured the intellectual leadership of the militant left. It has prided itself on political unity which other camps lost, shunning compromise political solutions and holding out for the full right of refugees to return to their homes in what is now Israel proper.

The deeply-rooted Communist ideology of Dheisheh resisted the influence of Islamic militancy. Many of the refugees who fled to the camp after the 1948 war, which led to the creation of Israel, came from villages in the

PLO radicals bend towards pragmatism

south between Hebron and Beersheba where there was already a strong Communist tradition and a high level of education.

"In Dheisheh people prayed, but they were not religious. My uncle was a Communist and imam prayer leader of the mosque in his village, where he read the Communist Party news in the mosque," recalled Mohammed, a Dheisheh Communist.

In the late 1960s, loyalties switched to the new PLO factions, but the Marxist ideology remained strong. "We believed Marxism was good for Arab society. It was a religion for us; we thought it could solve our problems," said Walid.

With the collapse of the Soviet Union disillusion spread in the camp, further deepened by the sense of betrayal during the Gulf war. Although Hamas found it hard to get a foothold in Dheisheh, more people now go to the mosques here than ever before. Two new mosques are under construction. The secular leaders say the older youths in the camp hardly know or understand the Koran, but their children are being taught it.

The spread of Hamas in other parts of the occupied territories focused the minds of Dheisheh's political leaders, who are now trying to plug a political vacuum by building up their institutions. The Islamic groups, associated with Hamas, already run a kindergarten. Now the PFLP is raising money for a library. Fatah, the mainstream PLO faction, is building a maternity home and has a centre for the handicapped.

While the mosque spreads its money to the poor, a PLO youth committee, closed down during the intifada when its leaders were deported, is being re-started. The secular factions insist there is no enmity with the Islamic leaders here, but their real feelings are only thinly disguised. Fatah, the more religious of the PLO factions has, in particular, lost supporters to Hamas.

"Hamas says Islam is the solution but they have no programme. If they win power it will be a dictatorship. But in the long term they will lose. They have nothing to give people, they have no ideas. What people really need is an economic base. We have to show we are stronger by building a future here in the camp, especially for young people," said Mohammed.

A PFLP activist said: "Our women have had eggs thrown at them by these people for wearing jeans. We value our freedom. I am a Palestinian, I am a Marxist. But I want freedom - I do not want the fundamentalists."

Activists such as Walid are no longer talking about fighting, and admit that talk of returning to their homes is just "a dream". Nor are they spouting ideology. He now sees his earlier militancy as part of his misspent youth, and talks not of violence but of raising money for the camp's roads. New Israeli patronage may not be welcomed by the secular activists in Dheisheh, but for them this strange new alliance is not all bad. Israel allowed PFLP elections in the camp for the first time last month, a chance they seized to build up their support.

Largely out of fear of Hamas, but also because of disillusion with past ways, a new era of pragmatism is breaking out in Dheisheh. It may signal that the secular Palestinian "rejectionists" are being forced to accept the idea of compromise and peace.

(Photograph omitted)

FOES WORK TO ARREST MILITANTS

Dayton Daily News (Ohio)

April 11, 1997, Friday,

CITY EDITION

Copyright 1997 Dayton Newspapers, Inc.

Section: NEWS,

Length: 214 words

Dateline: JERUSALEM (AP)

Body

Raising hopes for an end to the deadly Mideast impasse, Palestinian police helped Israel crack a cell of the Islamic militant group **Hamas** on Thursday and officials said Yasser Arafat had pledged to work with Israel to stop suicide bombings.

Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu credited the Palestinians for helping to find the body of a missing Israeli soldier, and said the **Hamas** cell that killed him also was responsible for at least other 13 deaths, including a March 21 suicide bombing in a Tel Aviv cafe that killed three **women**.

Arafat promised to help stop such bombings this week in a meeting with the head of Israel's Shin Bet security agency, Israeli and Palestinian officials said Thursday.

The meeting was the first high-level contact between Israel and the Palestinians since Israel broke ground three weeks ago for a new Jewish neighborhood in the part of Jerusalem claimed by the Palestinians.

But in the town of Hebron on Thursday, hundreds of Palestinians threw stones and firebombs at Israeli troops who responded with rubber bullets, injuring seven people.

Netanyahu, speaking from The Hague, Netherlands, said the Palestinians' arrest of two members of the **Hamas** cell had led them to Edri, who the army said was shot and killed Sept. 9 while hitchhiking from his army base.

Graphic

PHOTO: Palestinian protesters watch another throw a Molotov cocktail at Israeli soldiers during clashes in the town of Hebron on Thursday. CREDIT: SHARON ABADY/ASSOCIATED PRESS

Load-Date: April 12, 1997

FOES WORK TO ARREST MILITANTS

End of Document

ISRAELI FIRE WOUNDS DOZENS OF PALESTINIAN DEMONSTRATORS demonstrators demonstrators

\$%Charleston Gazette (West Virginia) virginia) virginia)

March 23, 1997, Sunday sunday sunday

Copyright 1997 Charleston Newspapers newspapers newspapers

Section: News; Pg. 13A 13A 13A

Length: 656 words

Byline: Nasser Shioukhy The Associated Press press press

Body

HEBRON, West Bank - A day after a suicide bomber killed three women in a Tel Aviv cafe, Israeli troops used bullets and tear gas Saturday to quell riots by hundreds of Palestinians in the worst West Bank clash in months.

More than 100 Palestinians were injured from live bullets, rubber bullets, tear gas and stun grenades.

"We don't want peace, we want Hamas," shouted Palestinians, referring to the Islamic militant group that claimed responsibility for Friday's blast.

Tensions between the two sides are at a new high and the peace process is paralyzed after Israel's decision to build more Jewish housing in east Jerusalem apparently prompted the suicide attack. attack. attack.

The clashes were the worst Hebron has seen in a long time, but mild compared to September's deadly gunbattles elsewhere in the West Bank after Israel's decision to open a tunnel entrance near an Islamic holy site in Jerusalem. That fighting killed 79 people.

Palestinians pelted soldiers and military vehicles with stones, and some threw firebombs at the soldiers. Israel radio reported that

ISRAELI FIRE WOUNDS DOZENS OF PALESTINIAN DEMONSTRATORS demonstrators demonstrators

firebombs were hurled towards the homes of the 500 Jewish settlers who live in the city among 130,000 Arabs.

Seven Israeli soldiers and several Palestinian police were also injured in the clashes, which took place along the border between the part of Hebron that is Palestinian-controlled and the Israeli-controlled downtown. A Palestinian policeman was ordered to leave after he joined the stone throwers.

Israel imposed a curfew downtown, and the clashes quieted at nightfall.

The clashes broke out one day after Mussa Abu Deiyah Ghneimat, a **Hamas** supporter from a village near Hebron, set off an explosion at a Tel Aviv cafe that killed himself and three Israeli **women**.

In reaction, Israel barred thousands of Palestinians from entering Israel from the West Bank and Gaza Strip. The army also placed a curfew on the bomber's home village of Zurif. The village streets were deserted and windows closed with iron shutters as Israeli jeeps patrolled the potholed lanes.

Israeli troops had blocked reporters from reaching the bomber's home, but friends and neighbors said he was a father of four who came from a deeply religious home.

The army sealed his house and witnesses said soldiers were preparing to blow it up. The Israeli army arrested 13 villagers, including some of Ghneimat's family.

Ghneimat, 28, had been arrested repeatedly by Israel on suspicion of **Hamas** membership, according to Israeli media. In 1990, his two brothers also were charged with throwing stones and belonging to **Hamas**.

Friday's blast at the Apropos Cafe in downtown Tel Aviv came after several days of warnings by Israeli intelligence officials that Islamic militants were plotting attacks in Israel.

ISRAELI FIRE WOUNDS DOZENS OF PALESTINIAN DEMONSTRATORS demonstrators demonstrators

Palestinians have been furious with Israel for breaking ground last week for a Jewish neighborhood in east Jerusalem, the sector the Palestinians claim as a future capital.

Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat denounced the bombing, which also wounded more than 40 people, but his aides were quick to blame Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu, saying his policies had prepared the ground for violence.

Netanyahu, however, accused Arafat of giving militants tacit approval to attack Israel. Netanyahu cited as an example the recent release Ibrahim Maqadmeh, a leader of the **Hamas** military wing, from a Palestinian jail.

Palestinian police arrested Maqadmeh late Friday at his home in a Gaza Strip refugee camp after he told a **Hamas** rally that suicide bombs, not negotiations, would stop Israeli settlement building in Jerusalem.

In Sidon, Lebanon, hundreds of Palestinians burned tires and shouted anti-Israel slogans at Lebanon's largest refugee camp to protest the Jerusalem construction. The camp is home to 75,000 Palestinians.

Arafat said he was "shocked" at Washington's veto of a U.N. Security Council resolution Friday criticizing Israel's decision. He spoke Saturday in Oman en route to an Islamic summit in Pakistan. pakistan. pakistan.

Load-Date: March 24, 1997

**GROUP LEADER ARRESTED IN BOMBING CASE LEADER OF MILITANT
ISLAMIC GROUP CHARGED WITH DEATHS OF THREE**

Charleston Daily Mail (West Virginia)

March 22, 1997, Saturday

Copyright 1997 Charleston Newspapers

Section: News; Pg. P1A

Length: 778 words

Byline: THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Body

ZURIF, West Bank - Palestinian police arrested the leader of a militant Islamic group claiming responsibility for a suicide bombing that killed three Israeli women.

Ibrahim Maqadmeh, a leader of the Hamas military wing who was released earlier this month from a Palestinian jail, was rearrested late Friday by Palestinian police at his home in the Bureij refugee camp in the Gaza Strip.

Maqadmeh was detained hours after he told several thousand Hamas followers at a rally that suicide bombs, not negotiations, would stop Israel from building Jewish settlements in disputed east Jerusalem. Maqadmeh, a 47-year-old dentist, spent 10 years in Israeli jails and a year in a Palestinian lockup.

Hamas sources said five other members of the group also were arrested late Friday and early today, but Palestinian police officials would not immediately confirm the report.

Israeli troops, meanwhile, enforced a tight curfew today in the suicide bomber's home village of Zurif in the West Bank, barring residents from leaving their homes. Israeli radio reports said troops

GROUP LEADER ARRESTED IN BOMBING CASE LEADER OF MILITANT ISLAMIC GROUP CHARGED WITH DEATHS OF THREE

sealed the home of the dead assailant, Mussa Abu Deiyah Ghneimat, 28, and witnesses said soldiers were preparing to blow up the house.

In the nearby West Bank town of Hebron, Palestinian stone throwers clashed with Israeli troops for a second day today.

"We don't want peace, we want Hamas," chanted the crowd of several hundred Palestinians. Some threw firebombs at soldiers, who hurled tear gas, rubber bullets and stun grenades.

Forty-two Palestinians, including 10 policemen, were hurt by rubber bullets and tear gas and five Israeli soldiers were injured from stone throwing. Palestinians were hauling stones in plastic bags to the center of the city where clashes continued.

One Palestinian policemen was spotted by his superiors joining stone throwers and was ordered to leave the scene.

Both Israel's military commander in the area and the top security chief for the Palestinians arrived at the scene to calm the sides.

Israeli troops imposed a curfew on the downtown area of the city that remains under Israeli control.

Troops also enforced a closure of the West Bank and Gaza Strip, barring the more than 2 million Palestinians there from entering Israel. The closure kept tens of thousands of Palestinians from their jobs in Israel.

Friday's blast at the Apropos Cafe in downtown Tel Aviv happened on the eve of the Purim holiday, which celebrates the deliverance of the Jews of ancient Persia from a plot to slaughter them. The attack, which also wounded more than 40 people, came after several days of warnings by Israeli intelligence officials that Islamic militants were plotting attacks in Israel.

Palestinians have been furious with Israel for breaking ground earlier this week for a Jewish neighborhood in east Jerusalem, which Palestinians claim as a future capital.

GROUP LEADER ARRESTED IN BOMBING CASE LEADER OF MILITANT ISLAMIC GROUP CHARGED WITH DEATHS OF THREE

Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat denounced the bombing, but his aides were quick to point a finger at Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu, saying his hard-line policies had paved the way for violence.

Netanyahu, in turn, blamed Arafat, saying the Palestinian leader had led Islamic militants to understand that they had his approval to carry out attacks in Israel.

Meanwhile, in a 13-1 vote, the United States on Friday night vetoed a Security Council resolution against the construction in Jerusalem. It was the second time this month the United States has blocked council action on the issue.

Jordan's King Hussein was expected to fly to Washington on Sunday to lecture on Mideast peacemaking and meet with President Clinton. The talks were expected to focus on Israel's 6,500-home construction project in east Jerusalem, which Israel seized from Jordan in 1967 and later annexed.

Israeli and Palestinian security officials met repeatedly after Friday's bombing to coordinate the crackdown on **Hamas**. Arafat, however, will have a difficult time justifying mass arrests of Islamic militants at a time when many Palestinians are angry over what they see as Netanyahu's high-handed approach.

In Zurif, the village of the suicide bomber, troops arrested several **Hamas** activists today, radio reports said. Streets were deserted and windows closed with iron shutters as Israeli jeeps patrolled the potholed streets.

Radio reports said the bomber had a work permit for Israel, and in recent months was employed at a restaurant in the central Israeli town of Rishon Lezion. He was arrested repeatedly by Israel in the past on suspicion of **Hamas** membership, the reports said.

Security officials said police arrested the restaurant owner and were

GROUP LEADER ARRESTED IN BOMBING CASE LEADER OF MILITANT ISLAMIC GROUP CHARGED
WITH DEATHS OF THREE

questioning him about the bomber. Three other restaurant owners in the
Tel Aviv area also were arrested for employing Palestinians without
Israeli work permits.

Load-Date: March 24, 1997

End of Document

MILITANTS DEFIANT AFTER BLASTS

Herald Sun

April 11, 1995 Tuesday

Copyright 1995 Nationwide News Pty Limited

Section: NEWS; Pg. 26

Length: 690 words

Body

GAZA - Hours after two suicide bombings killed six Israelis, Palestinian militants streamed to the Gaza home of their newest martyr, spraying bullets into the air. The gunfire saluting 24-year-old suicide bomber Khaled Khatib was a direct challenge to Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat, who is under pressure from Israel to disarm militants opposed to the Israeli-PLO peace process. "Let Arafat know that we will not give up and his arrests will not terrorise us," one militant shouted. By last night, Palestinian police had rounded up dozens of activists from Khatib's Islamic Jihad organisation and the larger fundamentalist group Hamas, according to police sources. Ghazi Hamad, editor of the Hamas newspaper al-Watan, said yesterday that as many as 150 people were arrested. "Arafat is implementing (Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak) Rabin's orders," he said. "There is sharp tension in Gaza." The latest unrest began at midday on Sunday, when Khatib drove an explosives-laden car into an Israeli commuter bus near the Kfar Darom settlement in the central Gaza Strip. The ensuing explosion killed six soldiers and wounded 34 people. Bodies were strewn throughout the bus' charred, twisted chassis. Two hours later and 9.6km up the road, a Palestinian car ploughed into an Israeli convoy of military and civilian vehicles and exploded near the Netzarim settlement. Hamas claimed responsibility for the attack, which wounded 11 Israelis, including two small girls. Three of the injured were Americans, said White House spokesman Mike McCurry. Meanwhile in south Lebanon, guerrillas killed five pro-Israeli militiamen yesterday and Hizbollah's leader said its pro-Iranian guerrillas had the right to attack northern Israel and disrupt its tourism.

The guerrillas hit the South Lebanon Army patrol with anti-tank rockets and rocket-propelled grenades. The casualties in the Gaza Strip brought to 64 the number of Israelis killed in attacks claimed by Hamas and Islamic Jihad since October. They hope the violence will doom the 1993 Israel-PLO autonomy accord. Israeli Right-wingers called on Mr Rabin to halt talks with the PLO on extending the Gaza-Jericho autonomy to the rest of the West Bank. Critics argue that Mr Arafat cannot control Palestinian opponents of peace and provide security for Israelis. About 140,000 Israeli settlers live in the West Bank, compared to 5000 in Gaza. Mr Rabin said he would continue the talks, but US Secretary of State Warren Christopher asked Mr Arafat to disarm the militants, Palestinian officials said. Education Minister Amnon Rubinstein was tentative when asked if the July 1 target date for reaching agreement on expanding autonomy was still realistic. "It is possible if the Palestinian authority will get things in order and conduct war against Hamas," he said. Lt-Gen. Amnon Shahak predicted the attacks would continue. That was exactly what the armed youths outside Khatib's home in the Nusseirat refugee camp had in mind. More than 100 gathered there, their cries of "revenge, revenge" mingling with the wails of women from inside the house and the sound of gunfire. Ahmed Khatib, 70, the bomber's father, was quoted by Israel's Itim news agency as saying he was "really proud" of his son. "All of the Palestinian people should wage a jihad (holy war) as the Koran instructs us," he said. - AP TRAIL OF KILLING ANTI-ISRAELI attacks in Gaza and Jericho since the launch of self-rule in May last year include: MAY 20, 1994: Islamic Jihad, the hardline Palestinian group, killed two Israeli soldiers at the Erez crossing point between Israel and Gaza. AUGUST 26: Members of the Islamic Resistance Movement stabbed to death two Israelis in Ramla, near Tel Aviv. OCTOBER 9: Two Hamas activists kill an

MILITANTS DEFIANT AFTER BLASTS

Israeli woman and a Palestinian man and wound 13 in a grenade and automatic weapons attack in the heart of west Jerusalem. OCTOBER 19: A suicide bomber blows up a bus in Tel Aviv, killing 23 and wounding 47 in an attack claimed by ***Hamas***. JANUARY 22, 1995: Two Islamic Jihad activists from the Gaza Strip kill 21, including 20 soldiers, and wound 65 in a double bombing near Netanya, north of Tel Aviv.- APPEND OF STORY

Graphic

KHALED KHATIB. PRIME MINISTER YITZHAK RABIN AT THE SCENE OF THE BUS BOMBING. AN ISRAELI SOLDIER RUNS PAST THE TWISTED WRECK OF THE CAR USED IN THE SUICIDE ATTACK.

Load-Date: October 1, 2003

End of Document

**War threat to Arafat;
Militants rage as Gaza police go in with guns blazing**

Daily Mail (London)

April 12, 1995

Copyright 1995 Associated Newspapers Ltd.

Section: Pg. 12

Length: 894 words

Body

MOSLEM militants threatened civil war in the Gaza Strip yesterday as Yasser Arafat intensified his 'iron fist' crackdown on hardline opponents of peace with Israel.

Palestinian police fought gun battles in Gaza City as security forces arrested more suspects in the wake of the weekend suicide bomb attack on an Israeli bus.

Security forces staged a show of strength with police jeeps, trucks and motorcycles driving in convoy through the streets. Soldiers raised their rifles in the air and shouted pro-Arafat slogans.

The PLO leader has ordered the disarming of the hardline groups **Hamas** and Islamic Jihad, responsible for killing more than 60 Israelis over the past year. Hundreds of fundamentalists have been held over the past two days.

But the groups warned they would retaliate against both Arafat and the Israelis.

Hamas leader Mahmoud Zahar said: 'If Arafat behaves this way we have to defend ourselves by all means.'

The movement's military wing warned Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin to prepare coffins for the Israelis it vowed to kill in retaliation for the crackdown.

Islamic Jihad said it would stop its attacks only if Jewish settlements in Gaza were dismantled immediately.

Arafat promised to use an 'iron fist' after seven Israelis and an American student were killed in bombings near Jewish settlements on Sunday.

All weapons held in Gaza and Jericho in the West Bank, both formerly Israeli-occupied but now under Palestinian self-rule, must be registered with local police within a month.

The U.S. and Israel have both demanded that Arafat disarm **Hamas** and Islamic Jihad.

Yesterday, one policeman was injured when 300 officers stormed a house in Gaza City in a blaze of gunfire to arrest five members of a family active in **Hamas**.

Women inside were heard wailing and shouting: 'Please don't beat me.'

Palestinian Justice Minister Freih Abu Medein said: 'I think we are entering a critical stage. People are shooting whenever they wish and this is unacceptable. We will not allow it.'

War threat to Arafat; Militants rage as Gaza police go in with guns blazing

Arafat's aides say he is confident he can crush the opposition. He has some 9,000 well-armed troops against an estimated 150 fighters from **Hamas** and Islamic Jihad.

But he accused Israel yesterday of trying 'to light the fuse to a Palestinian civil war' by allowing weapons to be smuggled to the fundamentalists. Arafat also said that poor economic conditions in Gaza, partly due to the non-arrival of promised international aid, were behind the unrest. Israel welcomed the crackdown on militants, but said more was needed.

Israeli Deputy Foreign Minister Yossi Beilin said: 'I cannot say that the Palestinian authority does enough, but there are some signs which are positive.' The U.S. also said it would like to see Arafat's men take stronger action against terrorists.

Load-Date: April 13, 1995

End of Document

Palestinian police arrest 112 militants Arafat cracks down in the wake of bombings that killed 8

The Gazette (Montreal, Quebec)

April 11, 1995, Tuesday, FINAL EDITION

Copyright 1995 CanWest Interactive, a division of CanWest Global Communications Corp. All Rights Reserved

Section: NEWS; Pg. A1/FRONT

Length: 966 words

Byline: YOUSSEF M. IBRAHIM; NEW YORK TIMES; AP

Dateline: GAZA CITY, Gaza Strip

Body

Palestinian police confirmed yesterday that they had arrested 112 members of **Hamas** and Islamic Jihad, the militant groups that took responsibility for two suicide bombings in the Gaza Strip on Sunday.

The death toll among victims of the anti-Israeli bombings rose to eight yesterday.

Yesterday morning, a new military-style court set up by the Palestinian Authority to crack down on militants issued its first sentence: a 34-year-old member of Islamic Jihad was sentenced to 15 years in jail on charges of training youths to attack Israelis.

The actions indicated a stiffening of Yasser Arafat's resolve to deal forcefully with the radical Palestinians who are challenging his authority in Gaza and in Jericho, on the West Bank. Senior Palestinian officials said that they would widen their crackdown against militants, but that they remained persuaded that the only way to curb the violence would be to improve the economic situation in Gaza.

Despite the crackdown, there was defiance yesterday from the militants.

Mahmoud Zahar, the most senior member of **Hamas** in Gaza, said in an interview in his office at the Islamic University that the official moves were "empty gestures" and that similar tactics by the Israeli army when it occupied Gaza had failed to end resistance.

Zahar, a physician and university professor who wields great influence, contended that Arafat would pay a heavy price in popularity for the arrests, but would not stop attacks by Islamic fundamentalists against Jewish settlements in Gaza and targets in Israel.

With the deaths of an American tourist and an Israeli, the toll in Sunday's bombings rose to eight yesterday, from six. The seven Israelis who died, five men and two **women**, were soldiers. More than 40 people were wounded, and two bombers also died.

The American who died was Alisa Flatow, 20, a Brandeis University junior from West Orange, N.J., who had been on spring break. She had been travelling to a beach resort at a Jewish settlement in the Gaza Strip and was wounded in the head in the first of the bombings. Her father, Steve, said some of her organs would be given to transplant patients.

Palestinian police arrest 112 militants Arafat cracks down in the wake of bombings that killed 8

Israel barred Palestinians from a 10-kilometre stretch of Gaza's main north-south road between Kfar Darom and Netzarim, the Jewish settlements where the attacks occurred, Israeli security officials said yesterday. Two east-west roads linking the settlements with Israel were also closed.

In Khan Yunis, in the south of the Gaza Strip, the police exchanged fire with **Hamas** gunmen before arresting two of them, Palestinians said. There were no reports of injuries.

Nabil Abu Irdeina, Arafat's spokesman, said in an interview on Sunday that the Palestine Liberation Organization knows the "peace process is facing a real danger."

He contended that the "main danger to the whole process is Israel's constant search for excuses to delay its withdrawal from the West Bank and the rest of Gaza, and the economic strangulation of Gaza and the Palestinians."

A number of countries have committed funds to help the Palestinian Authority improve conditions in the Gaza Strip and Jericho, but most of the funds have not been delivered.

In addition, from time to time Israel has barred Palestinian workers from entering Israel.

Abu Irdeina said blocking the workers had aggravated the tensions in Gaza, where more than one million Palestinians live in a narrow strip of land.

Still, yesterday's sentencing by the special court and the roundup of suspects were meant to send a message both to Israel and to Islamic militants that the Palestinian Authority is serious about its efforts to stop attacks on Israeli targets.

The court, which has three judges, who have not been publicly identified, sentenced the militant, Samir Ali Jedi, after an all-night trial that was closed to the public. Jedi had been charged with training young Palestinians, including teenagers, for suicide missions against Israelis, a copy of a judgment said. He is the first Palestinian sentenced to prison by the Palestinian Authority for anti-Israeli activities.

Yesterday, spokesmen for **Hamas** and Islamic Jihad, which oppose peace talks with Israel, said that they would continue to attack Israelis and that senior militants and their supporters in Gaza were going into hiding.

"Arresting people will not solve the problem," said Zahar, the **Hamas** official. "The Israelis have tried that before. The PLO is doing the same thing now and getting the same reception. When they show up at homes to arrest our people, their cars are stoned and children spit at them."

Zahar said **Hamas** was determined to avoid a confrontation with the PLO and with Arafat, who is the group's chairman.

"Why should we have a confrontation with him? He is losing his popularity every time he uses the word 'terrorists' to describe Palestinians fighting against Israeli occupation."

There are indeed increasing signs that the PLO is losing support.

On Friday, in what amounted to the first open election under the Palestinian Authority, **Hamas** adherents in the nurses' union won all 11 seats on the governing board. The **Hamas** supporters had run against a bloc of PLO supporters and candidates from the leftist Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine.

Israel has argued that the suicide bombings and other attacks against its civilians and soldiers could lead it to reconsider whether self-rule will be expanded beyond Jericho to the rest of the West Bank. Sunday's killings brought to 64 the number of Israelis killed in attacks since October for which **Hamas** and Islamic Jihad have taken responsibility.

The PLO contends that it is under siege both by Islamic militants and by Israeli hard-liners.

Palestinian police arrest 112 militants Arafat cracks down in the wake of bombings that killed 8

ADDITIONAL REPORTING: ASSOCIATED PRESS

Graphic

AP Israeli soldiers in Holon weep at funeral of Sgt. Yuval Regev, killed in bomb attack.

AP Laura Sloan (right), Brandeis roommate of bombing victim Alisa Flatow, is comforted by Lara Woolf at news conference in Waltham, Mass.

Load-Date: April 12, 1995

End of Document