

**Date and Time:** Thursday, May 2, 2024 6:40:00PM EEST

**Job Number:** 223361620

## Documents (100)

1. [\*Hamas vows violent retaliation\*](#)

**Client/Matter:** -None-

**Search Terms:** Hamas

**Search Type:** Natural Language - Expanded Results

**Narrowed by:**

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News

**Narrowed by**  
Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Jun 01, 2003 to Oct 31, 2004

2. [\*HAMAS MOURNS, ISSUES THREATS\*](#)

**Client/Matter:** -None-

**Search Terms:** Hamas

**Search Type:** Natural Language - Expanded Results

**Narrowed by:**

**Content Type**  
News

**Narrowed by**  
Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Jun 01, 2003 to Oct 31, 2004

3. [\*HAMAS VOWS BLOODY REVENGE\*](#)

**Client/Matter:** -None-

**Search Terms:** Hamas

**Search Type:** Natural Language - Expanded Results

**Narrowed by:**

**Content Type**  
News

**Narrowed by**  
Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Jun 01, 2003 to Oct 31, 2004

4. [\*Hamas takes aim at Israeli leaders\*](#)

**Client/Matter:** -None-

**Search Terms:** Hamas

**Search Type:** Natural Language - Expanded Results

**Narrowed by:**

**Content Type**  
News

**Narrowed by**  
Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Jun 01, 2003 to Oct 31, 2004

5. [\*Israelis kill 14 in strike at Hamas\*](#)

**Client/Matter:** -None-

**Search Terms:** Hamas

**Search Type:** Natural Language - Expanded Results

**Narrowed by:**

**Content Type**  
News

**Narrowed by**  
Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Jun 01, 2003 to Oct 31, 2004

6. [\*Hamas hurts Palestinian state, spirit\*](#)

**Client/Matter:** -None-

**Search Terms:** Hamas

**Search Type:** Natural Language - Expanded Results

**Narrowed by:**

**Content Type**  
News

**Narrowed by**  
Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Jun 01, 2003 to Oct 31, 2004

7. [\*In Loss of Leaders, Hamas Discovers a Renewed Strength\*](#)

**Client/Matter:** -None-

**Search Terms:** Hamas

**Search Type:** Natural Language - Expanded Results

**Narrowed by:**

**Content Type**  
News

**Narrowed by**  
Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Jun 01, 2003 to Oct 31, 2004

8. [\*Hamas is target of Israeli sweep\*](#)

**Client/Matter:** -None-

**Search Terms:** Hamas

**Search Type:** Natural Language - Expanded Results

**Narrowed by:**

**Content Type**  
News

**Narrowed by**  
Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Jun 01, 2003 to Oct 31, 2004

9. [\*Hamas vows revenge on Israel\*](#)

**Client/Matter:** -None-

**Search Terms:** Hamas

**Search Type:** Natural Language - Expanded Results

**Narrowed by:**

**Content Type**  
News

**Narrowed by**  
Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Jun 01, 2003 to Oct 31, 2004

10. [\*Vows of revenge - Hamas's reply to killing\*](#)

**Client/Matter:** -None-

**Search Terms:** Hamas

**Search Type:** Natural Language - Expanded Results

**Narrowed by:**

**Content Type**  
News

**Narrowed by**  
Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Jun 01, 2003 to Oct 31, 2004

11. [Defining Hamas: Roots in Charity and Branches of Violence](#)

**Client/Matter:** -None-

**Search Terms:** Hamas

**Search Type:** Natural Language - Expanded Results

**Narrowed by:**

**Content Type**  
News

**Narrowed by**  
Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Jun 01, 2003 to Oct 31, 2004

12. [Israel threatens to kill Hamas founder](#)

**Client/Matter:** -None-

**Search Terms:** Hamas

**Search Type:** Natural Language - Expanded Results

**Narrowed by:**

**Content Type**  
News

**Narrowed by**  
Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Jun 01, 2003 to Oct 31, 2004

13. [No compromise on this: Hamas must be stopped](#)

**Client/Matter:** -None-

**Search Terms:** Hamas

**Search Type:** Natural Language - Expanded Results

**Narrowed by:**

**Content Type**  
News

**Narrowed by**  
Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Jun 01, 2003 to Oct 31, 2004

14. [Hamas founder vows to continue attacks](#)

**Client/Matter:** -None-

**Search Terms:** Hamas

**Search Type:** Natural Language - Expanded Results

**Narrowed by:**

**Content Type**  
News

**Narrowed by**  
Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Jun 01, 2003 to Oct 31, 2004

15. [Under Israeli attack, Hamas loses leaders but widens its support](#)

**Client/Matter:** -None-

**Search Terms:** Hamas

**Search Type:** Natural Language - Expanded Results

**Narrowed by:**

**Content Type**  
News

**Narrowed by**  
Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Jun 01, 2003 to Oct 31, 2004

16. [Israel plans Hamas hits in payback](#)

**Client/Matter:** -None-

**Search Terms:** Hamas

**Search Type:** Natural Language - Expanded Results

**Narrowed by:**

**Content Type**  
News

**Narrowed by**  
Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Jun 01, 2003 to Oct 31, 2004

17. [Israel 's offensive on Hamas justified](#)

**Client/Matter:** -None-

**Search Terms:** Hamas

**Search Type:** Natural Language - Expanded Results

**Narrowed by:**

**Content Type**  
News

**Narrowed by**  
Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Jun 01, 2003 to Oct 31, 2004

18. [Hamas goes into hiding after strikes](#)

**Client/Matter:** -None-

**Search Terms:** Hamas

**Search Type:** Natural Language - Expanded Results

**Narrowed by:**

**Content Type**  
News

**Narrowed by**  
Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Jun 01, 2003 to Oct 31, 2004

19. [Hamas founder is defiant after Israeli 's warning](#)

**Client/Matter:** -None-

**Search Terms:** Hamas

**Search Type:** Natural Language - Expanded Results

**Narrowed by:**

**Content Type**  
News

**Narrowed by**  
Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Jun 01, 2003 to Oct 31, 2004

20. [Hamas rejects Arafat's appeal to resume truce](#)

**Client/Matter:** -None-

**Search Terms:** Hamas

**Search Type:** Natural Language - Expanded Results

**Narrowed by:**

**Content Type**  
News

**Narrowed by**  
Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Jun 01, 2003 to Oct 31, 2004

21. [Israel 'will retaliate by killing Hamas founder'; NEWSBRIEF](#)

**Client/Matter:** -None-

**Search Terms:** Hamas

**Search Type:** Natural Language - Expanded Results

**Narrowed by:**

**Content Type**  
News

**Narrowed by**  
Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Jun 01, 2003 to Oct 31, 2004

22. [Revenge vow as Hamas chief killed](#)

**Client/Matter:** -None-

**Search Terms:** Hamas

**Search Type:** Natural Language - Expanded Results

**Narrowed by:**

**Content Type**  
News

**Narrowed by**  
Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Jun 01, 2003 to Oct 31, 2004

23. [ISRAEL ANNOUNCES INTENTION TO KILL HAMAS FOUNDER](#)

**Client/Matter:** -None-

**Search Terms:** Hamas

**Search Type:** Natural Language - Expanded Results

**Narrowed by:**

**Content Type**  
News

**Narrowed by**  
Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Jun 01, 2003 to Oct 31, 2004

24. [Hamas may be ready to come in from the heat](#)

**Client/Matter:** -None-

**Search Terms:** Hamas

**Search Type:** Natural Language - Expanded Results

**Narrowed by:**

**Content Type**  
News

**Narrowed by**  
Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Jun 01, 2003 to Oct 31, 2004

25. [To many Palestinians, Hamas is a hero that needs to bend](#)

**Client/Matter:** -None-

**Search Terms:** Hamas

**Search Type:** Natural Language - Expanded Results

**Narrowed by:**

**Content Type**  
News

**Narrowed by**  
Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Jun 01, 2003 to Oct 31, 2004

26. [First Hamas female bomber hailed as hero at her funeral](#)

**Client/Matter:** -None-

**Search Terms:** Hamas

**Search Type:** Natural Language - Expanded Results

**Narrowed by:**

**Content Type**  
News

**Narrowed by**  
Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Jun 01, 2003 to Oct 31, 2004

27. [\*Bomb puts Hamas back on Israel 's hit list\*](#)

**Client/Matter:** -None-

**Search Terms:** Hamas

**Search Type:** Natural Language - Expanded Results

**Narrowed by:**

**Content Type**  
News

**Narrowed by**  
Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Jun 01, 2003 to Oct 31, 2004

28. [\*ISRAEL TARGETS HAMAS LEADER AFTER SUICIDE ATTACK\*](#)

**Client/Matter:** -None-

**Search Terms:** Hamas

**Search Type:** Natural Language - Expanded Results

**Narrowed by:**

**Content Type**  
News

**Narrowed by**  
Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Jun 01, 2003 to Oct 31, 2004

29. [\*Hamas mourners vow to avenge another 'martyr'\*](#)

**Client/Matter:** -None-

**Search Terms:** Hamas

**Search Type:** Natural Language - Expanded Results

**Narrowed by:**

**Content Type**  
News

**Narrowed by**  
Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Jun 01, 2003 to Oct 31, 2004

30. [\*ISRAEL ARRESTS SCORES; SWEEP NETS MORE THAN 130 HAMAS SUSPECTS\*](#)

**Client/Matter:** -None-

**Search Terms:** Hamas

**Search Type:** Natural Language - Expanded Results

**Narrowed by:**

**Content Type**  
News

**Narrowed by**  
Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Jun 01, 2003 to Oct 31, 2004

31. [\*Female bomber a Hamas first\*](#)

**Client/Matter:** -None-

**Search Terms:** Hamas

**Search Type:** Natural Language - Expanded Results

**Narrowed by:**

**Content Type**  
News

**Narrowed by**  
Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Jun 01, 2003 to Oct 31, 2004

32. [Hamas mortar kills Gaza settler](#)

**Client/Matter:** -None-

**Search Terms:** Hamas

**Search Type:** Natural Language - Expanded Results

**Narrowed by:**

**Content Type**  
News

**Narrowed by**  
Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Jun 01, 2003 to Oct 31, 2004

33. [With Peacemakers on Way, Israel Attacks Hamas Again](#)

**Client/Matter:** -None-

**Search Terms:** Hamas

**Search Type:** Natural Language - Expanded Results

**Narrowed by:**

**Content Type**  
News

**Narrowed by**  
Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Jun 01, 2003 to Oct 31, 2004

34. [HAMAS LEADER SURVIVES REVENGE AIR STRIKE](#)

**Client/Matter:** -None-

**Search Terms:** Hamas

**Search Type:** Natural Language - Expanded Results

**Narrowed by:**

**Content Type**  
News

**Narrowed by**  
Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Jun 01, 2003 to Oct 31, 2004

35. [ISRAEL BRACED FOR NEW ATTACKS AFTER KILLING OF 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: Jun 01, 2003 to Oct 31, 2004

36. [Israeli strike kills bystander, but not 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: Jun 01, 2003 to Oct 31, 2004

37. [\*International Roundup : Hamas defiant Palestinians shocked at use of suicide mother\*](#)

**Client/Matter:** -None-

**Search Terms:** Hamas

**Search Type:** Natural Language - Expanded Results

**Narrowed by:**

**Content Type**  
News

**Narrowed by**  
Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Jun 01, 2003 to Oct 31, 2004

38. [\*ISRAELI COPTER ATTACK ON HAMAS KILLS BYSTANDER, WOUNDS CHILDREN\*](#)

**Client/Matter:** -None-

**Search Terms:** Hamas

**Search Type:** Natural Language - Expanded Results

**Narrowed by:**

**Content Type**  
News

**Narrowed by**  
Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Jun 01, 2003 to Oct 31, 2004

39. [\*Hamas' threat: First female bomber won't be its last\*](#)

**Client/Matter:** -None-

**Search Terms:** Hamas

**Search Type:** Natural Language - Expanded Results

**Narrowed by:**

**Content Type**  
News

**Narrowed by**  
Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Jun 01, 2003 to Oct 31, 2004

40. [\*Europe faces pressure to toe Washington's line 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: Jun 01, 2003 to Oct 31, 2004

41. [\*HAMAS REAPS WHAT IT SOWS\*](#)

**Client/Matter:** -None-

**Search Terms:** Hamas

**Search Type:** Natural Language - Expanded Results

**Narrowed by:**

**Content Type**  
News

**Narrowed by**  
Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Jun 01, 2003 to Oct 31, 2004

42. [\*Palestinians vow to avenge Hamas death\*](#)



**Client/Matter:** -None-

**Search Terms:** Hamas

**Search Type:** Natural Language - Expanded Results

**Narrowed by:**

**Content Type**  
News

**Narrowed by**  
Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Jun 01, 2003 to Oct 31, 2004

43. [HARD-LINER NAMED HAMAS LEADER; ISRAEL TO KEEP TARGETING ROOTS OF PALESTINIAN VIOLENCE](#)

**Client/Matter:** -None-

**Search Terms:** Hamas

**Search Type:** Natural Language - Expanded Results

**Narrowed by:**

**Content Type**  
News

**Narrowed by**  
Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Jun 01, 2003 to Oct 31, 2004

44. [HAMAS BETTING ON FAILURE OF PEACE EFFORTS TO STRENGTHEN ITS HAND](#)

**Client/Matter:** -None-

**Search Terms:** Hamas

**Search Type:** Natural Language - Expanded Results

**Narrowed by:**

**Content Type**  
News

**Narrowed by**  
Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Jun 01, 2003 to Oct 31, 2004

45. [Social service, with a vengeance ; Hamas, extreme in terror and charity, is key to 'road map'](#)

**Client/Matter:** -None-

**Search Terms:** Hamas

**Search Type:** Natural Language - Expanded Results

**Narrowed by:**

**Content Type**  
News

**Narrowed by**  
Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Jun 01, 2003 to Oct 31, 2004

46. [Truce ends after killing of Hamas leader 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: Jun 01, 2003 to Oct 31, 2004

47. [Israel threatens assassinations: Defence minister responds to Hamas threats of abductions](#)

**Client/Matter:** -None-

**Search Terms:** Hamas

**Search Type:** Natural Language - Expanded Results

**Narrowed by:**

**Content Type**  
News

**Narrowed by**  
Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Jun 01, 2003 to Oct 31, 2004

48. [HAMAS LEADER ASSASSINATION: Yassin sought to destroy Israel](#)

**Client/Matter:** -None-

**Search Terms:** Hamas

**Search Type:** Natural Language - Expanded Results

**Narrowed by:**

**Content Type**  
News

**Narrowed by**  
Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Jun 01, 2003 to Oct 31, 2004

49. [GRIEVING PALESTINIANS PLEDGE BLOODY REVENGE FOR KILLING OF HAMAS LEADER; MIDDLE EAST CRISIS](#)

**Client/Matter:** -None-

**Search Terms:** Hamas

**Search Type:** Natural Language - Expanded Results

**Narrowed by:**

**Content Type**  
News

**Narrowed by**  
Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Jun 01, 2003 to Oct 31, 2004

50. [Bush Rebukes Israel for Attack on Hamas Terrorist](#)

**Client/Matter:** -None-

**Search Terms:** Hamas

**Search Type:** Natural Language - Expanded Results

**Narrowed by:**

**Content Type**  
News

**Narrowed by**  
Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Jun 01, 2003 to Oct 31, 2004

51. [At least 13 die in Israel suicide bombs HAMAS ATTACKS:](#)

**Client/Matter:** -None-

**Search Terms:** Hamas

**Search Type:** Natural Language - Expanded Results

**Narrowed by:**

**Content Type**  
News

**Narrowed by**  
Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Jun 01, 2003 to Oct 31, 2004

52. [Juggling 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: Jun 01, 2003 to Oct 31, 2004

53. [THE FANTASY OF INCLUDING HAMAS ON THE ROAD-MAP](#)

**Client/Matter:** -None-

**Search Terms:** Hamas

**Search Type:** Natural Language - Expanded Results

**Narrowed by:**

**Content Type**  
News

**Narrowed by**  
Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Jun 01, 2003 to Oct 31, 2004

54. [Israel wounds Hamas leader; Bush denounces failed assassination attempt, tries to save peace plan.](#)

**Client/Matter:** -None-

**Search Terms:** Hamas

**Search Type:** Natural Language - Expanded Results

**Narrowed by:**

**Content Type**  
News

**Narrowed by**  
Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Jun 01, 2003 to Oct 31, 2004

55. [Hamas promises 100 retaliations to avenge leader](#)

**Client/Matter:** -None-

**Search Terms:** Hamas

**Search Type:** Natural Language - Expanded Results

**Narrowed by:**

**Content Type**  
News

**Narrowed by**  
Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Jun 01, 2003 to Oct 31, 2004

56. [Terror group threatens U.S. Palestinians promise to avenge assassination of 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: Jun 01, 2003 to Oct 31, 2004

57. [Minister threatens to assassinate terrorists: Move in response to Hamas' vow to kidnap soldiers](#)

**Client/Matter:** -None-

**Search Terms:** Hamas

**Search Type:** Natural Language - Expanded Results

**Narrowed by:**

**Content Type**  
News

**Narrowed by**  
Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Jun 01, 2003 to Oct 31, 2004

58. [SHARON HINTS AT HALTING ASSASSINATIONS AS EGYPT URGES HAMAS TO CALL CEASEFIRE](#)

**Client/Matter:** -None-

**Search Terms:** Hamas

**Search Type:** Natural Language - Expanded Results

**Narrowed by:**

**Content Type**  
News

**Narrowed by**  
Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Jun 01, 2003 to Oct 31, 2004

59. ['Hamas will not be defeated': New leader's name kept secret as thousands vow revenge](#)

**Client/Matter:** -None-

**Search Terms:** Hamas

**Search Type:** Natural Language - Expanded Results

**Narrowed by:**

**Content Type**  
News

**Narrowed by**  
Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Jun 01, 2003 to Oct 31, 2004

60. [Hamas vows revenge for killing , Israeli missile strike kills spiritual leader, seven others](#)

**Client/Matter:** -None-

**Search Terms:** Hamas

**Search Type:** Natural Language - Expanded Results

**Narrowed by:**

**Content Type**  
News

**Narrowed by**  
Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Jun 01, 2003 to Oct 31, 2004

61. ['Sheikh 'marked for death': Hamas's spiritual leader ignores warning by top Israeli , vows violence will continue](#)

**Client/Matter:** -None-

**Search Terms:** Hamas

**Search Type:** Natural Language - Expanded Results

**Narrowed by:**

**Content Type**  
News

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Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Jun 01, 2003 to Oct 31, 2004

62. [What is Hamas?: It's a terrorist group, according to some. But to Abu Shaheh Safdi, it pays for school, buses, clothing for his brother's children](#)

**Client/Matter:** -None-

**Search Terms:** Hamas

**Search Type:** Natural Language - Expanded Results

**Narrowed by:**

**Content Type**

News

**Narrowed by**

Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Jun 01, 2003 to Oct 31, 2004

63. [\*Israel hints it will strike against Syria for bombings: Anyone who harbours Hamas terrorists a target for retaliation, Sharon warns\*](#)

**Client/Matter:** -None-**Search Terms:** Hamas**Search Type:** Natural Language - Expanded Results**Narrowed by:****Content Type**

News

**Narrowed by**

Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Jun 01, 2003 to Oct 31, 2004

64. [\*27 ISRAELI PILOTS SAY THEY WON'T HIT CIVILIAN AREAS ATTACKS ON HAMAS KILLING BYSTANDERS\*](#)

**Client/Matter:** -None-**Search Terms:** Hamas**Search Type:** Natural Language - Expanded Results**Narrowed by:****Content Type**

News

**Narrowed by**

Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Jun 01, 2003 to Oct 31, 2004

65. [\*Hamas wins hearts by saving lives where Arafat fails: How Islamic resistance movement has built up support with potent mixture of welfare and religion\*](#)

**Client/Matter:** -None-**Search Terms:** Hamas**Search Type:** Natural Language - Expanded Results**Narrowed by:****Content Type**

News

**Narrowed by**

Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Jun 01, 2003 to Oct 31, 2004

66. [\*Female bomber a first for Hamas\*](#)

**Client/Matter:** -None-**Search Terms:** Hamas**Search Type:** Natural Language - Expanded Results**Narrowed by:****Content Type**

News

**Narrowed by**

Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Jun 01, 2003 to Oct 31, 2004

67. [\*4 ISRAELIS DIE AS HAMAS USES WOMAN AS BOMB; Mother of two tricks guards at crossing\*](#)

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

**Narrowed by:**

**Content Type**  
News

**Narrowed by**

Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Jun 01, 2003 to Oct 31, 2004

68. [Israeli fire met with U.S. criticism; A Hamas official was wounded. The White House said the strike would not help peace efforts.](#)

**Client/Matter:** -None-

**Search Terms:** Hamas

**Search Type:** Natural Language - Expanded Results

**Narrowed by:**

**Content Type**  
News

**Narrowed by**

Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Jun 01, 2003 to Oct 31, 2004

69. [Hamas gleeful as bombings kill at least 13: PM designate condemns blasts](#)

**Client/Matter:** -None-

**Search Terms:** Hamas

**Search Type:** Natural Language - Expanded Results

**Narrowed by:**

**Content Type**  
News

**Narrowed by**

Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Jun 01, 2003 to Oct 31, 2004

70. [Justice served in assassination of 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: Jun 01, 2003 to Oct 31, 2004

71. [Arafat shrugs off assassination threat: Hamas takes credit for overnight killing at West Bank settlement](#)

**Client/Matter:** -None-

**Search Terms:** Hamas

**Search Type:** Natural Language - Expanded Results

**Narrowed by:**

**Content Type**  
News

**Narrowed by**

Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Jun 01, 2003 to Oct 31, 2004

72. [EU TO FREEZE HAMAS ASSETS](#)

**Client/Matter:** -None-

**Search Terms:** Hamas

**Search Type:** Natural Language - Expanded Results

**Narrowed by:**

**Content Type**  
News

**Narrowed by**  
Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Jun 01, 2003 to Oct 31, 2004

73. [HAMAS EXACTS REVENGE AS SUICIDE BOMBS KILL 14 IN JERUSALEM AND TEL AVIV](#)

**Client/Matter:** -None-

**Search Terms:** Hamas

**Search Type:** Natural Language - Expanded Results

**Narrowed by:**

**Content Type**  
News

**Narrowed by**  
Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Jun 01, 2003 to Oct 31, 2004

74. [Day of carnage leaves Middle East in chaos: Israel and Hamas count the dead](#)

**Client/Matter:** -None-

**Search Terms:** Hamas

**Search Type:** Natural Language - Expanded Results

**Narrowed by:**

**Content Type**  
News

**Narrowed by**  
Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Jun 01, 2003 to Oct 31, 2004

75. [Peace road map in tatters as Hamas says it's time 'for Israel to pay for its crimes' Cafe bombed](#)

**Client/Matter:** -None-

**Search Terms:** Hamas

**Search Type:** Natural Language - Expanded Results

**Narrowed by:**

**Content Type**  
News

**Narrowed by**  
Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Jun 01, 2003 to Oct 31, 2004

76. [Israel blames Syria for 2 suicide bombing attacks; Israeli leader warns of 'additional steps' for harboring leadership of the Hamas militant group](#)

**Client/Matter:** -None-

**Search Terms:** Hamas

**Search Type:** Natural Language - Expanded Results

**Narrowed by:**

**Content Type**  
News

**Narrowed by**  
Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Jun 01, 2003 to Oct 31, 2004

77. [Hamas chief's killing may unify militants; It has brought rival groups closer together and hardened their resolve to wreak havoc 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: Jun 01, 2003 to Oct 31, 2004

78. [Israeli forces kill three Hamas activists as tanks go into Ramallah](#)

**Client/Matter:** -None-

**Search Terms:** Hamas

**Search Type:** Natural Language - Expanded Results

**Narrowed by:**

**Content Type**  
News

**Narrowed by**  
Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Jun 01, 2003 to Oct 31, 2004

79. [DEFIANT HAMAS SHOWS WORLD SUICIDE MUM WITH CHILDREN. Gaza Strip female suicide bomber Reem Raiyshi, with her son Obida, aged three, who is holding a mortar shell](#)

**Client/Matter:** -None-

**Search Terms:** Hamas

**Search Type:** Natural Language - Expanded Results

**Narrowed by:**

**Content Type**  
News

**Narrowed by**  
Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Jun 01, 2003 to Oct 31, 2004

80. [Israel bus bombings kill 16, injure 100: Hamas claims responsibility for suicide attacks](#)

**Client/Matter:** -None-

**Search Terms:** Hamas

**Search Type:** Natural Language - Expanded Results

**Narrowed by:**

**Content Type**  
News

**Narrowed by**  
Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Jun 01, 2003 to Oct 31, 2004

81. [Israel on threshold of the 'gates of hell'; The opportunistic killing of Hamas's Sheikh Yassin has left Israel braced for total carnage](#)

**Client/Matter:** -None-

**Search Terms:** Hamas

**Search Type:** Natural Language - Expanded Results

**Narrowed by:**

**Content Type**  
News

**Narrowed by**  
Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Jun 01, 2003 to Oct 31, 2004

82. [Hamas uses mother of two as suicide bomber: Four israeli security people killed](#)

**Client/Matter:** -None-

**Search Terms:** Hamas

**Search Type:** Natural Language - Expanded Results

**Narrowed by:**



**Content Type**  
News

**Narrowed by**  
Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Jun 01, 2003 to Oct 31, 2004

83. [Israel , Hamas vow fight to the death: Escalation of violence leaves 39 dead and U.S. -led peace plan in tatters](#)

**Client/Matter:** -None-

**Search Terms:** Hamas

**Search Type:** Natural Language - Expanded Results

**Narrowed by:**

**Content Type**  
News

**Narrowed by**  
Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Jun 01, 2003 to Oct 31, 2004

84. [Authorities probe Kosovo shooter's ties to Hamas: Third American corrections officer dies of wounds](#)

**Client/Matter:** -None-

**Search Terms:** Hamas

**Search Type:** Natural Language - Expanded Results

**Narrowed by:**

**Content Type**  
News

**Narrowed by**  
Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Jun 01, 2003 to Oct 31, 2004

85. [18 die as suicide bombs rock Israel ; Death toll may rise, Hamas takes blame as buses blow up 15 seconds apart](#)

**Client/Matter:** -None-

**Search Terms:** Hamas

**Search Type:** Natural Language - Expanded Results

**Narrowed by:**

**Content Type**  
News

**Narrowed by**  
Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Jun 01, 2003 to Oct 31, 2004

86. [Three generals and a martyr; OPINION: URI AVNERY looks beyond the simplistic portrayal of Hamas and compares it to Zionist terror groups in 1940s Palestine .](#)

**Client/Matter:** -None-

**Search Terms:** Hamas

**Search Type:** Natural Language - Expanded Results

**Narrowed by:**

**Content Type**  
News

**Narrowed by**  
Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Jun 01, 2003 to Oct 31, 2004

87. [Hamas's Canadian cheerleader](#)

**Client/Matter:** -None-

**Search Terms:** Hamas

**Search Type:** Natural Language - Expanded Results

**Narrowed by:**

**Content Type**  
News

**Narrowed by**

Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Jun 01, 2003 to Oct 31, 2004

88. [Israel warns of retaliation against Syria up rhetoric over attack: Threatens to attack: Hamas leader is being harboured by Damascus](#)

**Client/Matter:** -None-

**Search Terms:** Hamas

**Search Type:** Natural Language - Expanded Results

**Narrowed by:**

**Content Type**  
News

**Narrowed by**

Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Jun 01, 2003 to Oct 31, 2004

89. [Israel shaken by return of the suicide bombers: After months of failed attempts, Hamas penetrates security to kill 16 and injure 100 in attack on buses](#)

**Client/Matter:** -None-

**Search Terms:** Hamas

**Search Type:** Natural Language - Expanded Results

**Narrowed by:**

**Content Type**  
News

**Narrowed by**

Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Jun 01, 2003 to Oct 31, 2004

90. [Five-month lull ends with Israeli bus bombings: Hamas claims responsibility for 16 deaths in Beersheba](#)

**Client/Matter:** -None-

**Search Terms:** Hamas

**Search Type:** Natural Language - Expanded Results

**Narrowed by:**

**Content Type**  
News

**Narrowed by**

Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Jun 01, 2003 to Oct 31, 2004

91. [Hundreds Gather To Denounce Assassination of 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: Jun 01, 2003 to Oct 31, 2004

92. [2 suicide bombings break lull in Israel ; One is reply to Nablus raid, Hamas says](#)

**Client/Matter:** -None-

**Search Terms:** Hamas

**Search Type:** Natural Language - Expanded Results

**Narrowed by:**

**Content Type**  
News

**Narrowed by**

Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Jun 01, 2003 to Oct 31, 2004

93. [Hamas attacks; Israel hits back An Israeli American died in the shelling of her Gaza Strip settlement. An Israeli missile killed a Palestinian.](#)

**Client/Matter:** -None-

**Search Terms:** Hamas

**Search Type:** Natural Language - Expanded Results

**Narrowed by:**

**Content Type**  
News

**Narrowed by**

Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Jun 01, 2003 to Oct 31, 2004

94. [A Ben-Gurion model and an Abbas reality; Hard-line tactic brought militant Jews to heel, but could it work 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: Jun 01, 2003 to Oct 31, 2004

95. [Palestinian mother kills 4 Israelis, self; Seven people, including four Arabs, were injured at the Gaza checkpoint. It was called Hamas' first use of a female bomber.](#)

**Client/Matter:** -None-

**Search Terms:** Hamas

**Search Type:** Natural Language - Expanded Results

**Narrowed by:**

**Content Type**  
News

**Narrowed by**

Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Jun 01, 2003 to Oct 31, 2004

96. [Mideast erupts Crisis as Palestinian leader killed](#)

**Client/Matter:** -None-

**Search Terms:** Hamas

**Search Type:** Natural Language - Expanded Results

**Narrowed by:**

**Content Type**  
News

**Narrowed by**

Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Jun 01, 2003 to Oct 31, 2004

97. [HANGING OUT WITH HAMAS; IT'S EASY TO SEE THE FOOT SOLDIERS OF THE PALESTINIAN STRUGGLE AS BIT](#)

**Client/Matter:** -None-

**Search Terms:** Hamas

**Search Type:** Natural Language - Expanded Results

**Narrowed by:**

**Content Type**  
News

**Narrowed by**  
Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Jun 01, 2003 to Oct 31, 2004

98. [\*A victory against terrorism\*](#)

**Client/Matter:** -None-

**Search Terms:** Hamas

**Search Type:** Natural Language - Expanded Results

**Narrowed by:**

**Content Type**  
News

**Narrowed by**  
Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Jun 01, 2003 to Oct 31, 2004

99. [\*Terrorist groups end ceasefire\*](#)

**Client/Matter:** -None-

**Search Terms:** Hamas

**Search Type:** Natural Language - Expanded Results

**Narrowed by:**

**Content Type**  
News

**Narrowed by**  
Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Jun 01, 2003 to Oct 31, 2004

100. [\*Words of Fatah, Hamas and Islamic Jihad: 'Just, Lasting and Comprehensive Peace'\*](#)

**Client/Matter:** -None-

**Search Terms:** Hamas

**Search Type:** Natural Language - Expanded Results

**Narrowed by:**

**Content Type**  
News

**Narrowed by**  
Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Jun 01, 2003 to Oct 31, 2004

## ***Hamas vows violent retaliation***

Geelong Advertiser (Regional Daily)

April 19, 2004 Monday

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**Section:** NEWS; Pg. 2

**Length:** 377 words

### **Body**

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HUNDREDS of thousands of Palestinians calling for revenge thronged the streets of Gaza City yesterday during the funeral for slain **Hamas** leader Abdel-Aziz al-Rantissi.

Israel killed Rantissi and two of his bodyguards yesterday in an airstrike on his car as it drove near his house in the Sheik Radwan neighbourhood in Gaza.

"Yesterday they said that they killed Rantissi to weaken **Hamas**. They are dreaming. Every time a martyr falls, **Hamas** is strengthened," Ismail Haniyeh, a **Hamas** leader, told more than 70,000 mourners at the city's largest mosque. "**Hamas** might have a crisis at hand after losing its leaders, but it will not be defeated."

**Hamas** supporters chanting "God is great" and "revenge, revenge" threw flowers at the three men's stretchers as they were carried through the streets in a funeral procession.

The number of mourners approached several hundred thousand, more than attended the funeral last month of Sheikh Ahmed Yassin, **Hamas**' co-founder. However, Israel had closed two key checkpoints at the time of Yassin's funeral, cutting Gaza in three and preventing many of Gaza's 1.3 million people from attending.

"You can see (the future of) the movement in the sea of people here today," said Mahmoud Zahar, who had been Rantissi's second in command. **Hamas** chose a new Gaza leader yesterday, but kept it secret fearing another Israeli attack. Israeli Army Radio reported Zahar was the new leader.

During the funeral procession through the streets, Rantissi was covered in a green **Hamas** flag with his face exposed and a green **Hamas** headband around his forehead. His bodyguards, who were badly mangled in the explosion, were completely covered by green flags.

About 200 armed **Hamas** militants lined both sides of the road and gave the bodies a military salute as they approached Rantissi's house. Outside the house, a large green and blue mourning tent was set up and his brothers and children stood nearby greeting mourners.

Armed men fired into the air and many in the gathered crowd raised their fists in anger. **Women** threw candy and flowers to the crowd. Mourners carried **Hamas** flags and pictures of Rantissi.

"You got what you've always dreamed of Abu Mohammed, you won," read graffiti on a nearby wall, referring to Rantissi by his nickname. -- REUTERS

## Hamas vows violent retaliation

**Load-Date:** April 19, 2004

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End of Document

## **HAMAS MOURNS, ISSUES THREATS**

Pittsburgh Post-Gazette (Pennsylvania)

April 19, 2004 Monday

SOONER EDITION

Copyright 2004 P.G. Publishing Co.

**Section:** WORLD,

**Length:** 900 words

**Byline:** KEN ELLINGWOOD LOS ANGELES TIMES

**Dateline:** GAZA CITY, Gaza Strip

### **Body**

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Fury filled dusty streets yesterday as tens of thousands of Palestinians mourned the death of **Hamas** leader Abdel Aziz Rantisi, killed a day earlier by an Israeli missile strike not far from his home.

Punctuated by chanting and occasional gunfire, the angry funeral procession in Gaza City was similar in size and tone to that of Rantisi's predecessor, **Hamas** founder Sheik Ahmed Yassin, who also was slain in an Israeli airstrike less than a month earlier.

Once again, **Hamas** promised to strike hard at Israel in revenge. Amid extraordinarily tight Israeli security after the Yassin assassination, the group did not carry out any successful attacks, spurring some to wonder if, in spite of its fiery rhetoric, it had lost some of its capability for organizing large-scale retaliation.

**Hamas** stalwarts insisted that Rantisi's killing would not hobble the organization, which is popular on the streets of the Gaza Strip for its schools and social-service programs. Mourners lashed out at Israeli Prime Minister Ariel Sharon -- calling him the "head of the snake" -- and at President Bush and the United States. Many said they believed the United States had approved the killing in advance, despite American denials.

But the killing appeared to strengthen Sharon's hand, giving him new momentum in the campaign to persuade members of his Likud Party to back his plan to evacuate all 21 settlements in the Gaza Strip and four others in the West Bank. Sharon still faces opposition, but yesterday, he won the backing of two important swing votes: Finance Minister Benjamin Netanyahu and Education Minister Limor Livnat.

Before withdrawing from the Gaza Strip, Israeli officials hope to weaken **Hamas**, and Israel promised after the Yassin assassination that it would target the entire **Hamas** leadership.

On the streets of Gaza, a group of Palestinian **women** chanted, "Revenge! Revenge!" from the entrance of a shopping center. **Hamas** fighters in military-style fatigues carried Rantisi's flag-wrapped body along a packed commercial street toward the city's largest mosque.

Joining the procession were squads of masked gunmen, toting Kalashnikov rifles, and young boys wearing the trademark green headband of **Hamas**, a movement founded by Yassin in 1987 that rejects Israel's existence.

## HAMAS MOURNS, ISSUES THREATS

A **Hamas** spokesman said the group had chosen a new leader to replace Rantisi -- a 56-year-old physician known for his hard-line views toward Israel -- but was keeping the identity secret for security reasons.

Israel already had vowed to carry out more of its "targeted killings" of militant leaders. Sharon yesterday said he would continue a policy of "hitting the terrorist organizations and their leaders."

**Hamas** spokesman Mahmoud Zahar insisted that his organization remained potent, despite the loss of two of its best-known leaders in a month's time. He said the Yassin killing had sparked an unprecedented wave of donations by Gaza residents.

"Israel tried to suppress **[Hamas]**. They used all aggression ... but still **Hamas** is stronger and gaining more power," he said.

Zahar was mentioned among the possible successors to Rantisi. Asked if he had been named to the post, Zahar declined to comment.

The latest killing drew criticism from some European countries and fierce protests from Palestinian officials. The Palestinian foreign minister, Nabil Shaath, said the assassination made it impossible to move forward with peace talks with Israel. Demonstrations broke out in cities across the West Bank and Gaza Strip.

Rantisi replaced Yassin a day after the cleric was assassinated March 22 while leaving a mosque in his wheelchair. Rantisi lacked the wide popular following of Yassin, who was the movement's spiritual leader, and spent most of his short tenure as **Hamas** leader in hiding.

But that did not appear to have diminished the public outpouring. Throngs of mourners filled the streets as Rantisi's body was carried from the hospital where he was declared dead Saturday night to his family's home, then to the mosque for midday prayers and finally along the three-mile walk to the same cemetery where Yassin was buried last month.

Mourners lashed out at both Israel and the United States. Palestinians were angered by Bush's watershed endorsement last week of Sharon's plan to evacuate Jewish settlements in the Gaza Strip, a declaration that included recognition of Israeli claims to retain large settlement blocs in the West Bank. About 7,500 Jewish settlers now live in the Gaza Strip among about 1.3 million Palestinians.

"There is no peace. Anyone who is calling for peace should be put to death," said Shadi Sharif, a Palestinian police officer. "Palestine will not be liberated if we keep talking about peace and not fighting. The only way to liberate Palestine is to fight and eliminate stupid words."

**Hamas** depicts the proposed Israeli withdrawal as a victory for its military resistance, an image the Israelis are eager to dispel before exiting.

One way to do that is to hammer the group's leadership so that it can no longer organize major attacks. **Hamas** is responsible for a large share of the more than 100 suicide bombings against Israelis during the 42-month intifada.

Palestinians said **Hamas** would keep fighting.

"**Hamas** will be stronger," said a 27-year-old militant of the Al Aqsa Martyrs Brigade, an armed group tied loosely to the separate Fatah faction of Palestinian Authority President Yasser Arafat.

## Graphic

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## HAMAS MOURNS, ISSUES THREATS

PHOTO: Khalil Hamra/Associated Press: A Palestinian relative of **Hamas** leader Abdel Aziz Rantisi cries as his body is brought to the family home during his funeral in Gaza City yesterday.

PHOTO: Mohammed Ballas/Associated Press: Palestinians shout slogans as one of them carries a portrait of slain **Hamas** leader Abdel Aziz Rantisi in the West Bank town of Jenin yesterday.

**Load-Date:** April 20, 2004

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End of Document

## **HAMAS VOWS BLOODY REVENGE**

Evening Gazette

March 22, 2004, Monday

Copyright 2004 Gazette Media Company Ltd

**Section:** Final Edition; NEWS; Pg. 4; Newspaper

**Length:** 704 words

### **Body**

---

Israel killed **Hamas** founder Ahmed Yassin in a helicopter missile strike outside a Gaza City mosque today, prompting threats of unprecedented revenge by Palestinian militants against Israel and the United States.

Yassin was the most prominent Palestinian leader to be killed by Israel in three years of fighting, and his assassination was seen as a major escalation.

In a spontaneous outpouring of rage and grief, tens of thousands of Palestinians took to the streets in the West Bank and Gaza Strip.

A cloud of black smoke hung over Gaza City, as angry mourners burned tyres in protest.

"Words cannot describe the emotion of anger and hate inside our hearts," said **Hamas** official Ismail Haniyeh, a close associate of Yassin.

Israeli Defence Minister Shaul Mofaz, in turn, pledged "the battle against **Hamas** will continue," suggesting there will be more air strikes and raids.

The United States urged restraint.

At daybreak today, Israeli helicopters fired three missiles as the wheelchair-bound Yassin, his bodyguards and dozens of others left a neighbourhood mosque in Gaza City.

Yassin and seven others were killed, including several bodyguards. Seventeen people were wounded.

The Yassin assassination was seen as an enormous gamble by Israeli Prime Minister Ariel Sharon, who is trying to score a decisive victory against **Hamas** ahead of a possible Israeli withdrawal from Gaza, but risks triggering an escalation in bloodshed.

Mofaz, the Israeli defence minister, said Yassin was the "Palestinian bin Laden," referring to fugitive Saudi terror mastermind Osama bin Laden.

Gideon Meir, an Israeli Foreign Ministry official, said Yassin was directly responsible for the scores of suicide attacks **Hamas** unleashed since 2000.

"He is the one who is sending children and **women** to explode themselves," Meir said.

## HAMAS VOWS BLOODY REVENGE

The Palestinian Authority said in a statement: "Israel has exceeded all red lines with this cheap and dirty crime", and declared three days of mourning.

Flags at Yasser Arafat's headquarters in the West Bank town of Ramallah were lowered to half-staff, and the Palestinian Cabinet was to hold an emergency session later today.

Fearing revenge attacks, Israel clamped a closure on the West Bank and Gaza Strip, barring all Palestinians from entering Israel.

In Nablus about 15,000 people flocked to the city centre.

"This morning, dozens came to us volunteering to be suicide bombers," one masked man said at the rally.

Thousands demonstrated in Jenin and in the West Bank town of Hebron, dozens of Palestinians threw stones at Israeli soldiers, who fired tear gas.

West Bank schools were closed, and a one-day commercial strike was declared.

**Hamas** promised a harsh response.

"Yassin is a man in a nation, and a nation in a man. And the retaliation of this nation will be of the size of this man," said Abdel Aziz Rantisi, a **Hamas** leader in Gaza who escaped an assassination attempt last June.

For the first time, **Hamas** also threatened the United States, saying America's backing of Israel made the assassination possible.

Palestinian militants fired ten home-made rockets toward an Israeli settlement in Gaza. **Hamas** also fired rockets toward the Erez crossing between Gaza and Israel, but there were no reports of injuries.

Israel had tried to kill Yassin in September when a warplane dropped a bomb on a building where **Hamas** leaders were meeting, but Yassin escaped with a small wound to his hand.

Announcing Yassin's death today over mosque loudspeakers, **Hamas** said, "Sharon has opened the gates of hell, and nothing will stop us from cutting off his head."

Later tens of thousands of Palestinians carrying billowing green **Hamas** flags flooded the streets of Gaza City for the funeral procession.

Mourners jostled to touch the flag-draped coffin while two Israeli helicopters flew above. About 2,000 demonstrators gathered outside Arafat's headquarters, screaming for revenge.

The attack also drew criticism in Israel. Opposition leaders and even some members of Sharon's government warned the cycle of violence would increase..

Yassin founded **Hamas** in 1987. He was held in Israeli prisons for several years before being released in 1994.

Israel blamed him for inspiring **Hamas** bombers and attackers.

Comment: Page 6

**Load-Date:** March 22, 2004

## ***Hamas takes aim at Israeli leaders***

The Record (Kitchener-Waterloo, Ontario)

March 25, 2004 Thursday Final Edition

Copyright 2004 Metroland Media Group Ltd

**Section:** FRONT; Pg. A5; NEWS

**Length:** 835 words

**Dateline:** GAZA CITY, GAZA STRIP

### **Body**

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The militant group **Hamas** backed off its initial threats against the United States yesterday, saying that it would focus on attacking Israel, and trying to kill Prime Minister Ariel Sharon, in retaliation for the assassination of its founder in an Israeli missile strike.

The Syrian-based leader of **Hamas**, Khaled Mashaal, addressed mourners in a Gaza City soccer stadium by telephone hookup yesterday, promising victory over Israel and appealing for Palestinian unity.

"Who is America and who is this ugly world and who is Sharon and who is Mofaz?" Mashaal asked in a show of contempt. Shaul Mofaz is Israel's defence minister.

Associated Press

**Hamas** has killed hundreds of Israelis in suicide bombings and other attacks in recent years.

Israel has been on the highest possible alert since killing **Hamas** founder Ahmed Yassin on Monday. Immediately after Yassin's death, the Islamic resistance group made veiled threats to retaliate against the United States.

But Abdel Aziz Rantisi, a hardliner named Tuesday as **Hamas**' new Gaza chief, said the group's militant activities are aimed solely at Israel.

"We are inside Palestinian land and acting only inside Palestinian land," Rantisi told reporters in Gaza. "We are resisting the occupation, nothing else.

"Our resistance will continue just inside our border, here inside our country."

Rantisi also denied reports **Hamas** will now team up with al-Qaida, calling it "Zionist propaganda."

**Hamas**' armed wing issued a statement Monday saying Washington's support of Israel made Yassin's assassination possible.

"All the Muslims of the world will be honoured to join in on the retaliation for this crime," the statement said.

U.S. President George W. Bush said after the statement that the United States takes the threat seriously. On Tuesday, the State Department repeated a longstanding warning urging Americans not to travel to the Gaza Strip.

Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat said yesterday he opposed targeting civilians.

## Hamas takes aim at Israeli leaders

"We are against any attack on civilians, whether they were Israel or Palestinian," he said.

Israel's army chief hinted Tuesday that Israel would put Arafat on its hit-list as well.

**Hamas** said yesterday it was considering targeting Sharon in retaliation for Yassin's killing.

Khaled Mashaal, **Hamas**' overall leader, who is based in Syria, said the group's military wing would have to see whether its capabilities would allow it to kill Sharon.

"I hope that the holy warriors can retaliate against this awful crime by targeting the most prominent Zionist leaders . . . including Sharon," Mashaal said in an interview posted on a **Hamas**-affiliated website.

For its part, Israel has decided to target the entire **Hamas** leadership. Israel says **Hamas** has killed 377 Israelis in hundreds of attacks, including 52 suicide bombings, since the latest Palestinian uprising against the decades-old Israeli occupation began more than three years ago.

Rantisi, who survived an Israeli assassination attempt last June, said yesterday he was not concerned.

"It's death by killing or cancer," said Rantisi, a physician. "If it's cardiac arrest or an Apache (helicopter), I prefer to be killed by an Apache."

Rantisi, 54, has appeared in public frequently since Yassin's death, but always in crowds that deter an attack.

Tens of thousands of Palestinians at a Gaza City soccer stadium cheered the announcement Tuesday that Rantisi had been chosen leader. One by one, senior **Hamas** officials swore loyalty to him.

Rantisi rejects even a temporary suspension of attacks on Israel.

He led about 1,000 people in noon prayers yesterday at the stadium, where **Hamas** has organized mourning ceremonies. As he spoke to reporters afterward, he was surrounded by about 25 youths wearing green **Hamas** bandanas.

Meanwhile, several hundred **women** gathered in a mourning tent near Yassin's home in Gaza City. Many wore **Hamas** headbands, and some wrapped themselves in long pieces of green **Hamas** flags.

"Rantisi, give weapons to the **women**," they chanted.

Israel stepped up security throughout the country, and malls, restaurants and buses have been empty as people stay close to home.

The Israeli military went on the offensive in Gaza and along the Lebanese border to prevent Palestinian attacks. A total of four Palestinian militants were killed in the fighting.

The army said that troops had killed two armed Palestinian militants who had tried to infiltrate the Gaza settlement of Morag late Tuesday. Troops also confiscated a bag of explosives. **Hamas** claimed responsibility for the failed attack.

In the Khan Younis refugee camp, Israeli forces razed four Palestinian farms, partially demolished two houses and destroyed a road linking two parts of the shantytown during an overnight raid, Palestinian officials said. Early yesterday, the troops withdrew from the area.

The Israeli army said it had removed some brush and two abandoned buildings that were used to fire on settlements. It said troops opened fire after being attacked by an anti-tank missile and gunfire. No casualties on either side were reported.

## Graphic

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Photo: Abdel Aziz Rantisi, the new **Hamas** chief in Gaza, says he would rather be killed fighting for the Palestinian cause than die of natural causes.

**Load-Date:** March 25, 2004

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End of Document

## *Israelis kill 14 in strike at Hamas*

The Australian

September 8, 2004 Wednesday All-round Country Edition

Copyright 2004 Nationwide News Pty Limited

**Section:** WORLD; Pg. 11

**Length:** 565 words

**Byline:** Abraham Rabinovich

### **Body**

---

Jerusalem

AT least 14 Palestinians were killed and 45 wounded yesterday when Israeli helicopter gunships, warplanes and tanks attacked a sports field in eastern Gaza used as a training ground by militant group Hamas.

The assault on the outskirts of the Hamas stronghold of Shijaia came a week after the group claimed responsibility for the suicide bombings of two buses in the city of Beersheba that killed 16 Israelis.

"This is an ongoing war," Hamas spokesman Mushir al-Masri said yesterday.  
AFP

"One day for us and one day for them."

The latest deaths take the toll from the September 2000 start of the Palestinian intifada, or uprising, to 4291, including 3277 Palestinians and 943 Israelis.

Palestinian sources said all of yesterday's casualties were Hamas members. A Hamas statement said the sports field was a camp where a group of fighters was training.

Just after midnight, local time, tanks stationed at the Nahal Oz border crossing between Israel and Gaza opened fire on Shijaia, a suburb of Gaza City, and fighter jets and helicopters launched missiles from above.

Dozens of members of Hamas's military wing were reportedly meeting in a building adjoining the field when the attack began. Palestinian sources said helicopter gunships continued to hover over the site and fired additional rockets when Hamas members arrived at the scene.

Crowding the bloodied wards of Gaza's Shifa Hospital, hundreds of Hamas men carried their dead comrades aloft crying "Allahu Akhbar" (God is great) and vowing revenge.

Palestinian Foreign Minister Nabil Shaath condemned the "terrorist attack by Israeli occupation forces".

The precision and timing of the night-time assault reflected the close monitoring of Palestinian militants by Israeli military intelligence.

## Israelis kill 14 in strike at Hamas

In the wake of last week's double suicide bombing, Israeli Prime Minister Ariel Sharon ordered the army to step up its attacks on **Hamas** and to escalate the assassination of its leaders.

The **Hamas** spokesman vowed vengeance. "This ugly Israeli crime will not pass unpunished," he said.

Not long after he spoke, a makeshift rocket fired from **Hamas**'s stronghold in the Gaza Strip landed in the southern Israeli town of Sderot but caused no injuries.

The largest number of Palestinian fatalities from an air attack to date occurred two years ago when an Israeli warplane dropped a one-tonne bomb on a building in Gaza housing a senior **Hamas** field commander, killing him and 14 others, including **women** and children.

Yesterday's attack was on a non-residential target. An Israeli army spokesman said the field in Gaza was used by **Hamas** to train personnel in firing rockets and mortars, hijacking vehicles, and assembling bombs.

Meanwhile, Egypt has reportedly brokered an agreement with **Hamas** and Islamic Jihad under which the militant organisations would refrain from attacks on Israel from the Gaza Strip if Israel implemented Mr Sharon's plan to withdraw from the area next year.

A Palestinian source told Associated Press the organisations agreed violence would cease, and that they would turn their weapons over to the Palestinian Authority three months after Israel's withdrawal. It is not clear, however, whether this agreement is dependent on Israel accepting Egyptian proposals that the Palestinians be permitted to operate their own air and sea ports, something Israel says would lead to uncontrolled import of armaments.

**Load-Date:** September 7, 2004

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End of Document



## *Hamas hurts Palestinian state, spirit*

The Gazette (Montreal, Quebec)

June 20, 2003 Friday Final Edition

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**Section:** Editorial / Op-ed; Pg. A16; Letter

**Length:** 203 words

### **Body**

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**Hamas** is not a semi-benevolent organization whose mission is to alleviate poverty and fight crime (Gazette, June 17, "What is **Hamas**?"). It is a murderous organization that has sent at least 113 suicide bombers into Israel since the Oslo accords were signed (72 since September 2000, not counting the ones who got caught), who have killed 271 civilians and wounded 1,803 men **women** and children. The Gazette's aim is the total annihilation of the state of Israel, not a compromise, not an agreement, not even a ceasefire - nothing short of the removal of Israel from the face of the Earth.

Moreover, **Hamas** also opposes a secular democratic Palestine and has acted in that vein openly and with impunity. No surprise that the first suicide attack after the Aqaba meetings took place in the Erez check point on the day Palestinian labourers were allowed back into Israel. The actions of **Hamas** have hurt the nascent Palestinian nation economically, morally and spiritually.

I wonder if The Gazette would characterize a convicted child molester as an otherwise charitable and kind man. I am appalled that **Hamas** merited such treatment on your otherwise more considered and moderate pages.

Esther Mayer

Dollard des Ormeaux

**Load-Date:** June 20, 2003

## *In Loss of Leaders, Hamas Discovers a Renewed Strength*

The New York Times

April 25, 2004 Sunday

Late Edition - Final

Copyright 2004 The New York Times Company

**Section:** Section 1; Column 3; Foreign Desk; Pg. 6

**Length:** 1324 words

**Byline:** By GREG MYRE

**Dateline:** GAZA STRIP, April 23

### **Body**

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The leaders of Hamas gathered under a tent at a dusty soccer stadium last Sunday, joined by thousands of mourners offering condolences for the group's slain chief in Gaza, Dr. Abdel Aziz Rantisi. When the service ended, the Hamas officials vanished, making perhaps their last joint public appearance for a long time.

Israeli missile strikes that have killed two Hamas leaders in the past month have driven the surviving senior officials deep underground and raised questions about the group's ability to elude Israel's defenses and resume attacks inside Israeli cities.

While Hamas now lacks a high-profile leader here, and is perhaps less potent, there is a flip side. Each Israeli killing only seems to enhance the popularity of Hamas on the street, particularly in its Gaza stronghold, where it draws recruits from a society that is extremely poor and deeply religious.

The outpouring of support during the three-day mourning period that concluded Tuesday demonstrated the broad backing Hamas has gained. Women who were dressed in black from head to toe wrapped the emerald green Hamas headband around their veils. Youths plastered Dr. Rantisi's "martyr poster" on every available flat surface.

The Palestinian Authority, which officially opposes Hamas's bombing campaign, was prominently represented by Gaza's police chief, Ghazi al-Jabali, who was trailed by an entourage of policemen as he exchanged hugs with Hamas figures.

"Hamas may not be able to carry out a large number of attacks right now, and they have been shaken by the loss of their leaders," said Ziad Abu Amr, a moderate Palestinian legislator and a former cabinet member who has had broad political contact with Hamas. "But this is a group that enjoys an extensive presence here. It is not easy to dismantle Hamas."

One public opinion survey released this week found that for the first time, Hamas outpolled the long dominant Fatah movement, headed by the Palestinian leader, Yasir Arafat.

Thirty-one percent said they would now vote for Hamas in an election, compared with 27 percent for Al Fatah. The poll, conducted by the Palestinian Center for Research and Cultural Dialogue, surveyed 506 Palestinians in the West Bank and Gaza and said it had a margin of error of 3.5 percentage points.

## In Loss of Leaders, Hamas Discovers a Renewed Strength

The survey was taken after the March 22 killing of the Hamas founder, Sheik Ahmed Yassin, and Hamas appeared to be riding a wave of sympathy that might not last. Still, support for Hamas has grown steadily during the three-and-a-half years of the current Palestinian uprising.

In opening the campaign to kill Hamas leaders, Israel's prime minister, Ariel Sharon, has changed the rules of battle, and Hamas is changing the way it operates.

Hamas has carried out the greatest number of suicide bombings since the Palestinian uprising began in September 2000. While the bombmakers and the bombers operated from the West Bank with the utmost secrecy, Hamas's top leaders have been prominent public figures in Gaza. Sheik Yassin and Dr. Rantisi were fixtures at Hamas rallies.

The Israeli military has waged a concerted campaign that has smashed many Hamas cells in the West Bank, but the public leaders in Gaza appeared to be off limits.

This seeming immunity ended abruptly last summer, and since then Israel has killed three senior leaders and wounded one more. Mr. Sharon says any Palestinian figure linked to violence could be singled out by Israel. On Friday, he said he no longer felt bound by a pledge he had made to President Bush not to harm Mr. Arafat.

Hamas has vowed to increase its attacks, but so far the opposite has happened. The group has been responsible for more than 50 suicide bombings since 2000, but the pace has slowed since last summer.

The combative Dr. Rantisi spent most of his time in hiding during the four weeks he served as Hamas's leader. On the day of his death, April 17, he made a rare visit to see his family at their modest home in a typical Gaza City neighborhood. He arrived before dawn and stayed until the evening. He was killed shortly after he left the house in his car, according to family members.

The following day Hamas said it had chosen a successor, but refused to divulge his name out of concern he would be next on Israel's hit list. In Gaza, there are rumors that the group has settled for a collective leadership, at least temporarily.

Despite the threats, the group has carried out just one suicide bombing, killing one Israeli policeman, since Sheik Yassin's death nearly five weeks ago.

If Hamas can no longer carry out regular large-scale attacks against Israel, its reputation could suffer among Palestinians, who remain largely supportive of suicide bombings. For now, many Palestinians appear patient, believing Hamas needs time to prepare for a major attack.

Ahmed Baher, one of the senior Hamas leaders, said the timing was not important. "Look around and see all these people who are supporting our choice of holy war and resistance," Mr. Baher said at the mourning service.

Israel says Hamas and the other Palestinian factions are still trying to attack daily, but the security forces have become much more effective in thwarting the bombers.

The security forces are now stopping 80 percent to 90 percent of Palestinian attacks, compared with 50 percent or fewer in the early days of the Palestinian uprising, according to Ariel Merari, a counterterrorism expert at Tel Aviv University.

"The capabilities of these groups have been reduced," said Eli Karmon, an official at the private International Policy Institute for Counter-Terrorism, outside Tel Aviv. "Many of the midlevel and senior-level operatives have been arrested or killed."

Hamas is still capable of a "big operation," Mr. Karmon said, "but not the same number of operations, at the same tempo, as before."

## In Loss of Leaders, Hamas Discovers a Renewed Strength

With Hamas's public profile reduced in Gaza, greater attention has been placed on the group's overall leader, Khaled Mashaal, who is based in Syria. Mr. Mashaal, considered a hard-liner within the group, survived a botched assassination attempt by Israeli agents in Amman, Jordan, in 1997. Israel says he could be a target again.

Hamas has often said its fight is only with Israel and has not carried out attacks elsewhere. But the group says the Bush administration's strong support for Israel has made it complicit in the killing of Hamas leaders. The group has hinted that the United States could become a target.

Adopting such a strategy could be extremely risky.

Hamas has raised large sums of money from Arab countries, particularly those in the Persian Gulf, as well as in Europe and the United States. Staging attacks against American targets in any of those places could bring a backlash, making it more difficult to operate abroad.

Israel and the United States have long regarded Hamas as a terrorist organization, and last year the European Union added all wings of Hamas to its list of terror groups.

The group's bombing campaign is not regarded as hugely expensive. But Hamas does need tens of millions of dollars annually to maintain its large network of social programs, which include schools and medical clinics. This work bolsters Hamas in the eyes of many Palestinians, who see the group as dedicated to the poor, while the Palestinian Authority, led by Mr. Arafat, is widely viewed as corrupt and inept.

Hamas is also facing the question of how to respond to the prospect of an Israeli withdrawal from Gaza.

The group already is claiming credit, saying its attacks have made it too costly for Israel to keep its soldiers and settlers in Gaza.

Hamas has always refused to take part in the Palestinian Authority, but now says it is considering helping run Gaza if the Israelis depart.

"We want a real role in making decisions," said Ismail Haniya, another senior Hamas leader in Gaza. Hamas's influence, he said, "should reflect the balance of power that has come about as a result of our resistance to Israel."

<http://www.nytimes.com>

## Graphic

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Photo: Rival Palestinian groups met last week in Gaza to mourn Dr. Abdel Aziz Rantisi, the Hamas leader killed by Israel. Mohammed al-Hindi, center, and Nafiz Azim, right, of Islamic Jihad, greeted Hamas's Ismael Hania. (Photo by Agence France-Presse--Getty Images)

**Load-Date:** April 25, 2004

## *Hamas is target of Israeli sweep*

The International Herald Tribune

June 25, 2003 Wednesday

Copyright 2003 International Herald Tribune

**Section:** NEWS; Pg. 1

**Length:** 935 words

**Byline:** James Bennet

**Dateline:** RAMALLAH, West Bank:

### **Body**

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The Israeli Army seized more than 150 Palestinians in the West Bank on Tuesday, searching for militants from Hamas in what Israel called a boost to a new peace plan and Palestinians called an attempt to destroy cease-fire talks with the Islamist group.

Hamas leaders said they would not halt the violence against Israel if the arrests continued. But officials in the government of Mahmoud Abbas, the Palestinian prime minister, said the new Israeli action might delay but would not prevent a cease-fire.

The Israeli Army said its troops made more than 130 of the arrests in a predawn sweep through the southern West Bank city of Hebron, which Israel called the main source now of Hamas terrorism in the West Bank. Palestinians said that more than 200 people, including women and elderly men related to known Hamas militants, were caught in the Israeli raid, as troops accompanied by dogs and backed up by helicopters moved house to house through darkened streets.

The New York Times

Soldiers handcuffed and blindfolded Palestinians, then brought them to intelligence officers for interrogation. There were no gunfights, and no one was injured, the army said.

"The main element in this prevention was to disrupt any plans that they have to carry out terrorist attacks," said Raanan Gissin, a spokesman for Prime Minister Ariel Sharon of Israel. Israeli officials predicted that the action would push Hamas to agree to a cease-fire.

But Mahmoud Zahar, a Hamas leader in the Gaza Strip, said of a possible truce, "How can we afford to go forward with this decision while the Israelis are arresting Hamas people in Hebron?" He said that Hamas risked looking weak, as though it were buckling to Israeli pressure.

Yet a top Hamas leader, Khaled Mashal, was in Cairo on Tuesday as Egyptian officials continued pressing for a truce, Palestinian officials said.

Qadoura Fares, a Palestinian legislator involved in talks last week with Mashal in Damascus, predicted that Hamas would not abandon a possible truce because of the arrests, which he called a deliberate provocation. "The Palestinian factions now understand the Israeli tactics," he said.

## Hamas is target of Israeli sweep

Nabil Shaath, the Palestinian foreign minister, said in an interview in Ramallah that he expected Hamas to agree to a temporary cease-fire soon.

Palestinian and Israeli officials say they are close to agreement on a plan to return policing responsibility for the West Bank city of Bethlehem and parts of the Gaza Strip to Palestinian security forces, as part of a new international peace plan known as the road map.

Shaath said that, as part of the emerging agreement, Israel has said it would take no military action in other areas provided the Palestinian cease-fire held. He said that Israel would refrain from its targeted killings of accused terrorists, unless it felt threatened by a "ticking bomb." In such cases, he said, Israel had agreed to inform American monitors and Palestinian security officials before taking action.

"This is the first time Israel is committed to a mutual and parallel cessation of violence," he said, calling the provision on targeted killings the key to Hamas support for a cease-fire.

Gissin did not confirm or deny Shaath's assertions, saying that he would not discuss the details of the negotiations. But he said that if Israel could trust the Palestinian security forces to act against terrorism, then it would not have to act itself.

"If indeed we can trust them, then we won't take any action," he said. "We don't want to kill people, we want to prevent a terrorist attack."

He said Israel could not now suspend targeted killings. "We need that option because we can't afford and neither can the Palestinians a major terrorist attack," he said.

Palestinians call these killings "assassinations," and they say that they provoke attacks rather than prevent them.

Israeli officials had repeatedly rejected the idea of an intra-Palestinian truce, saying that Abbas needed to act against Hamas, arresting its members and seizing its weapons. They had said a truce would give Hamas time to rearm.

But Palestinian officials say the Bush administration has accepted their argument that Abbas is not yet politically strong enough to risk civil conflict with Hamas, and Israeli officials this week have been less dismissive of a cease-fire. Gissin said that if Abbas was planning to use two to three weeks of a cease-fire to rebuild security forces in preparation for taking on Hamas, that would advance the peace efforts.

But, he said of Hamas, "If they are rebuilding under the eyes of the Palestinian Authority, in a month's time we'll be facing a new situation."

Israeli officials are concerned that some Palestinian violence, including isolated sniper attacks on Israeli settlers driving West Bank roads, could continue after a cease-fire, costing Israeli lives but not rising past a threshold that American monitors would judge as meriting an Israeli military response.

"You could drag Israel to conduct negotiations under fire," one Israeli official said. Through more than two years of conflict, Sharon has refused to negotiate if Palestinian violence continued.

Shaath and other Palestinian officials credited U.S. pressure on Hamas sponsors in Iran and Syria, as well as direct Saudi and Egyptian pressure on Hamas, with persuading the militant group to move toward a truce. Shaath described a Hamas cease-fire as critical to an agreement with the Israelis on security control, and the agreement with the Israelis as critical to a cease-fire.

"This thing is so dynamically balanced that if any party stops implementing it, it will fall apart," Shaath said.

## Hamas is target of Israeli sweep

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End of Document

## *Hamas vows revenge on Israel*

The Atlanta Journal-Constitution

April 19, 2004 Monday

Home Edition

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### **The Atlanta Journal-Constitution**

**Section:** News;

**Length:** 1133 words

**Byline:** CRAIG NELSON, MARGARET COKER

## **Body**

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Gaza City, Gaza Strip --- Tens of thousands of Palestinians vowed revenge against Israel on Sunday as the body of **Hamas** leader Abdel Aziz Rantisi, assassinated by an Israeli missile strike a day earlier, was carried through the streets of Gaza City to a sandy grave in Martyrs' Cemetery.

Meanwhile, Israeli Prime Minister Ariel Sharon, reaffirming his government's determination to hunt down Palestinian militants, won the support of two key members of his right-wing Likud Party for an upcoming party referendum on his plan to pull out Jewish settlers and some Israeli soldiers from the Gaza Strip.

During a regular Sunday meeting of his Cabinet, Sharon praised his security forces for Saturday's missile strike and said Israel would relentlessly pursue and kill any Palestinians in the Gaza Strip it deemed dangerous before any withdrawal from the narrow strip of seaside land that is home to 1.2 million Palestinians. He told Cabinet members that the military campaign was half of a two-track policy.

For the Journal-Constitution

"The policy is an effort on the one hand to progress on the diplomatic process and on the other to harm the terror organizations and those who lead them," he said.

Israel's successful helicopter missile strike against Rantisi --- the second assassination of a top **Hamas** leader in less than a month --- underlined its determination to eliminate the leadership of Palestinian militant groups by any means necessary. The message apparently was received by **Hamas**, which secretly appointed Rantisi's successor early Sunday, but refused to reveal his identity.

Hours later, thousands of mourners --- some estimates said hundreds of thousands --- jostled with each other to touch the remains of Rantisi as his funeral cortege wound through Gaza's streets on the way to the cemetery. There, he was buried just yards away from the grave of Sheik Ahmed Yassin, the founder and spiritual leader of **Hamas** who was killed in an Israeli helicopter strike on March 22.



## Hamas vows revenge on Israel

Masked militants fired volleys into the air and occasionally set off hand grenades, while some 2,000 female followers of Hamas, covered head-to-toe in the traditional black abaya, marched in formation separately from the men, many waving the green flag of Hamas. Meanwhile, teenage boys wielding cans of spray paint added Rantisi's name on cement walls alongside that of last month's martyr, Yassin.

'100 unique retaliations'

As they did after Yassin's assassination, Hamas faithful vowed revenge, although to date no massive retaliation for the killing of the revered Yassin has occurred.

"Our guns are aimed at the Israelis. Rantisi and Yassin have the same place in our hearts. We have principles. We have methods. We have Islam," said Abu Anas, 38, as Rantisi's body, wrapped except for his head in Hamas's green flag, was borne past on the shoulders of the group's heaving, sweating followers.

Hamas posted a statement on its Web site pledging "100 unique retaliations" that will rock Israel. The group, which has claimed responsibility for most of the suicide bombings that have terrorized Israelis in the past 3 1/2 years, said it had declared a state of emergency in the Palestinian territories of the West Bank and Gaza Strip until vengeance was achieved.

"Yesterday they said that they killed Rantisi to weaken Hamas. They are dreaming. Every time a martyr falls, Hamas is strengthened," Ismail Haniyeh, a Hamas leader, told thousands of mourners gathered Sunday at Gaza City's largest mosque. "Hamas might have a crisis at hand after losing its leaders, but it will not be defeated."

The Israeli military has not disclosed whether the missile that tore open the white sedan carrying the 56-year-old pediatrician and two others Saturday evening was guided by laser, an unmanned drone or by the intercepted signal of a mobile phone.

Whatever the case, Rantisi initially survived the missile strike on Gaza City's al-Labidi Street, according to Saud Abu Awad, 54, who said he and a neighbor reached the mangled car first. "Leave me. Take care of the other two guys," Awad quoted Rantisi as saying. The Hamas leader died five minutes after arriving at a local hospital, however.

In Washington, Bush's national security adviser, Condoleezza Rice, denied that the president had approved the killing of Rantisi during his White House meeting with Sharon several days earlier. Appearing on ABC News, she repeated past administration statements that Israel has the right to defend itself, but urged Israel to "take into consideration the consequences of anything that it does."

Reaction was tougher elsewhere. British Foreign Secretary Jack Straw condemned the killing as "unlawful, unjustified and counterproductive." U.N. Secretary-General Kofi Annan also condemned it as illegal.

Israeli officials defended the killing, however, saying it was an act of self-defense. They accused Rantisi of planning a large attack on Israel to retaliate for Yassin's killing. Slaying someone who poses an imminent threat is self-defense, not assassination, Israel has argued.

Political bargains made

Domestic political considerations also appeared to play an important role in the targeting of Rantisi.

Sharon, who has been battling an unruly Likud Party faction over the Gaza plan with which he hopes to crown his political career, received accolades from his Cabinet on Sunday morning for his tough stance against Hamas. He also received praise for the guarantees he secured last week from President Bush --- specifically, support for six large Jewish settlement blocs in the West Bank remaining in Israeli hands.

Both of these political developments played a role in persuading two key Likud Party insiders, Finance Minister Benjamin Netanyahu and Education Minister Limor Livnat, to change their minds about the Gaza withdrawal plan, the pair said Sunday.

## Hamas vows revenge on Israel

Sharon told his Cabinet that no withdrawal would occur until the fence Israel is building to separate Palestinians from Israelis on the West Bank is completed, a key demand by Netanyahu.

Livnat said she was assured by Dov Weisglass, Sharon's chief of staff, that the West Bank Jewish settlement of Ariel would remain within the security barrier under construction. She also said Weisglass reassured her that there would be no Israeli withdrawal from the Gaza Strip before the fence is complete, and major settlement blocs will expand to accommodate natural population growth.

Livnat said on Israeli Army Radio that she was told that the security fence will be built before any withdrawal takes place and will surround the settlements of Ariel, Maale Adumim and Emanuel. According to the understandings with the Americans, Livnat added, the large settlement blocs --- including Gush Etzion, Maale Adumim and Ariel --- would not be included in any future negotiations with the Palestinians.

## Graphic

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Photo: Palestinians in southern Lebanon carry a photo of Abdel Aziz Rantisi, the second **Hamas** chief slain in a month. / MOHAMAD ZAATARI / Associated Press

**Load-Date:** April 19, 2004

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## *Vows of revenge - Hamas's reply to killing*

The Daily Telegraph (Sydney, Australia)

April 19, 2004 Monday

Copyright 2004 Nationwide News Pty Limited

**Section:** WORLD-BIOG- ABDEL-AZIZ AL-RANTISSITABLE; Pg. 24

**Length:** 485 words

**Byline:** IBRAHIM BARZAK

### **Body**

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HUNDREDS of thousands of Palestinians calling for revenge thronged the streets of Gaza City yesterday during the funeral for slain **Hamas** leader Abdel-Aziz al-Rantissi.

Israel killed Rantissi and two of his bodyguards on Saturday in an air strike on his car as it drove near his house in the Sheik Radwan neighbourhood in Gaza.

"Yesterday they said that they killed Rantissi to weaken **Hamas**. They are dreaming. Every time a martyr falls, **Hamas** is strengthened," Ismail Haniyeh, a **Hamas** leader, told more than 70,000 mourners at the city's largest mosque.

MATP

"**Hamas** might have a crisis at hand after losing its leaders but it will not be defeated."

**Hamas** supporters chanting "God is great" and "revenge, revenge" threw flowers at the three men's stretchers as they were carried through the streets in a funeral procession.

The number of mourners approached several hundred thousand, more than attended the funeral last month of Sheikh Ahmed Yassin, **Hamas** co-founder.

However, Israel had closed two key checkpoints at the time of Yassin's funeral, cutting Gaza in three and preventing many of Gaza's 1.3 million people from attending.

"You can see [the future of] the movement in the sea of people here today," said Mahmoud Zahar, who had been Rantissi's deputy.

During the funeral procession through the streets, Rantissi was covered in a green **Hamas** flag with his face exposed and a green **Hamas** headband around his forehead.

His bodyguards, who were badly mangled in the explosion, were completely covered by green flags.

About 200 armed **Hamas** militants lined both sides of the road and gave the bodies a military salute as they approached Rantissi's house.

Outside the house, a large green and blue mourning tent was set up and his brothers and children stood nearby greeting mourners.

## Vows of revenge - Hamas's reply to killing

Armed men fired into the air and many in the gathered crowd raised their fists in anger. Women threw candy and flowers to the crowd.

Mourners carried Hamas flags and pictures of Rantissi. One picture showed Rantissi and Yassin sitting together and laughing. Loudspeakers blasted Rantissi's former speeches.

"You got what you've always dreamed of Abu Mohammed, you won," read graffiti on a nearby wall, referring to Rantissi by his nickname.

Quotes from Rantissi covered the wall of his house and green Hamas flags and black mourning flags hung from nearby homes.

Marked for death

\* Co-founder of Hamas in 1987, AbdulAziz al-Rantissi was named the group's leader after Israel's killing of Ahmed Yassin on March 22

\* An Egyptian-trained paediatrician, he long acted as Hamas spokesman before succeeding Mr Yassin

\* Jailed off and on for years by Israel, Mr Rantissi was among 415 men associated with Hamas and Islamic Jihad expelled to southern Lebanon in 1992. Facing international pressure, Israel allowed them to return

\* In June 2003 MrRantissi and his teenage son were wounded in a helicopter missile strike on his car in Gaza City

**Load-Date:** April 18, 2004

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## *Defining Hamas: Roots in Charity and Branches of Violence*

The New York Times  
June 16, 2003 Monday  
Late Edition - Final

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**Section:** Section A; Column 2; Foreign Desk; Pg. 8

**Length:** 1496 words

**Byline:** By IAN FISHER

**Dateline:** GAZA, June 15

### **Body**

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To most Israelis, Hamas is a terrorist group and little more, the core of Palestinian hatred that explodes against Israeli civilians who are innocently shopping or riding on buses. When talk of any peace accord nears, Hamas advocates the ideological extreme: no compromise on a Palestinian state, based on Islam, that stretches from the Mediterranean east to the Jordan River. It talks often of driving all Jews from the land.

But to a Palestinian brother and sister here who are raising the four children of another brother who was killed in a construction accident in 1997, Hamas is a very practically minded savior. It pays for the children's school, transportation, clothing, even food.

"I am so happy Hamas is taking care of them," said the brother, Abu Shaher Safdi, 26, a tailor. "There is no way I could afford it now."

Since Hamas was founded in 1987 during the first Palestinian uprising, these have been the group's pillars: religion, charity and the fight against Israel. It is zealous on all three fronts, and that makes it a difficult foe, not easy to "deal harshly with," as President Bush urged today. Hamas itself, the Arabic acronym for Islamic Resistance Movement, means "zeal" or "bravery."

The difficulty, many experts say, is the acceptance of Hamas by ordinary Palestinians, an acceptance that has grown over 32 months of renewed violence here, allowing Hamas to rival more mainstream political groups like Yasir Arafat's Fatah movement.

There is no agreement among Palestinians on suicide bombing, and many do not want an Islamic state either. But still Hamas has gained currency as a serious alternative to Mr. Arafat's Palestinian Authority: better organized, less corrupt and more effective against what they see as Israeli aggression.

"Hamas is not some dark, shadowy organization in a corner," said Magnus Ranstorp, a Hamas expert at the University of St. Andrews in Scotland. "They are part of Palestinian society."

But many Palestinians are also exhausted by this conflict. The question now is whether Hamas, itself under much pressure here and in strongholds like Syria and Lebanon, is prepared to act on that and to agree to a cease-fire against Israel that would make room for the new peace plan pushed by the Bush administration.

## Defining Hamas: Roots in Charity and Branches of Violence

For several days, this looked unlikely: Following the killing a week ago of five Israeli soldiers by Hamas, which had just rejected the peace plan, Israel tried to kill a top Hamas leader, Dr. Abdel Aziz Rantisi.

Hamas struck back with a suicide bombing in which 17 Israelis were killed. After that, Israel and Hamas vowed all-out war. In a storm of bombs, bullets and missiles, about 60 Israelis and Palestinians died.

But this weekend, both sides crept back from the edge. As American monitors arrived and the Bush administration ratcheted up pressure on Arab governments to help rein in Hamas, Israel proposed halting its strikes on Hamas to allow the Palestinian Authority to renew cease-fire talks with the group.

Hamas, which had pulled out of the talks a week and a half ago, said it was ready to begin negotiations again. Today it met with an Egyptian delegation, and on Monday it may meet with the new Palestinian prime minister, Mahmoud Abbas.

What Hamas is willing to accept is not likely to please Israel's hard-line prime minister, Ariel Sharon. Mr. Rantisi, recovering from wounds, said today that Hamas would halt suicide bombings inside Israel, but with conditions that included a halt to actions directed against Hamas. He said the group would not, however, stop its attacks on Israeli soldiers or Jewish settlers in the West Bank and Gaza.

"We have an initiative," Mr. Rantisi said in an interview with an Arab journalist working for The New York Times. "We will avoid attacking Israeli civilians as long as Israelis stop killing our children, our women and stop destroying our houses."

Whether Hamas is actually willing to honor a cease-fire that might give the peace plan a chance goes to the very heart of what Hamas is.

Many Israelis believe that Hamas would scuttle any peace plan. Its commitment to military action, suicide attacks and to one Palestinian state on land that includes Israel, they argue, makes it impossible for the group to accept one state for Israelis, one for Palestinians. In 1997, it was added to the American list of terrorist organizations.

But Dr. Ziad Abu Amr, the Palestinian minister of culture in charge of negotiations with Hamas, said today that he believed that was a misreading of Hamas's roots. He noted that Hamas rose from the Muslim Brotherhood, which he said compromised and worked within mainstream politics while adhering to its long-term goals.

"Let's remember the history of Hamas and the history of its mother organization," he said. "Violence is a tactic. We had flare-ups, and we had periods of attacks and counterattacks. But they can refrain from these suicide attacks and other attacks if there is an alternative."

The roots of Hamas begin in the person of Sheik Ahmed Yassin, who was active in Muslim Brotherhood politics in Gaza and established a social welfare group.

In 1987, when Palestinians rose up against the Israeli military occupation, he founded Hamas.

The group's popularity stemmed in part from the absence of the P.L.O., whose leaders were exiled in 1982. Some experts contend that Israel encouraged the development of Hamas indirectly as a way to weaken Mr. Arafat's Fatah party.

"The intention at the time was to try to stop the increasing power of Fatah," said Yohanan Tzoref of the International Policy Institute for Counter-Terrorism in Israel.

From demonstrations against Israeli soldiers, the resistance grew more severe: Hamas members kidnapped and killed Israeli soldiers, engaged in battles with P.L.O. members and turned to suicide bombing as a tactic.

Mr. Arafat began a campaign to rein in Hamas, and had some success, but then Hamas became more active during the second Palestinian uprising, which began in 2000. Since then, Hamas has carried out wave after wave of suicide attacks, gaining much support among ordinary Palestinians as the group most willing to resist Israel.

## Defining Hamas: Roots in Charity and Branches of Violence

But in these three years, the lives of Palestinians have gotten much worse. This has led to some rethinking by many Palestinians about the wisdom of suicide attacks.

"The suicide attacks have been very, very damaging to us," said Dr. Haider Abdel-Shafi, once a top P.L.O. negotiator. "They deprived us of the sympathy of the world."

Still, Dr. Shafi said he believed that Hamas had developed organizationally to the point that it could replace the Palestinian Authority, though he added that most Palestinians could not, in the end, subscribe to its militant doctrine.

"At least they are more consistent in their attitude," he said. "They are more organized than the authority. They have to be looked at as an alternative."

Dr. Shafi and Dr. Abu Amr said the important thing in these next delicate days of the peace efforts would be to assure Hamas that it would have a role in any new Palestinian order. Then, they said, Hamas could be persuaded to renounce violence.

The problem in this for many Israelis is that they believe such a renunciation would probably be only a pause on the way to Hamas's ultimate goal.

Dr. Ranstorp said that the group believed that history would eventually reward it with a Palestinian, Islamic state on all the land that is now Israel.

"When I interviewed over 100 Hamas activists and all leadership, I was quite astonished because everyone told me that an Islamic state would begin about the years 2022 or 2023," he said. "I asked them, 'What are the conditions?' They said: 'Life after Yasir Arafat. Islamic revolution in Jordan and Egypt. Time and demography are on our side.' "

## CHRONOLOGY

### Important Dates in Hamas History

1987 -- Hamas, an acronym for the Islamic Resistance Movement, is founded by Muslim Brotherhood members during the first intifada, or uprising, against the Israeli military presence in the West Bank and Gaza.

1988-92 -- Period known as the "war of knives." Hamas members kill members of the Palestine Liberation Organization, as well as several Israeli soldiers.

1989 -- Israel arrests Hamas's spiritual leader, Sheik Ahmed Yassin.

1991-92 -- Hamas kidnaps several Israeli soldiers, leading to expulsion of several leaders to Lebanon. Contact with Hezbollah increases Hamas's knowledge of explosives.

1996 -- Israelis kill Yihye Ayash, Hamas leader known as "the Engineer." Hamas responds with spate of suicide bombings that help elect a Likud prime minister, Benjamin Netanyahu, who promises to fight terror groups. Yasir Arafat, the Palestinian leader, begins a major crackdown on Hamas leadership.

1997 -- Sheik Yassin is released from prison.

## Defining Hamas: Roots in Charity and Branches of Violence

2000 -- Second intifada begins. Support for Hamas grows, especially in Gaza, based on its willingness to fight Israel.

2001 -- Clashes between Palestinian Authority and Hamas.

2003 -- Of nearly 100 suicide attacks since 2000, Hamas has carried out the greatest number.

<http://www.nytimes.com>

## Graphic

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Photo: In Gaza City yesterday, children played beneath graffiti espousing support for Hamas, which has come under increasing fire for its suicide attacks. (Tyler Hicks/The New York Times)

**Load-Date:** June 16, 2003

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## *Israel threatens to kill Hamas founder;*

Morning Star

January 17, 2004

Copyright 2004 People's Press Printing Society Ltd

**Section:** Pg. 3

**Length:** 388 words

**Byline:** by Our Foreign Desk

### **Body**

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ISRAEL vowed yesterday to hunt down and kill Hamas founder Sheik Ahmed Yassin in retaliation for Wednesday's deadly attack on Israeli border guards.

Sheik Yassin, who is a quadriplegic, did not try to hide yesterday, making his way to a Gaza City mosque near his home in a wheelchair pushed by an assistant.

"We do not fear the threat of death, " he said outside the mosque. "We will not bow to pressure and resistance will continue until the occupation is destroyed."

Sheik Yassin said that he was not personally involved in planning attacks, denying allegations by Israeli security officials that he had approved Wednesday's bombing in which a female suicide bomber killed four Israelis at the Erez crossing into Israel.

The Israeli officials also said that Sheik Yassin had issued a religious ruling allowing women to become bombers, after Hamas initially recruited only male assailants.

Israeli security officials met on Wednesday at the Defence Ministry to weigh a response to the latest Hamas bombing.

One official said that targeted killings of senior Hamas members are likely to resume after a lull of several months.

Deputy Defence Minister Zeev Boim said that the organisation's founder is a key target.

"Sheik Yassin is marked for death and he should hide himself deep underground where he won't know the difference between day and night. And we will find him in the tunnels, and we will eliminate him, " Mr Boim said on Israeli Army Radio.

However, several security officials said that Sheik Yassin had not been mentioned specifically in the discussions at the Defence Ministry.

Killing the Hamas founder would require approval by Prime Minister Ariel Sharon, the officials said.

An Israeli strike against Sheik Yassin, who is also revered by Palestinians who do not support Hamas, would probably provoke revenge bombings.

Israel threatens to kill Hamas founder;

Sheik Yassin already dodged one Israeli attempt to kill him in September. A warplane dropped a 550-pound bomb on a building where he and other **Hamas** leaders were meeting, but he escaped with just a small wound to his hand.

After several other high-profile but ineffective attacks against Palestinian leaders in the summer, Israel scaled back its attacks in concert with a significant drop in **Hamas** bombings.

However, there was never evidence of even an unspoken agreement between the two enemies.

## Graphic

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APPRECIATION: Palestinian children at a ceremony yesterday in honour of British peace activist Thomas Hurndall at the Gaza site where he was shot.

**Load-Date:** March 1, 2004

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End of Document

## **No compromise on this: Hamas must be stopped**

Chicago Daily Herald

June 20, 2003, Friday Cook,Lake,D1,D2,D4,F1,F2,F3,McHenry

Copyright 2003 Paddock Publications, Inc.

**Section:** NEWS;; An Israeli perspective;

**Length:** 581 words

**Byline:** Chaya Gil

### **Body**

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It didn't take very long for Israel and the Palestinians to reach a critical juncture in the implementation of the "road map" for peace. It may be make or break time.

The issue is Hamas, the Gaza-based terrorist group that seeks to create a fundamentalist Islamic state in place of Israel. As of now, Hamas has refused to accept a cease-fire pushed by Palestinian Prime Minister Mahmoud Abbas and Egypt. Why? "Cease-fire means surrender to occupation," one Hamas leader said.

As I have pointed out previously, when Hamas talks of the "occupation," it means the entire state of Israel, not just land captured by Israel in the 1967 Six-Day War.

At long last, the media spotlight is now shining on the mysterious, nefarious Hamas. Israel, of course, has been calling for the Palestinian Authority to take action for some time, to no avail. Now, however, it appears that the international community, most specifically the United States, realizes it can no longer allow Hamas to remain an obstacle to peace.

Founded in 1988, Hamas, an Arabic acronym for Islamic Resistance Movement, runs schools, medical clinics and other assistance to Palestinians in need. It is best known, however, for underwriting, organizing and promoting suicide bombers as well as others seeking to kill Israelis and derail the peace process.

The Hamas position should surprise no one. It was spelled out in its founding charter. "There is no solution for the Palestinian question except through Jihad (holy war). Initiatives, proposals and international conferences are all a waste of time and vain endeavors."

Even if a temporary truce were to be hammered out, Hamas maintains it would not apply to Israeli civilians and soldiers in the West Bank and Gaza. Making such a "truce" even more impractical, Hamas demands an end to Israeli attacks on its leadership and the release of Hamas killers from Israeli jails.

Thus, Israel is asked to abide by a temporary cease-fire and stop targeting Hamas leaders, while Hamas can continue to kill civilians, men, women and children, as long as they are on the "wrong" side of a disputed border. Such immoral semantic games get no support whatsoever among Israelis, no matter their political leanings.

Further complicating the issue is Prime Minister Abbas' refusal to use force to crack down on Hamas and other terrorist groups, not even groups like Al-Aksa Martyrs Brigade that are part of his own political party.

## No compromise on this: Hamas must be stopped

With Hamas, there can be no accommodation. Its funding must be cut off, its media shut off, its operatives jailed, its training bases destroyed. The Bush administration has signaled that any truce with Hamas be a start, not an end. "(A) cease-fire as a step along the way is a good one, but ultimately, it has to lead to that kind of dismantlement that the president talked about, denying them the ability to carry out attacks, because Hamas is clearly an obstacle to peace."

One Israeli diplomat summed up the feeling of most citizens. "We are not holding our breath for Hamas; they are not a peace partner. However, we have a great interest in seeing that the Palestinian Authority moves ahead and succeeds."

Israel hopes that in Abbas it has found a partner for peace. It is up to his Palestinian Authority whether the road map succeeds or fails. The international community's demand of him is clear - fight terror within your own ranks or lose support. The Palestinian Authority can't be a credible peace partner with words alone. It must act.

**Load-Date:** June 25, 2003

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End of Document

## ***Hamas founder vows to continue attacks***

The Toronto Star  
January 17, 2004 Saturday  
Ontario Edition

Copyright 2004 Toronto Star Newspapers, Ltd.

**Section:** NEWS; Pg. A16

**Length:** 666 words

**Byline:** Karin Laub, Associated Press

**Highlight:** Ignores Israel's 'marked for death' warning Threats follow bombing at Gaza checkpoint

### **Body**

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**Hamas** founder Ahmed Yassin brushed off warnings by a top Israeli official that he is "marked for death" and, in a defiant appearance yesterday at a Gaza City mosque, said his Islamic militant group will continue to attack Israelis.

The exchange of threats following a deadly **Hamas** bombing this week further spoiled chances for a ceasefire, the starting point for a U.S.-backed peace plan.

Israeli security officials said targeted killings of senior **Hamas** members would likely resume after Wednesday's bombing killed four Israeli border guards at the Erez crossing between Gaza and Israel. Pinpointed Israeli strikes on Palestinian militants have triggered revenge bombings before.

Deputy Defence Minister Zeev Boim initially told Israel Army Radio that Yassin would be targeted, the first time an Israeli official was so specific.

"Sheik Yassin is marked for death, and he should hide himself deep underground where he won't know the difference between day and night. And we will find him in the tunnels, and we will eliminate him," Boim said.

But Boim later said high-level defence ministry discussions on a response to the Erez bombing did not include a specific decision to kill Yassin.

Security officials said killing Yassin would require approval from Israeli Prime Minister Ariel Sharon. "We never comment on specific cases," Sharon adviser Raanan Gissin said.

In the summer, Israel unleashed several air strikes against leading **Hamas** figures, killing one but missing three others, including Yassin, 69, who escaped the bombing of a Gaza City building in September with minor injuries. The **Hamas** founder is a quadriplegic from a childhood sporting accident.

An Israeli strike against Yassin would likely provoke bloody **Hamas** attacks and boost support for the group, said Palestinian legislator Hanan Ashrawi. "If they target **Hamas** leaders, I don't think anybody can control the (**Hamas**) military wing," she said.

In Washington, U.S. State Department spokesman Richard Boucher reiterated U.S. policy against targeted assassinations and criticized **Hamas** and other groups for violent acts that make peacemaking more elusive.

## Hamas founder vows to continue attacks

The European Union also spoke out against any plan to kill Yassin as counterproductive to peace efforts.

Israeli security officials said Yassin personally approved Wednesday's bombing and issued a religious ruling allowing women to carry out such attacks. Hamas recruited a 22-year-old woman for the Erez attack, a first for the fundamentalist group.

Appearing at a Gaza City mosque for Friday noon prayers, part of his weekly routine, Yassin denied he was involved in planning attacks.

"We do not fear the threat of death," he told reporters outside the mosque, sitting in his wheelchair. "We will not bow to pressure, and resistance will continue until the occupation is destroyed."

After a spike in violence in the summer, there was a lull in Israeli missile strikes and Palestinian bombings which some attributed to an unspoken agreement between the two sides to lower tensions. However, Israel said it forced a drop in attacks by arresting as many as 30 potential suicide bombers.

Also yesterday, Israeli TV reported that Sharon is considering changing the route of a separation barrier Israel is building in the West Bank to cut costs and reduce Palestinian suffering. Sharon aides are to present proposed changes to U.S. officials next week, the reports said. Gissin declined comment.

The World Court in The Hague, Netherlands, is to hear arguments next month on the legality of the barrier.

In other developments yesterday, 70 Israeli reservists who refuse to serve in occupied territory protested for peace at Israel's border with the Gaza Strip, Reuters reports.

It was the first joint demonstration by reservist pilots, elite commandos and infantry troops who signed separate letters stating their refusal to serve in the West Bank and Gaza Strip.

A few metres away more than 100 settlers, many of them women and children, chanted, "This is our land and we won't give it to anyone."

## Graphic

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KEVIN FRAYER/AP Spiritual leader of the Palestinian militant group Hamas, Sheik Ahmed Yassin, attends Friday prayers at a mosque in Gaza City. Israel is set to resume targeted killings of Hamas militants and warned the elderly cleric he tops the list.

**Load-Date:** January 17, 2004

## *Under Israeli attack, Hamas loses leaders but widens its support*

The International Herald Tribune

April 26, 2004 Monday

Copyright 2004 International Herald Tribune

**Section:** NEWS; Pg. 4

**Length:** 773 words

**Byline:** Greg Myre

**Dateline:** GAZA:

### **Body**

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The leaders of Hamas gathered under a tent at a dusty soccer stadium on April 18, joined by thousands of mourners offering condolences for the group's slain chief in Gaza, Abdel Aziz Rantisi. When the service ended, the Hamas officials vanished, making perhaps their last joint public appearance for a long time.

Israeli missile strikes that have killed two Hamas leaders in the past month have driven the surviving senior officials deep underground and raised questions about the group's ability to elude Israel's defenses and resume attacks inside Israeli cities.

While Hamas now lacks a high-profile leader here, and is perhaps less potent, there is a flip side. Each Israeli killing only seems to enhance the popularity of Hamas on the street, particularly in its Gaza stronghold, where it draws recruits from a society that is extremely poor and deeply religious.

The New York Times

The outpouring of support during the three-day mourning period that concluded last Tuesday demonstrated the broad backing that Hamas has gained. Women who were dressed in black from head to toe wrapped the emerald-green Hamas headband around their veils. Youths plastered Rantisi's "martyr poster" on every available flat surface.

The Palestinian Authority, which officially opposes Hamas's bombing campaign, was prominently represented by Gaza's police chief, Ghazi al-Jabali, who was trailed by a large entourage of police officers as he exchanged hugs with senior Hamas figures.

"Hamas may not be able to carry out a large number of attacks right now, and they have been shaken by the loss of their leaders," said Ziad Abu Amr, a moderate Palestinian legislator and a former cabinet member who has had broad political contact with Hamas. "But this is a group that enjoys an extensive presence here. It is not easy to dismantle Hamas."

A public opinion survey released last week found that for the first time, Hamas outpolled the long dominant Fatah movement, headed by the Palestinian leader, Yasser Arafat.

Thirty-one percent said they would now vote for Hamas in an election, compared with 27 percent for Al Fatah. The poll, conducted by the Palestinian Center for Research and Cultural Dialogue, surveyed 506 Palestinians in the West Bank and Gaza, and said it had a margin of error of 3.5 percentage points.

## Under Israeli attack, Hamas loses leaders but widens its support

The survey was taken after the March 22 killing of the Hamas founder, Sheik Ahmed Yassin, and Hamas appeared to be riding a wave of sympathy that might not last. Still, support for Hamas has grown steadily during the three-and-a-half years of the current Palestinian uprising.

In opening the campaign to kill Hamas leaders, Israel's prime minister, Ariel Sharon, has changed the rules of battle, and Hamas is changing the way it operates. Hamas has carried out the greatest number of suicide bombings since the Palestinian uprising began in September 2000. While the bomb makers and the bombers operated from the West Bank with the utmost secrecy, Hamas's top leaders were prominent public figures in Gaza. Yassin and Rantisi were fixtures at Hamas rallies.

The Israeli military waged a concerted campaign that smashed many Hamas cells in the West Bank, but the public leaders in Gaza appeared to be off limits. This apparent immunity abruptly ended last summer, and since then Israel has killed three senior leaders and wounded one other.

Hamas has vowed to increase its attacks, but so far the opposite has happened. The group has been responsible for more than 50 suicide bombings since 2000, but the pace has slowed since last summer.

The combative Rantisi spent most of his time in hiding during the four weeks he served as Hamas's leader. On the day of his death, April 17, he made a rare visit to see his family at their modest home in the city of Gaza. He arrived before dawn and stayed until the evening. He was killed shortly after he left the house in his car, according to family members.

The following day Hamas said it had chosen a successor, but refused to divulge his name out of concern that he would be next on Israel's hit list. In Gaza, there are rumors that the group has settled for a collective leadership, at least temporarily. Hamas has carried out just one suicide bombing -- killing one Israeli policeman -- since Yassin's death five weeks ago.

"The capabilities of these groups have been reduced," said Eli Karmon, an official at the private International Policy Institute for Counter-Terrorism, outside Tel Aviv. "Many of the midlevel and senior-level operatives have been arrested or killed." Hamas is still capable of a "big operation," Karmon said, "but not the same number of operations, at the same tempo, as before."

**Load-Date:** April 26, 2004



## *Israel plans Hamas hits in payback*

The Australian

September 2, 2004 Thursday All-round Country Edition

Copyright 2004 Nationwide News Pty Limited

**Section:** WORLDPHOTO; Pg. 10

**Length:** 658 words

**Byline:** Abraham Rabinovich

### **Body**

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Jerusalem

ISRAEL will step up its campaign to assassinate Hamas leaders after twin suicide bombings by the Palestinian militant group killed 16 Israelis and injured 100 in the southern city of Beersheba on Tuesday.

Prime Minister Ariel Sharon ordered the renewed drive to hit Hamas's upper echelon after the group said its attacks -- the first in Israel in five months -- were in retaliation for the assassination this year by Israel of its leaders, Sheikh Ahmed Yassin and Abdel Aziz Rantisi.

Asked on Al-Jazeera television why it took so long to strike, a Hamas spokesman in Gaza said: "We had to prepare for this operation meticulously." A leaflet distributed by Hamas said: "You (Israelis) were mistaken if you thought that killing our leaders would lessen our determination."

Reuters, AFP, AP

Israeli officials say Hamas was unable to mount a successful attack inside Israel in recent months despite considerable efforts because of the Israeli security services' success in preventing scores of would-be attacks.

The two suicide bombers, from the West Bank city of Hebron, boarded buses in Beersheba's central bus station mid-afternoon and detonated themselves when the vehicles reached the city's main street and were full of passengers. The driver of the second bus pulled over after hearing the first explosion and about 15 passengers managed to get off before it too blew up.

The double blast was the deadliest since an attack on a restaurant in the port city of Haifa on October 4, 2003, which left 21 people and the female bomber dead.

The last Palestinian attack in Israel was on July 11, when a young woman soldier was killed in a blast at a bus stop just days after the International Court of Justice declared Israel's West Bank barrier illegal.

It was the first suicide bombing in Beersheba. City officials noted that the barrier Israel was building on the West Bank had stopped bombers from reaching the country's centre but had not yet closed off access to the southern city.

Israeli officials linked the bombings to Syria, noting that the senior Hamas command was located in Damascus. "It isn't the public relations department (of Hamas) sitting in Damascus," one official said. "It is their operational command."

## Israel plans Hamas hits in payback

However, Mr Sharon is not expected to lash out at Syria or to change his plans to pull out of the Gaza Strip, a **Hamas** stronghold, before the end of next year.

He had earlier unveiled an accelerated timetable for the Gaza plan, brushing aside opponents by predicting it would win parliamentary approval in early November.

After a late-night briefing from security officials, Mr Sharon ordered construction of the West Bank barrier to be speeded up and a series of steps aimed at **Hamas**. "Combating terror is the policy of this Government and it is my policy," he said.

The army ordered a curfew in Hebron and began a search for militant leaders, particularly Imad Kawasma, the uncle of one of the Beersheba bombers and leader of **Hamas**'s military wing in the city. A dozen arrests were made yesterday and the houses of the two attackers -- Ahmad Qawasmeh, 22, and Nassim Jabari, 22 -- blown up. A similar crackdown was reportedly under way in the Gaza Strip.

Because of relative tranquillity in Hebron in recent months, the Israeli army recently removed a number of roadblocks and checkpoints in and around the city and commercial life in the city had almost returned to normal. Restrictions are now expected to be reimposed.

Palestinian Prime Minister Ahmed Qureia condemned the bombings. "The attack does not do service to the Palestinian issue," he said.

A possible third bombing was foiled at an exit from the Gaza Strip when a man attempting to pass into Israel, ostensibly for work, aroused the suspicions of a soldier.

He was ordered to strip and was found to be wearing underpants with explosives sewn into them. Officials said there was apparently no connection between this would-be bomber and the Beersheba bombers.

**Load-Date:** September 1, 2004

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End of Document

## *Israel's offensive on Hamas justified*

The Advertiser

April 23, 2004 Friday

Copyright 2004 Nationwide News Pty Limited

**Section:** OPINION; Pg. 18

**Length:** 480 words

**Byline:** Andrew FRIEDMAN

### **Body**

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ONE of the most revealing developments to come out of Israel's weekend attack on Hamas leader Abdel Aziz Rantissi is the fact that organisational chairman Khaled Mashaal has decided to keep the identity of the new leadership secret.

While Rantissi's death may not completely disable Hamas, Israel's effort to target any and all Palestinians complicit in the death of Israelis is bearing dividends, and the organisation is running scared.

Rantissi was the head of an organisation committed not only to a political struggle for the West Bank and Gaza Strip but to a to-the-death struggle with Jews. By any reasonable definition, Rantissi was a combatant in a war he played a major part in conducting.

There can be no serious question about the legality or morality of targeting him.

Predictably, remaining Hamas leaders have pledged a "volcano" of revenge against Israel, as they did following a similar attack on Hamas spiritual head Sheikh Ahmed Yassin last month.

But it is not at all clear that the organisation retains the functional ability to attack Israel as it once did. Even before the present spate of attacks, Yassin defended his organisation's use of a female suicide bomber in January, admitting it was because Israel's pursuit of the organisation made it difficult for potential bombers to penetrate Israeli security.

Until now, leaders such as Yassin and Rantissi have mostly viewed themselves as exempt from Israeli reprisal raids, mostly with good reason. But by driving the organisation deep underground, Israel has forced Hamas leaders such as Mashaal to concentrate on watching their heads, rather than on attacking Israelis.

Any military campaign alone is ultimately insufficient to defeat the global terrorist scourge. Israel's campaign against Hamas, Islamic Jihad and Yasser Arafat's al-Aqsa Martyrs Brigada, like the coalition fight against radical Shiite insurgents in Najaf and the near-global pursuit of Osama bin Laden, must be combined with a concerted campaign to dry up sources of funding to all terror groups.

The military efforts in Israel, Iraq and Afghanistan must be accompanied by effective non-military sanctions. By acting to prevent terror cells from incubating in this country, Australia sends a strong message to would-be terrorists around the world: Australia will not be complicit in any way with the intentional murder of civilians and will not provide safe haven for such elements.

## Israel 's offensive on Hamas justified

To be sure, the decision to kill Rantissi is fraught with danger for Israel. But, given **Hamas** has killed more than 500 Israelis since the Oslo process began in 1993, the argument that by attacking Rantissi Israel has "inflamed the situation" is preposterous. For this reason, Israel's continuing offensive against **Hamas** leaders is legal, moral and completely justified.

\* Andrew Friedman is a Middle East analyst for the Australia/Israel Jewish Affairs Council.

**Load-Date:** April 22, 2004

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End of Document

## *Hamas goes into hiding after strikes*

The Philadelphia Inquirer

SEPTEMBER 24, 2003 Wednesday CITY-D EDITION

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**The Philadelphia Inquirer**

Found on Philly.com

**Section:** NATIONAL; Pg. A03

**Length:** 862 words

**Byline:** Michael Matza INQUIRER STAFF WRITER

**Dateline:** GAZA CITY, Gaza Strip

### **Body**

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They change telephones, cars and apartments every few days. They surround themselves with women and children amid high-rise buildings, hoping to thwart Israeli assassination attempts.

They use motor scooters instead of cars to present smaller, more maneuverable targets. They know collaborators are always watching, so every encounter is fraught with suspicion.

Hamas - the Islamic Resistance Movement - with its Izzedine al Kassem military wing that has claimed responsibility for the deaths of hundreds of Israelis in dozens of suicide bombings, is in hiding now after a series of air strikes killed 13 of its members, and six bystanders, in recent weeks.

Tattered green Hamas flags flap defiantly from city light poles here, but its leadership has all but disappeared.

The assertion by Israeli Deputy Prime Minister Ehud Olmert that killing Palestinian leader Yasir Arafat was an option Israel was considering, and the European Union's decision to freeze funding for both the political and military wings of Hamas have only heightened the group's furtiveness.

"Hamas activists have gone underground," Danny Rubinstein, an Arab-affairs expert, wrote last week in the daily Haaretz. "They feel persecuted not only because of the military and political moves against them, but because it is clear to them that if Arafat is in danger, they are in even greater peril."

Popular Hamas figures, including spokesmen Abdel Aziz Rantisi and Mahmoud Zahar, who once moved freely in Gaza, are now all but invisible.

Sheikh Ahmed Yassin, Hamas' founder, is unavailable. Last week, at his home, an aide would not say where he was or how to reach him. "No way. No appointments," he said, rushing back inside.

Rantisi narrowly escaped death in June when a helicopter gunship fired missiles at a car in which he was traveling. He has not lived at home since.

## Hamas goes into hiding after strikes

A few weeks after Rantisi's close call, Hamas spokesman Ismail Abu Shanab, 51, was killed in a similar attack. The charred remains of his car lie untouched on Al Aqsa Street, a chilling reminder of Israel's proclaimed "all-out war" on Hamas.

Yassin escaped with scratches Sept. 6 when a 500-pound bomb dropped from a fighter jet destroyed the top floor of a three-story building where he was meeting with Hamas members. Israel said the meeting was to plan attacks.

Four days later, Zahar was wounded; his eldest son, Khaled, 29, was killed; and his wife's back was broken when a jet dropped a one-ton bomb on his house here. Significantly, residents say, not one Hamas leader of any stature turned out for Khaled's funeral. All were nursing injuries or in hiding.

"It's easy for Israel to strike targets here. They know every street in Gaza. For 27 years they were here," said Imad Falouji, recalling the period of occupation after the 1967 Six Day War.

Falouji is a former Hamas spokesman who was jailed by Israel and released in 1995 as part of the Oslo accords, which created the Palestinian National Authority in exchange for Palestinian recognition of Israel's right to exist - a right Hamas always has denied.

Falouji split with Hamas over its 1996 decision to boycott Palestinian elections. Today he is in the Palestinian legislature.

"Israel has spy satellites, telephone eavesdropping, and collaborators on the ground," he said, naming various means Israel uses to target Hamas.

Although Israel will not say precisely how its army hits its targets, it uses a combination of electronic surveillance and human sources inside Gaza, said Efraim Kam, a Tel Aviv University professor and expert on regional security.

"Your assumption should be that the [Israeli army] is making every effort to verify that the person they are looking for is in the vehicle or the house they are going to attack. . . . But don't think it's all a matter of collaborators. We also have our own men on the ground," Kam said, declining to elaborate.

The World Wide Web reveals the range of surveillance equipment available for civilian and military use. Scanners can lock in on cell-phone conversations. An "infinity bug" can turn a phone line into an open microphone, even when the phone is on the hook. "Bumper beepers," smaller than a cigarette pack, can be affixed to vehicles and used to track them using radio-frequency (RF) technology.

Global Positioning Systems (GPS) can locate targets on the ground within a 25-foot radius.

"If they are trying to hit a car on a country road, GPS would tell them enough, especially if it's the only car out there," said William Buckley, a surveillance technology expert. "But if they are doing it when there are other cars around, neither GPS nor RF would tell them enough."

Buckley's company, Guardian Angel of Silver Spring, Md., has supplied paper-clip-size RF transmitters to the Saudi drug-enforcement agency for use in investigations, and similar technology to Israel for civilian use, including tracking lost pets.

In the end, he says, even the most sophisticated surveillance equipment relies on human intelligence for verification.

"I have no idea how [the Israelis] are targeting," Buckley said. "But the best way, always, is with human eyes."

Contact staff writer Michael Matza at 215-854-2405 or [foreign@phillynews.com](mailto:foreign@phillynews.com).

## Graphic

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## Hamas goes into hiding after strikes

PHOTO;

JEROME DELAY, Associated Press

The home of a local **Hamas** leader, Jihad Abu Shwairah, draws a crowd of Palestinians after it was destroyed by Israeli forces. Shwairah was killed in the raid last week in Gaza.

**Load-Date:** August 16, 2005

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End of Document

***Hamas founder is defiant after Israeli's warning***

The Philadelphia Inquirer

JANUARY 17, 2004 Saturday CITY-D EDITION

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**The Philadelphia Inquirer**

Found on Philly.com

**Section:** NATIONAL; Pg. A02

**Length:** 468 words

**Byline:** Karin Laub ASSOCIATED PRESS

**Dateline:** JERUSALEM

## **Body**

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**Hamas** founder Ahmed Yassin brushed off warnings by a top Israeli official that he was "marked for death" and, in a defiant appearance yesterday at a Gaza City mosque, said his group would continue to attack Israelis.

The exchange of threats after a deadly **Hamas** bombing this week complicated chances for a cease-fire, the starting point for the U.S.-backed road map peace plan.

Israeli security officials said targeted killings of senior **Hamas** members would likely resume after Wednesday's bombing killed four Israeli border guards at the Erez crossing between Gaza and Israel. Such Israeli strikes have triggered revenge bombings in the past.

Deputy Defense Minister Zeev Boim initially told Israel Army radio that Yassin would be targeted - the first time an Israeli official was so specific.

"Sheikh Yassin is marked for death," Boim said, "and he should hide himself deep underground where he won't know the difference between day and night. And we will find him in the tunnels, and we will eliminate him."

Boim later said high-level Defense Ministry discussions on a response to the Erez bombing did not include a specific decision to kill Yassin.

Security officials said killing Yassin would require approval from Prime Minister Ariel Sharon. "We never comment on specific cases," said Raanan Gissin, a Sharon adviser.

During the summer, Israel unleashed several air strikes against leading **Hamas** figures, killing one but missing three others - including Yassin, 69, who escaped the bombing of a Gaza City building in September with minor injuries. The **Hamas** founder is a quadriplegic from a childhood sporting accident.

Israel has killed more than 140 suspected militants in targeted attacks during more than three years of fighting.



## Hamas founder is defiant after Israeli 's warning

An Israeli strike against Yassin would likely provoke bloody Hamas attacks and boost support for the group, Palestinian legislator Hanan Ashrawi said. "If they target Hamas leaders, I don't think anybody can control the [Hamas] military wing," she said.

In Washington, State Department spokesman Richard Boucher reiterated U.S. policy against targeted assassinations and criticized Hamas and other groups for violent acts that make peacemaking more difficult.

Israeli security officials said Yassin personally approved Wednesday's bombing and issued a religious ruling allowing women to carry out such attacks. Hamas recruited a 22-year-old woman for the attack, a first for the group.

Appearing at a Gaza City mosque for Friday noon prayers, part of his weekly routine, Yassin denied that he was involved in planning attacks. However, he said that "Israel will pay for its crimes" and that Hamas would continue resisting occupation - a phrase that generally refers to shootings and bomb attacks on Israelis in the West Bank and Gaza.

"We do not fear the threat of death," he said.

**Load-Date:** August 21, 2005

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End of Document

## ***Hamas rejects Arafat's appeal to resume truce***

Canberra Times (Australia)

August 29, 2003 Friday

Final Edition

Copyright 2003 The Federal Capital Press of Australia Pty Limited

**Section:** A;

**Length:** 224 words

### **Body**

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GAZA CITY: The Islamic radical group **Hamas** rejected an appeal yesterday by Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat to renew a truce called off after one of its co-founders was killed last week. "**Hamas** rejects the appeal [by Arafat] to resume the truce, as the Zionist occupation has torpedoed the truce with their assassinations of women, children and Palestinian political leaders," **Hamas** political leader Abdelaziz Rantissisaid."

We cannot speak about a truce while aggression against the Palestinian people continues." Mr Arafat said in a statement on Wednesday that a renewal of the truce would "give a chance to all peaceful international efforts for the implementation of the roadmap", in reference to a US-backed peace plan. **Hamas** and the smaller Islamic Jihad both called off a seven-week-old truce last week, in the aftermath of the killing of a senior **Hamas** figure, Ismail Abu Shanab, in an Israeli air strike in Gaza. The truce had already been effectively wrecked by a **Hamas** suicide bus bombing in Jerusalem last week which left 21 people dead. Palestinian Prime Minister Mahmud Abbas broke off all contact with the hardline groups in the wake of the Jerusalem bomb. Mr Rantissi said that **Hamas** was "ready to talk" with Mr Abbas. "We are in favour of dialogue but it is impossible to make progress in a situation which is extremely dangerous," he said.

**Load-Date:** October 17, 2003

*Israel 'will retaliate by killing Hamas founder';*  
**NEWSBRIEF**

Irish News

January 17, 2004

Copyright 2004 The Irish News Limited

**Section:** Pg. 14

**Length:** 621 words

## **Body**

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ISRAEL will kill the founder of Hamas, Sheik Ahmed Yassin, in retaliation for a suicide attack on border guards, Israel's deputy defence minister said in the bluntest warning yet against leaders of the Islamic militant group.

Sheik Yassin, a 67-year-old quadriplegic, did not try to hide yesterday, making his way to a Gaza City mosque near his home in a wheelchair pushed by an assistant.

"We do not fear the threat of death, " Sheik Yassin said. "We will not bow to pressure and resistance will continue until the occupation is destroyed."

Sheik Yassin said he was not personally involved in planning attacks, denying allegations by Israeli security officials that he had approved this week's bombing in which a young mother blew herself up and killed four Israelis at the Erez crossing into Israel.

The Israeli officials also said Yassin issued a religious ruling allowing women to become bombers, after Hamas initially recruited only male assailants.

Israeli security officials met to weigh a response to the latest Hamas bombing and one official said targeted killings of senior Hamas members are likely to resume after a lull of several months.

Deputy defence minister Zeev Boim said Sheik Yassin is a key target.

"Sheik Yassin is marked for death and he should hide himself deep underground where he won't know the difference between day and night. And we will find him in the tunnels, and we will eliminate him, " Mr Boim told Israel army radio.

Israeli officials have said in the past they would go after Hamas leaders in retaliation for deadly bombings, but Mr Boim's comment marked the first time a senior official spoke in public about a particular militant being targeted.

Several security officials said Sheik Yassin was not singled out and killing the Hamas founder would require approval by prime minister Ariel Sharon, the officials said.

An Israeli strike against Sheik Yassin, who is revered also by Palestinians who do not support Hamas, would likely provoke revenge bombings.

## Israel 'will retaliate by killing Hamas founder'; NEWSBRIEF

Palestinian MP Hanan Ashrawi said an attack on Yassin would also boost support for militants among the Palestinians.

"It doesn't take much brains to know that assassinating the political leadership of Hamas will have serious implications locally and regionally, " she said.

Sheik Yassin, who founded Hamas in 1987 and spent several years in Israeli prisons, already dodged one Israeli attempt to kill him in September.

A warplane dropped a 550-pound bomb on a building where he and other Hamas leaders were meeting but Sheik Yassin escaped with just a small wound to his hand.

In the summer, Israel also launched several high-profile attacks on other Palestinian leaders, killing Ismail Abu Shanab, considered a relative pragmatist in the group. Two others, Abdel Aziz Rantisi and Mahmoud Zahar, narrowly escaped missile strikes.

Toward the end of the summer, Israel scaled back its attacks in concert with a significant drop in Hamas bombings.

However, there was never evidence of even an unspoken agreement between the two sides. Israel insisted it forced a drop in attacks by arresting as many as 30 potential suicide bombers.

Hamas leaders, though often in hiding to avoid Israeli strikes, kept up their militant pronouncements and rebuffed efforts by Palestinian prime minister Ahmed Qureia and Egyptian mediators to declare a halt to attacks against Israelis.

Sheik Yassin reiterated yesterday that Hamas would not agree to a ceasefire.

The suicide bombing on Wednesday put an end to the "so-called quiet period", Israeli air force commander, Major General Dan Halutz, said.

Without giving details, Maj Halutz said the air force and military intelligence have developed "pinpoint" methods to "hit only those who deserve it".

## Graphic

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BOMBER: Mourners carry the casket during the funeral of female suicide bomber Reem Raiyshi (22), in Gaza City  
PICTURE: Hatem Moussa/AP

**Load-Date:** January 23, 2004

## *Revenge vow as Hamas chief killed*

The Advertiser

March 23, 2004 Tuesday

Copyright 2004 Nationwide News Pty Limited

**Section:** NEWS; Pg. 5

**Length:** 383 words

**Byline:** By IBRAHIM BARZAK in Gaza City

### **Body**

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ISRAEL killed Hamas founder Ahmed Yassin in a helicopter missile strike outside a mosque in Gaza City yesterday, prompting threats of revenge by Palestinian militants against Israel and the United States.

Yassin was the most prominent Palestinian leader to be killed by Israel in more than three years of fighting.

Within hours, tens of thousands of Palestinians took to the streets of the West Bank and Gaza Strip. A cloud of black smoke hung over Gaza City, as angry mourners burned tyres in protest.

"Words cannot describe the emotion of anger and hate inside our hearts," said Hamas official Ismail Haniyeh.

Israeli Defence Minister Shaul Mofaz, in turn, pledged that "the battle against Hamas will continue," suggesting there would be more strikes.

The US has urged both sides to show restraint.

At daybreak yesterday, Israeli helicopters fired three missile as the wheelchair-bound Yassin, his bodyguards and dozens of others left a neighbourhood mosque in Gaza City.

Yassin and seven others were killed. Seventeen people were wounded.

Two more Palestinians were killed soon after - one while handling explosives and the second by Israeli army fire, during a protest against the Yassin killing.

Israel held Yassin responsible for the deaths of hundreds of people.

Prime Minister Ariel Sharon, a former army general, was updated throughout the operation.

The Yassin assassination was seen as an enormous gamble by Mr Sharon, who is trying to score a decisive victory against Hamas ahead of a possible Israeli withdrawal from Gaza, but risks triggering a dramatic escalation in bloodshed that could turn the public's mood in Israel against him.

Gideon Meir, an Israeli Foreign Ministry official, said Yassin was directly responsible for the scores of suicide attacks Hamas unleashed since 2000.

"He is the one who is sending children and women to explode themselves," Mr Meir said.

## Revenge vow as Hamas chief killed

The Palestinian Authority said in a statement that "Israel has exceeded all red lines with this cheap and dirty crime" and declared a three-day mourning period.

Fearing revenge attacks, Israel closed off the West Bank and Gaza Strip, barring all Palestinians from entering Israel.

**Hamas** promised a harsh response and, for the first time, also threatened the US, saying America's backing of Israel made the assassination possible.

**Load-Date:** March 22, 2004

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End of Document

## ISRAEL ANNOUNCES INTENTION TO KILL HAMAS FOUNDER

Western Mail

January 17, 2004, Saturday

Copyright 2004 Western Mail and Echo Ltd

**Section:** NEWS; Pg. 4; Newspaper

**Length:** 246 words

### **Body**

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ISRAEL will kill the founder of Hamas, Sheik Ahmed Yassin, in retaliation for a suicide attack on border guards, Israel's deputy defence minister said in the bluntest warning yet against leaders of the Islamic militant group.

Yassin, a 67-year-old quadriplegic, did not try to hide yesterday, making his way to a Gaza City mosque near his home in a wheelchair pushed by an assistant.

'We do not fear the threat of death,' Yassin said outside the mosque. 'We will not bow to pressure and resistance will continue until the occupation is destroyed.'

Yassin said he was not personally involved in planning attacks, denying allegations by Israeli security officials that he had approved this week's bombing in which a young mother blew herself up and killed four Israelis at the Erez crossing into Israel.

The Israeli officials also said Yassin issued a religious ruling allowing women to become bombers, after Hamas initially recruited only male assailants.

Israeli security officials met to weigh a response to the latest Hamas bombing and one official said targeted killings of senior Hamas members are likely to resume after a lull of several months.

Deputy Defence Minister Zeev Boim named Yassin as a key target.

Palestinian MP Hanan Ashrawi said an attack on Yassin would boost support for militants among Palestinians.

'It doesn't take much brains to know that assassinating the political leadership of Hamas will have serious implications locally and regionally,' she said.

**Load-Date:** January 20, 2004

## *Hamas may be ready to come in from the heat*

Sydney Morning Herald (Australia)

June 21, 2003 Saturday

Late Edition

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**Section:** NEWS AND FEATURES; International News; Pg. 20

**Length:** 1413 words

**Byline:** Ed O'Loughlin

### **Body**

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Herald Correspondent Ed O'Loughlin in Gaza meets the Palestinian group that answers Israel blow for blow.

School's out for summer in Gaza, and on Wednesday this week the Hamas boys from Sabra were thrashing around in the sea beside Aladdin's Beach Club.

"It's just an Islamic picnic or beach trip, to give some relief to our kids from the mosque," said a man in a vest with a baseball cap and whistle. He may have looked like a PE teacher but he turned out to be a Hamas preacher.

"This is only a little part of what Hamas does for people," said the imam ("please, no name"). "We provide a lot of help for students and supporters and ordinary people. It's part of our Islamic role. We are far from being fanatics."

Summoned reluctantly from the surf, the 30 or so boys giggled and jostled. At 17, Kader Karsoh was one of the oldest.

"When I was nine years old I started joining Hamas friends and supporters, and I'm now a supporter myself," he said, standing inside Hamas's large green nylon beach tent. "I see what Hamas provides for the Palestinian people. Not just for its supporters, but for everyone."

And what did he enjoy most about the Hamas beach party? He answered without hesitation.

"The best thing today was the first prayer we did together. After that the second was when we continued reading and reciting the Koran. Then for sports we had football and swimming."

His cousin, Saleh, is 13. Like many undersized Gaza kids he looks a lot younger. An armed patrol boat was cruising about a kilometre offshore, and high overhead two jets were circling. So what did Saleh think of Israelis?

"They are pigs. They are weaker than a spider's web. They have their planes, but we have God."

In only a couple of years' time, unless something wonderful happens, some of the youngsters on that beach will be dead, some will be killers and some of the rest will be waiting their turn.

Recruiting through the mosques, insisting on strict codes of prayer, study and purity, Hamas is today the most ruthless and effective of the Palestinian militant groups waging war against Israel.



Hamas may be ready to come in from the heat

The movement was founded in 1987 at the beginning of the first intifada by its paraplegic spiritual leader, Sheik Ahmed Yassin, as a Muslim counterweight to Yasser Arafat's secular Palestine Liberation Organisation.

As such, it even had some initial covert support from Israel.

Those days are, of course, long gone. On June 8 Hamas was blamed for organising a gun attack that killed four Israeli soldiers on the edge of the Gaza Strip. Carried out with members of two other militant groups, the attack was a pointed rejection of the "road map" peace plan launched in Aqaba only four days before by George Bush and the prime ministers of Israel and the Palestinian Authority.

The following Tuesday, Israel responded with a failed attempt to assassinate Hamas spokesman, Dr Abdel Aziz Rantisi, in Gaza. The next day a Hamas suicide bomber from the West Bank killed 17 people in Jerusalem.

In the second, more bloody, intifada, Hamas has far outstripped the other main militant groups Islamic Jihad and the Al-Aqsa Martyrs' Brigade to claim the bulk of attacks on civilian and military Israeli targets. As the June 11 suicide bomb was meant to underline, only Hamas has the organisation and reach to answer Israel blow for blow.

In response, Israel announced that it will assassinate any Hamas leaders it can get its sights on, military or political. Five Hamas leaders and at least 17 civilians were promptly killed in a flurry of air strikes in Gaza.

The effect of such Israeli attacks, however, has been to further weaken the declining authority of Hamas's main rival, the Palestinian Authority, and its moderate Prime Minister, Mahmoud Abbas. By attacking Hamas, Israel makes it stronger.

And nowhere more so than in its birthplace, the teeming, impoverished and war-torn enclave of Gaza. It was there that Mr Abbas has spent much of the past week, trying to persuade Hamas to agree to a ceasefire with Israel so a start can be made on the road map peace plan.

True, a dozen other factions were involved in the talks, but last week Mr Bush declared that Hamas, and Hamas alone, was responsible for the near-collapse of the peace process.

High praise, one might think, in the ears of Hamas. After all, who wants peace, recognition of Israel and a tiny, divided Palestinian state when they can have holy war, death to the Jews and a return to ancestral homes beyond Gaza's perimeter fence?

"We are not involved in what is called a two-state solution," says Dr Mahmoud al-Zahar, a Gaza surgeon and senior Hamas leader.

"For us it is unacceptable because it stands in contradiction with our religious and historic background. This land is extraordinary land. It belongs not to the citizens but to every Muslim anywhere. No one has the right to sell it. For this reason we can't accept Israel as a legal state.

"We are accepting the Jews to live amongst us in an Islamic state, as they lived here before the aggression of Europe, but not to rule us."

In Hamas's take on history, World War I was started by the international Jewish conspiracy to destroy the Muslim Turkish empire and pave the way for Zionist expansion in Palestine. This version of history also tells Hamas and many more secular Arabs that Israel will itself fall.

"The crusaders came to destroy our land and lasted more than 100 years" Dr Zahar said. "The British came here and in the end they were finished too. Any foreign power will in the end be finished, because they are a foreign body and they don't belong here."

But what of Israel's overwhelming military and economic superiority, and the far greater US might that stands behind it?

Hamas may be ready to come in from the heat

"America is not our God. It will not be powerful for ever."

Certain of ultimate victory, Hamas says officially at least that it will not accept a lesser Palestinian state even as a stepping stone towards its greater goal of the destruction of Israel.

Strange, then, that Egyptian mediators and the Palestinian Authority keep beating a path to Hamas's door, and that the door has not been barred to them.

Because the odd thing about Hamas, veteran observers say, is that for all its fanatical rhetoric and bursts of suicidal violence it has always shown signs that it wants to come in from the heat.

Unlike other militant/terrorist groups - Mr Arafat's Fatah, for example - Hamas has remained outside the PLO, and therefore has no share in the power - and corruption - of the PLO-dominated Palestinian Authority.

By doing so, Hamas retains much of the moral authority that it took from its early roots among the unworldly, conservative Muslim Brotherhood elite. Initially shy of active politics and hostile to the more secular nationalism of the PLO, these men (women, of course, stay at home) were dragged into active resistance by the first intifada.

They soon discovered, though, that armed resistance greatly boosted their movement's popularity. In other words, Hamas moved towards the nationalist central ground of Palestinian politics, which these days is mostly about violent resistance to Israel. But if the central ground shifts, might Hamas move with it?

Hamas can speak with several voices, but one of the most authoritative is Ismail Abu Shanab, a Gaza engineer.

This week he was living openly in his house in Gaza City despite the threat of Israeli assassination.

Hamas does not like Mr Abbas's road map, he made it clear, but what was important right now was "the higher interest of the Palestinian people". So yes, he said, Hamas was actively discussing a ceasefire, and yes, if agreed, that ceasefire would be total, "because of what [Abbas] is proposing, saying we don't want to talk about inside or outside Israel, we need a ceasefire everywhere".

But would not a Hamas ceasefire if it happens also imply some recognition of the peace plan beyond it, "two state" solution and all? The answer was unexpectedly direct.

"If you like, yes. We are talking about what [Abbas] is saying return to the 1967 borders, a Palestinian state, dismantling of settlements, right of return and the freeing of prisoners. This is satisfactory for the time being, for our generation of our people, as proposed in Oslo and Madrid and now in the road map . . . It is not a complete solution. There is no complete solution. All solutions are based on compromise."

These are interesting words in the mouth of a Hamas leader. In the days and weeks ahead, though, it will be Hamas's actions, or the lack of them, that will speak the loudest.

## Graphic

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Illus: Above: Saleh Karsoh, 13 (centre) with his friends in the large green nylon Hamas beach tent. Right: a gymnastics demonstration during the beach party. Photos: Ed O'Loughlin

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

## *To many Palestinians, Hamas is a hero that needs to bend*

The International Herald Tribune

June 16, 2003 Monday

Copyright 2003 International Herald Tribune

**Section:** NEWS; Pg. 3

**Length:** 1348 words

**Byline:** Ian Fisher

**Dateline:** GAZA CITY:

### **Body**

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To most Israelis, Hamas is a terrorist group and little more, the core of Palestinian hatred that explodes against civilians innocently shopping or riding on buses. When talk of any peace accord nears, Hamas is the ideological extreme: no compromise on a Palestinian state, based on Islam, that stretches from the Mediterranean east to the Jordan River. They talk often of driving all Jews from the land.

But to a Palestinian brother and sister here who are raising the four children of their dead brother, killed in a construction accident in 1997 Hamas is a very practically minded savior. It pays for the children's school, buses, clothing, even food.

"I am so happy Hamas is taking care of them," said the brother, Abu Shaher Safdi, 26, a tailor who has found little work during nearly three hard years of fighting between Palestinians and Israelis. "There is no way I could afford it now."

The New York Times

Since Hamas was founded in 1987 during the first Palestinian uprising, these have been the group's three main pillars: religion, charity and resistance to Israel. It is zealous on all three fronts Hamas itself means "zeal" or "fervor" in Arabic and that makes it a particularly difficult foe, not easy at all for the world to "deal harshly" with, as President George W. Bush urged Sunday.

The difficulty, many experts say, is an acceptance of Hamas by ordinary Palestinians that has grown over 32 months of renewed violence here to rival more mainstream political groups, like Yasser Arafat's Fatah movement. There is no agreement among Palestinians on the tactic of suicide bombing, and many do not want an Islamic state either. But still, Hamas has gained currency as a serious alternative to Arafat's Palestinian Authority, better organized, less corrupt and more effective against what they see as Israeli aggression.

"Hamas is not some dark, shadowy organization in a corner," said Magnus Ranstorp, director of the Center for the Study of Terrorism and Political Violence at the University of St. Andrews in Scotland. "They are part of Palestinian society."

But many Palestinians are also exhausted by this conflict. And so the major question now is whether Hamas itself under much pressure here and in places like Syria and Lebanon is prepared to act on that and agree to a cease-fire against Israel that would allow the new peace plan being pushed hard by the Bush administration to grow.

To many Palestinians, Hamas is a hero that needs to bend

For several days, this looked unlikely: Following the killing of five Israeli soldiers by Hamas, which had just rejected the peace plan, Israel tried to assassinate one of Hamas's top leaders, Abdel Aziz Rantisi, a pediatrician who has been the group's most visible spokesmen. Hamas struck back with a suicide bombing in central Jerusalem, in which 17 Israelis were killed.

Since then, Israel and Hamas vowed all-out war on each other. As bombs, bullets and missiles flew from both sides, nearly 60 Israelis and Palestinians died in one week. But this weekend, both sides crept back from the edge, each perhaps realizing the risks to themselves.

As American monitors arrived in the region and the Bush administration ratcheted up its pressure on Arab governments to help rein in Hamas, Israel proposed halting its strikes on Hamas to allow the Palestinian Authority to renew cease-fire talks with Hamas. And Hamas, even after pulling out of cease-fire talks a week and a half ago, said it was ready to begin negotiations again.

On Sunday, Hamas members met with an Egyptian delegation, and Monday they may even meet with the new Palestinian prime minister, Mahmoud Abbas, here in Gaza.

What Hamas is willing to accept this moment is not likely to please Israel's hard-line prime minister, Ariel Sharon: Rantisi, recovering from his injuries in the failed attempt on his life on Wednesday, said Sunday that Hamas would halt suicide bombings within the borders set before the 1967 war, on several conditions, including a halt to assassination attempts against Hamas members. He said the group would not, however, stop its attacks on Israeli soldiers or Jewish settlers living in the West Bank and Gaza.

"We have an initiative, a clear one," Rantisi said in an interview Sunday with an Arab journalist working for The New York Times. "We will avoid attacking Israeli civilians as long as Israelis stop killing our children, our women and to stop destroying our houses."

Whether Hamas is actually willing to agree on a cease-fire that might give the peace plan a chance goes to the very heart of what Hamas is as a group.

Many Israelis believe Hamas wants to scuttle any peace plan: Its long commitment to military actions, its suicide attacks and its unbending support of one Palestinian state on land that includes what is now Israel, they argue, makes it impossible to accept the solution of one state for Israelis, one for Palestinians.

But Ziad Abu Amr, the Palestinian minister of culture in charge of negotiations with Hamas, said Sunday he believes that is a misreading of Hamas and its historical roots: He noted that Hamas rose from the Muslim Brotherhood, which he said was primarily a reformist movement that has shown the ability to compromise and work within mainstream politics, even while not abandoning its long-term goals.

"Let's remember the history of Hamas and the history of its mother organization," he said. "It was not a history of continuous violence. Violence is a tactic. We had flare-ups and we had periods of attacks and counterattacks. But they can refrain from these suicide attacks and other attacks if there is an alternative."

The roots of Hamas begin in the person of Sheikh Ahmed Yassin, who grew up as a refugee in Gaza and became active in Muslim Brotherhood politics there and established a social welfare group.

Then in 1987, when Palestinians rose up against the Israeli military operation, Yassin founded Hamas, an acronym for Harakat Muqawama Islamiya, or the Islamic Resistance Movement.

From demonstrations against Israeli soldiers, the resistance grew more severe: They began kidnapping and killing Israeli soldiers, and also engaged in bloody battles with the Palestinian Liberation Organization.

In 1994, after the signing of the Oslo peace accords, the group's tactics changed: Though some Israelis argue that the first suicide bombing came the previous year, Palestinians say Hamas carried out its first one on a bus in Afula, 40 days after an Israeli soldier, Baruch Goldstein, killed 29 Palestinians praying at the Tomb of the Patriarchs in Hebron.

To many Palestinians, Hamas is a hero that needs to bend

Two years later the spate of suicide bombings increased after Israel assassinated a top Hamas leader, Yihye Ayash, known as "the Engineer."

Arafat launched a campaign to rein in Hamas, and had some success, but then Hamas began to rejuvenate during the second Palestinian uprising, which began in 2000. Since then Hamas has carried out wave after wave of suicide attacks.

"The suicide attacks have been very, very damaging to us," said Haider Abdel Shafi, a doctor in Gaza who was once a top PLO negotiator. "They deprived us of the sympathy of the world."

Shafi and Dr. Abu Amr, the culture minister, said the key in these next delicate days of the peace process is assuring Hamas it will have a role in the new Palestinian order. Then, they argue, Hamas could, possibly, be persuaded to renounce violence.

The problem for many Israelis, especially right-wingers who argue against a separate Palestinian state, is that any renunciation of violence by Hamas would likely be seen as only a temporary halt on the way to the group's ultimate goal.

Ranstorp said that the group sees history as a slow process that will ultimately reward their goal of a Palestinian, Islamic state on all the land that is now Israel.

"When I interviewed over 100 Hamas activists and all leadership, I was quite astonished because everyone told me that an Islamic state would begin about the years 2022 or 2023," he said. "I asked them how that was possible, why that time frame? I asked them, 'What are the conditions?' They said: 'Life after Yasser Arafat. Islamic revolution in Jordan and Egypt. Time and demography is on our side.'"

**Load-Date:** June 16, 2003

## *First Hamas female bomber hailed as hero at her funeral*

Times Colonist (Victoria, British Columbia)

January 16, 2004 Friday Final Edition

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**Section:** News; Pg. A11; News

**Length:** 313 words

**Dateline:** GAZA CITY, Gaza Strip

### **Body**

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GAZA CITY, Gaza Strip (AP) -- The first **female Hamas** suicide bomber was given a hero's funeral Thursday, a day after killing four Israeli border guards, and Israel sealed the Gaza Strip to review security at border crossings.

The closure prevented thousands of Palestinian workers from getting to their jobs in Israel and a nearby industrial zone. The workers, among the few with jobs in the impoverished region, worried life would only become more difficult but few were willing to openly blame terrorists for their new hardship.

Associated Press

Top Israel army commanders met at the Defence Ministry Thursday to consider a response to the latest attack, a security official said. Targeted killings of senior **Hamas** terrorists were expected to resume, said the official, who spoke on condition of anonymity.

Wednesday's attack at the Erez border crossing between Israel and Gaza was the first time the Islamic terrorist group **Hamas** dispatched a **female** suicide bomber, and the group threatened more violence.

"She is not going to be the last (attacker) because the march of resistance will continue until the Islamic flag is raised, not only over the minarets of Jerusalem, but over the whole universe," **Hamas** leader Mahmoud Zahar said.

The Israeli security official said **Hamas** spiritual leader Sheik Ahmed Yassin issued a religious edict permitting **women** to carry out bombings, something **Hamas** had resisted. He said Yassin personally approved Wednesday's attack.

The bombing was carried out by Reem Raiyshi, 22, a mother with two young children. She had been escorted into a room for a security search when she blew herself up. The attack was jointly claimed by **Hamas** and the Al Aqsa Martyrs' Brigades, a group linked to Yasser Arafat.

Thousands marched through Gaza City during her funeral. Masked gunmen from **Hamas** and Al Aqsa carried her coffin, draped in the **Hamas** green flag.

**Load-Date:** January 16, 2004

## **Bomb puts Hamas back on Israel's hit list**

The Weekend Australian

January 17, 2004 Saturday All-round Country Edition

Copyright 2004 Nationwide News Pty Limited

**Section:** WORLD; Pg. 15

**Length:** 268 words

**Byline:** \* Correspondents in Jerusalem and Gaza City

### **Body**

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ISRAEL was expected to resume targeted killings of senior Hamas militants following this week's suicide bombing at a Gaza crossing, according to a security official.

Top Israeli army commanders met at the Defence Ministry yesterday, the official said, to consider a response to Wednesday's attack by a Palestinian woman that killed four Israelis.

AP, AFP

After high-profile but ineffective attacks against Palestinian leaders in the northern summer -- bombing of a house where the entire Hamas leadership was meeting, and a helicopter strike aimed at the top Hamas spokesman -- Israel had scaled back its attacks in concert with a significant drop in Hamas bombings.

However, there was never evidence of even an unspoken agreement between the two enemies. Israel insisted the downturn was attributable to its own security forces, claiming they arrested as many as 30 potential suicide bombers.

Meanwhile in Gaza City, the young Palestinian mother-of-two -- Hamas's first woman suicide bomber -- was buried as her hardline Islamic group vowed she would not be their last female "martyr". Palestinians had mixed feelings about the path chosen by 22-year-old Reem Saleh al-Riyashi, who killed herself and four Israeli security men at a crossing.

About 2000 people -- all men, in line with Islamic tradition -- took part in her funeral. Masked gunmen carried her coffin, draped in the green Hamas flag.

"The martyr Reem is a heroine since she gave up everything. This was a young married woman who left behind a husband and children to go to paradise," said Hamas leader Mahmud Zahar. "She won't be our people's last."

**Load-Date:** January 16, 2004

## ISRAEL TARGETS HAMAS LEADER AFTER SUICIDE ATTACK

Belfast News Letter (Northern Ireland)

January 17, 2004, Saturday

Copyright 2004 Century Newspapers Limited

**Section:** NEWS; Pg. 18

**Length:** 263 words

### **Body**

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ISRAEL will kill the founder of Hamas, Sheik Ahmed Yassin, in retaliation for a suicide attack on border guards, Israel's deputy defence minister said in the bluntest warning yet against leaders of the Islamic militant group.

Yassin, a 67-year-old quadriplegic, did not try to hide yesterday, making his way to a Gaza City mosque near his home in a wheelchair pushed by an assistant.

"We do not fear the threat of death," Yassin, wrapped in a brown blanket, said outside the mosque. "We will not bow to pressure and resistance will continue until the occupation is destroyed."

Yassin said he was not personally involved in planning attacks, denying allegations by Israeli security officials that he had approved this week's bombing in which a young mother blew herself up and killed four Israelis at the Erez crossing into Israel.

The Israeli officials also said Yassin issued a religious ruling allowing women to become bombers, after Hamas initially recruited only male assailants.

Israeli security officials met to weigh a response to the latest Hamas bombing and one official said targeted killings of senior Hamas members are likely to resume after a lull of several months.

Deputy Defence Minister Zeev Boim said Yassin is a key target.

"Sheik Yassin is marked for death, and he should hide himself deep underground where he won't know the difference between day and night. And we will find him in the tunnels, and we will eliminate him," Boim told Israel Army Radio.

Israeli officials have said in the past they would go after Hamas leaders in retaliation for deadly bombings.

**Load-Date:** January 17, 2004



## *Hamas mourners vow to avenge another 'martyr'*

The Times (London)

April 19, 2004, Monday

Copyright 2004 Times Newspapers Limited

**Section:** Overseas news; 13

**Length:** 814 words

**Byline:** Ian MacKinnon in Gaza

### **Body**

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Militants say their organisation will only be strengthened by al-Rantissi's assassination, reports Ian MacKinnon in Gaza.

FOR the second time in a month tens of thousands of angry, grieving Palestinians crammed into the shabby streets of Gaza City yesterday for the funeral procession of a Hamas leader killed by the Israelis.

They cried for revenge as hundreds of heavily armed Palestinian fighters joined Abdel-Aziz al-Rantissi's funeral cortege. They stretched out their hands in a desperate attempt to touch the bloodied corpse of their "martyr" as it was borne aloft from Gaza's al-Omari Mosque.

They professed themselves glad that the uncompromising 57-year-old paediatrician had got his wish of "martyrdom". Last June he came close to fulfilling that wish, narrowly escaping another Israeli missile that reduced his car to a burning wreck.

The Israelis "said that they killed al-Rantissi to weaken Hamas", Ismail Haniyeh, a Hamas leader, told the mourners. "They are dreaming. Every time a martyr falls, Hamas is strengthened."

"When the opportunity presents itself we will deliver a widescale response. It will come," vowed Mahmud alZahar, another Hamas leader.

Yesterday Dr al-Rantissi's 25-year-old son, Muhammad, sat under the traditional mourning awning outside the family home and told how he knew within minutes of the strike that his father had died.

"I heard there'd been an explosion and I knew it was him," he said, echoing calls for his father's death to be avenged. "He was a fugitive and didn't live at home any more. He slept in a different place each night. I went to the scene and knew he was gone. I came straight back here immediately to receive the mourners."

Ahmad Abdullah Jawad, 35, was sitting outside his mineral water business when the saloon car was struck without warning by the missile fired from a helicopter. The wrecked vehicle careered for another 30 yards before grinding to a halt in a ball of flames.

Mr Jawad hesitated with others about rushing to the aid of those in the car, fearing a second missile from the Apache helicopter high overhead and out of sight.

## Hammas mourners vow to avenge another 'martyr'

"But then I went inside and grabbed a fire extinguisher," he said. "I tried to put out the flames. The two men in front had died instantly. But the other man, who I didn't realise at first was Dr al-Rantissi, was still alive. His face was burnt and there was blood coming from his nose and mouth."

His rescuers took almost ten minutes to free his legs and pull him from the tangled mess. The **Hammas** chief was bundled into a passing car and taken to the Shifa Hospital, where he died.

The only evidence of the attack yesterday were charred scraps in the road.

At dawn over Gaza yesterday morning the air was thick with black smoke from burning tyres set alight as a mark of mourning and protest. Thousands had spent the night on the streets decrying Israel's killing of the **Hammas** leader.

His bloodied body was taken the short distance to the family home, his unmistakable bearded face on view, though missing his trademark glasses.

A sea of flags greeted the procession as the fatigue-clad pall-bearers from the Qassam Brigades, **Hammas**'s military wing, muscled their way through the crush. The varied hues that garlanded the mosque's entrance told of mixed allegiances: **Hammas**, Fatah's al-Aqsa Brigades, Islamic Jihad and the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine.

Knots of **women** in distinctive white hijabs held in place with green **Hammas** headbands chanted calls for revenge, their voices struggling above gunfire and chants of "Our blood, our souls, we sacrifice to you, Rantissi".

But there were those among the mourners who saw virtue in necessity. Amin Abdullah said: "They (our leaders) wanted to be martyrs, otherwise they would have asked for a ceasefire. Others will come in their place. Their deaths are a step towards freedom."

Some accepted that that day might be some way off, knowing **Hammas** has suffered not only the death of its leaders but the arrest of many commanders in the West Bank.

A Palestinian was killed and another seriously wounded by Israeli gunfire during a protest last night at a village northwest of Jerusalem.

Emotion-charged but peaceful protests erupted in Palestinian refugee camps, towns and universities throughout the region after the **Hammas** leader's killing.

Gunfire ripped through the sky for 20 minutes in Ain el-Helweh Palestinian camp, the largest in Lebanon with 60,000 inhabitants, overnight on Saturday as thousands protested. In Tripoli, northern Lebanon, some 5,000 Lebanese and Palestinians left the main mosque after midday prayers crying for revenge.

Nafez Rantissi, one of Dr al-Rantissi's brothers, was among thousands of protesters who took to the streets of the Jordanian capital. "For years we had expected him to be martyred and today we are both sad and happy," he said in Amman.

Mick Hume, page 16

Leading article, page 17

**Load-Date:** April 19, 2004

**ISRAEL ARRESTS SCORES;  
SWEEP NETS MORE THAN 130 HAMAS SUSPECTS**

Pittsburgh Post-Gazette (Pennsylvania)

June 25, 2003 Wednesday

SOONER EDITION

Copyright 2003 P.G. Publishing Co.

**Section:** WORLD,

**Length:** 542 words

**Byline:** LAURA KING, LOS ANGELES TIMES

**Dateline:** JERUSALEM

## **Body**

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The Israeli army detained more than 130 Palestinian men, women and teenagers on the West Bank yesterday, in what the army described as one of the single largest roundups of Hamas suspects in nearly three years of conflict.

Dozens of the detained were members of the Kawasme clan, a large extended Hebron family that has long been active in Hamas, according to Palestinian officials. Some of those arrested were believed to have only the slimmest of connections to the Palestinian militant group, including people who lived near suspected Hamas members or attended the same mosque.

The predawn sweep in the West Bank town of Hebron came as Hamas weighed whether to agree to a temporary halt to attacks against Israelis, a step that both sides suggested yesterday could be imminent.

The government of Palestinian Authority Prime Minister Mahmoud Abbas has indicated that it wants such a cease-fire in place before it moves ahead with key aspects of the U.S.-backed peace plan, including Palestinian forces taking responsibility for security in areas of the West Bank and Gaza from which Israel would pull back its troops.

Since the inauguration of the U.S. initiative at a summit June 4, the continuing confrontation between Israel and Hamas has played a central role in bogging down the plan. A Hamas suicide bomber blew up a bus in Jerusalem on June 11, killing 17 Israelis. Israel has killed seven Hamas activists in the past two weeks, most recently Saturday night in Hebron, when Israeli commandos ambushed a top Hamas leader.

The Israeli attacks have resulted in the deaths of more than a dozen passersby, and Hamas has staged shooting attacks since the summit against soldiers and Israeli motorists.

Amid the wave of violence, little substantive progress has been made in implementing the peace plan, known as the "road map." Israel has uprooted about a dozen illegal offshoots of West Bank Jewish settlements, as mandated by the plan, but peace groups say others have been springing up to replace them. Settlers said they had named one such outpost "Ariel Hill" -- in sardonic homage to Prime Minister Ariel Sharon's onetime role as a patron of the settlement movement.

## ISRAEL ARRESTS SCORES; SWEEP NETS MORE THAN 130 HAMAS SUSPECTS

The final stages of the cease-fire deliberations were taking place in Egypt, which has mediated talks between the Palestinian Authority and Palestinian militant groups. As the talks continue, pressure on **Hamas** has increased on several fronts.

An Israeli court yesterday indicted five Israeli Arab political leaders on charges of funneling at least \$6.8 million from **Hamas**-linked institutions abroad to the group's activists in the West Bank and Gaza Strip. The case has inflamed tensions between the Israeli government and the state's Arab minority, and several hundred Israeli Arabs, waving green Islamic banners, staged an angry protest outside the courthouse in the northern Israeli port city of Haifa.

At the same time, reports said Abbas' government had asked the European Union to blacklist **Hamas**' political wing as a terrorist organization -- a step that would make it easier to choke off funding to the group. The Bush administration has also urged Arab and European nations to cut off the cash flow to **Hamas**, some of which comes through Islamic charitable associations.

**Load-Date:** June 25, 2003

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End of Document

## *Female bomber a Hamas first*

The Toronto Star  
January 15, 2004 Thursday  
Ontario Edition

Copyright 2004 Toronto Star Newspapers, Ltd.

**Section:** NEWS; Pg. A10

**Length:** 722 words

**Highlight:** Young mother kills 4 at Gaza crossing Feigned limp to trick checkpoint staff

### **Body**

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A young Palestinian mother, feigning a limp and requesting medical help, blew herself up yesterday at the entrance to a security inspection centre for Palestinian workers, killing four Israeli security personnel and wounding seven people.

The bomber, Reem Raiyshi, 22, said in a video released after the attack: "It was always my wish to turn my body into deadly shrapnel against the Zionists and to knock on the doors of heaven with the skulls of Zionists."

The attack signalled a new tactic by Hamas militants, who had never before dispatched a female suicide bomber.

Raiyshi left behind a 3-year-old son and a 1-year-old daughter. Her attack in an industrial zone at the northern edge of the Gaza Strip was the first Palestinian suicide bombing to kill Israelis since a Dec. 25 blast at a bus stop outside Tel Aviv, which also left four dead.

Israel responded by immediately shutting down the industrial zone - which provides crucial jobs in an area where 60 per cent of working-age people are unemployed - and sending home roughly 4,000 Palestinian factory workers.

"Palestinian terrorists are not only committed to striking Israelis at every opportunity, they are also bent on destroying their own economy," said David Baker, an aide to Israeli Prime Minister Ariel Sharon.

The blast came as efforts to restart peace talks remained stalled, with Israel's leaders threatening to impose a new boundary on the Palestinians if no progress is made soon.

Palestinians have carried out more than 100 suicide bombings in the past three years. But such attacks have been extremely rare in the fenced-in Gaza Strip, where Palestinian contact with Israelis is largely limited to security checks at such places as Erez.

Raiyshi was able to carry out her bombing by momentarily deceiving soldiers with her claim that she needed medical treatment inside Israel. She joined the line where Palestinians go through a security check each morning as they enter the industrial zone.

As she approached the building's entrance, which had a metal detector, she was limping, witnesses said. She told soldiers she had a recent leg operation, and a metal pin had been implanted that the detector would register.

## Female bomber a Hamas first

She was allowed to pass, and when the alarm sounded, soldiers told her to wait while they called a **female** soldier to search her, the Israeli military said. Seconds later, Raiyshi detonated her bomb, packed with ball bearings and screws.

The blast tore apart the simple structure, sending part of the roof skyward and leaving behind dangling strips of metal. The floor was sticky with blood and littered with body parts, and bloodstains speckled the walls.

Two soldiers, a border police officer and a civilian security guard were killed, and seven people were injured, including both Israeli security personnel and Palestinians. Two of the dead were immigrants from the former Soviet Union.

A smiling Raiyshi, who came from a middle-class family in Gaza City, appeared in her video wearing combat fatigues, with an automatic rifle in her hands and a rocket-propelled grenade launcher in front of her.

"God gave me the ability to be a mother of two children who I love so," she said. "But my wish to meet God in paradise is greater, so I decided to be a martyr for the sake of my people. I am convinced God will help and take care of my children."

The Islamic group **Hamas** and Al Aqsa Martyrs Brigades, a faction loyal to Yasser Arafat's Fatah movement, jointly claimed responsibility for the bombing, saying it was revenge for Israel's killing of Palestinians.

"This was a distinguished operation," **Hamas** spiritual leader Sheikh Ahmed Yassin said.

**Hamas**, the main group behind the bombings of the last three years, had not carried out a suicide attack for the past four months. Senior Israeli military officials said last month they believed **Hamas**, which is sworn to Israel's destruction, had temporarily suspended such attacks.

But Yassin said yesterday: "There is no truce."

**Hamas** said it sent a woman for the first time because of growing Israeli security "obstacles" facing its male bombers. Smaller militant groups have deployed **female** bombers several times.

Palestinian Prime Minister Ahmed Qureia declined to condemn the attack, saying continued Israeli attacks and restrictions on Palestinians are leading to "escalation on both sides."

The Star's wire services

## Graphic

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LEFTERIS PITARAKIS/AP Israeli soldiers and investigators survey the scene of a suicide bombing that killed four security workers yesterday at the Erez crossing between Israel and the Gaza Strip. **Hamas** bomber Reem Raiyshi makes a statement in a video released after suicide attack. **Hamas** bomber Reem Raiyshi makes a statement in a video released after suicide attack.

**Load-Date:** January 15, 2004

## *Hamas mortar kills Gaza settler*

The Record (Kitchener-Waterloo, Ontario)

September 25, 2004 Saturday Final Edition

Copyright 2004 Metroland Media Group Ltd

**Section:** FRONT; Pg. A12; NEWS

**Length:** 309 words

**Dateline:** GAZA CITY, GAZA STRIP

### **Body**

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Palestinian guerrillas killed an Israeli-American woman yesterday in the first deadly shelling of a Jewish settlement in the Gaza Strip in four years of Israeli-Palestinian fighting.

The attack, just hours before the start of Yom Kippur, the holiest day on the Jewish calendar, was likely to mobilize further opposition to Prime Minister Ariel Sharon's plan to withdraw from the Gaza Strip next year.

The Palestinian resistance group **Hamas** claimed responsibility for firing two mortar bombs at the Neve Dekalim settlement in southern Gaza.

Associated Press

A **Hamas** video showed three masked fighters setting up and firing a mortar. After the shell was fired, heavy gunfire could be heard -- apparently Israeli return fire at the nearby Palestinian town of Khan Younis. The Israeli fire wounded two Palestinians, including a four-year-old boy, witnesses said.

One of the **Hamas** mortars hit a house in Neve Dekalim, wounding two **women** who were taken to a hospital in southern Israel for treatment.

One of the **women**, identified as Tiferet Tratner, died of her wounds, and the second was slightly hurt. Eran Sternberg, a settler spokesman, said Tratner also held U.S. citizenship.

Palestinians have fired hundreds of crude mortars and rockets at Jewish settlements in Gaza and Israeli border towns since the latest uprising against the occupation began in 2000.

But yesterday's attack marked the first time a resident of a Gaza settlement had been killed.

In June, two Israelis were killed in a rocket attack on the Israeli town of Sderot.

Eli Moses, a resident of Neve Dekalim, said Sharon is to blame because he is going ahead with a plan to withdraw Israeli troops and settlers from Gaza.

The shelling came a day after Palestinians killed three Israeli soldiers in an attack on the nearby Morag settlement in southern Gaza. The three attackers also died in the battle.

**Load-Date:** September 25, 2004

## Hamas mortar kills Gaza settler

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End of Document



## *With Peacemakers on Way, Israel Attacks Hamas Again*

The New York Times  
June 14, 2003 Saturday  
Late Edition - Final

Copyright 2003 The New York Times Company

**Section:** Section A; Column 1; Foreign Desk; Pg. 3

**Length:** 1177 words

**Byline:** By IAN FISHER

**Dateline:** JERUSALEM, June 13

### **Body**

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Israel pressed its campaign against Hamas tonight with attack helicopters delivering two more missile strikes in Gaza. The attacks occurred the day before American monitors are to arrive here to prop up a new peace plan now badly weakened by nearly a week of violence.

In the first helicopter assault, at least one member of Hamas, a militant Islamic group, was killed in a car in Gaza City, Palestinian officials said. The Israeli military said the car had been on its way to fire rockets over the border into Israel, after several such rockets fired from the Gaza Strip had hit a house in the nearby Israeli town of Sederot.

About 22 more Palestinians, almost all civilians, among them eight children, were injured in the first Israeli strike, Palestinian medical officials said, and the city's main hospital was overwhelmed with victims of the attack.

The second attack, carried out just before midnight, hit a warehouse where the type of rockets fired into Israel today are stored, the Israeli military said. But its location -- just 50 yards from the home of Sheik Ahmed Yassin, the spiritual leader of Hamas -- seemed certain to anger Palestinians.

The attack in Gaza tonight, after a day in which one Israeli was killed and two others were wounded, marked the fourth day in a row that Israeli helicopters targeted Hamas activists there, killing at least 22 people, most of them civilians.

It came on a day of growing concern that the peace plan, embraced so hopefully during a summit meeting in Aqaba, Jordan, last week, might die an early death in the absence of a major new gesture from the Bush administration.

On Saturday, Assistant Secretary of State John S. Wolf; David F. Satterfield, a State Department expert on the Middle East; and an official from the National Security Council are scheduled to arrive here as the first members of a team to monitor the peace plan.

The team's exact duties and composition remain vague. But the three Americans are expected to encourage both sides to end the violence and quickly take the early steps required in the plan, which envisions a Palestinian state within three years.

## With Peacemakers on Way, Israel Attacks Hamas Again

"The events of the past week have focused people's attention on the fact that we need to get implementation started sooner rather than later -- and the more the better," said one Western diplomat.

The problem now facing the Bush administration appears to be not just another round of attack and revenge, but declarations of all-out war between Israel and Hamas.

The oratory has intensified on both sides. On Thursday, Hamas warned foreigners to leave Israel or come under a new round of attacks that would target all Israelis. At funerals today for victims of a helicopter attack on Thursday -- in which a Hamas activist was killed in Gaza along with his wife and 1-year-old daughter -- pamphlets urged all Hamas members to carry out attacks.

Hamas has rejected the current peace plan and reaffirmed its goal of destroying Israel.

For its part, Israel has pledged a battle against Hamas "without quarter, and no limit exists on hitting its leaders," according to a report today on Israeli Army radio. The report quoted Israeli officials as saying that Sheik Yassin could also be a target.

The words came after a spate of attack and counterattack that has been unusually lethal even by the standards of the last 32 months of Israeli-Palestinian violence.

Last Sunday, Hamas militants killed five Israeli soldiers. In response on Tuesday, Israel carried out a failed attempt to assassinate a top member of Hamas's leadership, Abdel Aziz Rantisi.

The next day a Palestinian suicide bomber blew up a bus in downtown Jerusalem, killing 17 Israelis.

The Israeli military reported two other incidents of violence today. Tonight, the army said, an Israeli man was killed in the West Bank town of Jenin, though it provided no other details. Earlier, two Israeli women were severely wounded, the army said, when at least one Palestinian gunman fired on them while they were driving near the city of Ramallah in the West Bank, near an Israeli settlement.

The violence was interspersed with conflicting signals about an end to the hostilities. A Palestinian official said there had been discussions with the Israelis about reopening talks between top security officials.

A major complication in this most recent round of attacks is the role of the Bush administration, which has staked much on the success of its peace plan, called the road map. That plan was inaugurated last week in Jordan at a summit meeting between President Bush, Prime Minister Ariel Sharon of Israel and his new Palestinian counterpart, Mahmoud Abbas.

With the peace plan so young, the attempt to kill Dr. Rantisi drew a rare and stern rebuke from Mr. Bush, who said it did not contribute to Israel's security. But after the bus bombing on Wednesday, top administration officials -- even while urging restraint from the Israelis -- laid the blame for obstructing the peace process squarely on Hamas.

Today Hamas officials said that blame had only encouraged Israel to press on with its attacks, which they said were further angering Palestinians and lining them up against the peace proposal.

Ambassadors to the so-called quartet that drafted the plan -- the United States, the European Union, Russia and the United Nations -- met in Paris today, and several diplomats said there was growing agreement that the plan needed an immediate jolt to get back on course.

"There is a lot of activity going on right now, substantial discussions with the Palestinians about steps they need to take, discussion with the Israelis, tough talk from the Americans with the Israelis," another Western diplomat said.

"Will something very dramatic happen in the next couple of days that will be announced?" he said. "No. But there is very active discussion under way about the fact that gradualism and the slowness of the process could endanger the process."

## With Peacemakers on Way, Israel Attacks Hamas Again

On June 22, Secretary of State Colin L. Powell is expected to go to Jordan for a meeting of the quartet's leaders, including Kofi Annan, the United Nations secretary general, and Javier Solana, the European Union's foreign affairs chief.

Diplomats and other experts say two major question marks hang over the plan's immediate survival. One is how to deal with Hamas, which the Palestinians are charged with reining in, something that Mr. Abbas seems unwilling and unable to do.

Another, more delicate issue, some experts say, is the depth of Mr. Sharon's commitment to the peace plan. While he accepted it reluctantly and with many conditions, he has spoken in recent weeks of the need for a Palestinian state and even calling the Israeli military presence in the West Bank and the Gaza Strip an "occupation."

Many Palestinians and leftist Israelis have accused Mr. Sharon of talking about peace but then trying to scuttle the plan with the attacks on Hamas.

But he and his supporters have made the case since then that his actions are actually intended to move the peace plan forward, by taking the steps against Hamas that Mr. Abbas seems unable to.

<http://www.nytimes.com>

## Graphic

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Photos: Palestinians in Gaza, above, inspected the wreckage of a car destroyed yesterday by an Israeli missile. At left, at the Givat Shaul cemetery in Jerusalem, relatives mourned Alan Beer, killed in the bus bombing on Wednesday. (Getty Images); (Associated Press) Map of Israel highlighting Gaza: Israeli helicopters delivered two more strikes on Hamas in Gaza.

**Load-Date:** June 14, 2003

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End of Document

## **HAMAS LEADER SURVIVES REVENGE AIR STRIKE**

Daily Post (North Wales)

September 11, 2003, Thursday

Copyright 2003 The Liverpool Daily Post & Echo Ltd

**Section:** NEWS; Pg. 12; Newspaper

**Length:** 308 words

### **Body**

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ISRAEL launched revenge attacks for two suicide bombings with an air raid on a senior **Hamas** leader's home in Gaza City yesterday.

Mahmoud Zahar escaped with an injured leg but his son and a bodyguard were killed, hospital officials said. In all, about 25 people were hurt, including Zahar's wife and daughter.

The bomb hit the Zahar home in Gaza City's Rimal district, levelling the building and sending huge plumes of smoke into the air. Several adjacent houses were also destroyed. Palestinian police were struggling to control an angry crowd that gathered at the scene.

Zahar, who witnesses said was in a garden beside the house at the time, was lightly hurt in the leg and taken to nearby Shifa Hospital. The bodies of the dead were badly burned.

Hospital officials identified one of the dead as Zahar's 30-year-old bodyguard. Relatives identified the other victim as Zahar's son, Khaled, 29.

The Israeli military did not comment.

Staff at the hospital called over loudspeakers for people to donate blood to help treat the wounded, who were brought to the hospital in ambulances and private cars. Among the wounded were five children and three **women**, hospital officials said. Three of the wounded were in critical condition.

The strike flattened Zahar's twostorey house, destroyed two nearby buildings and damaged a mosque. Witnesses described feeling the ground shake and seeing a spray of debris. A fog of dust covered the area for several minutes.

The air strike came a day after suicide bombers apparently dispatched by **Hamas** killed 15 Israelis in twin attacks at a bus stop crowded with soldiers and at a popular Jerusalem nightspot.

**Hamas** has stopped short of claiming responsibility, but has threatened revenge for Israel's failed attempt over the weekend to kill several **Hamas** leaders, including founder Sheik Ahmed Yassin, in an air strike.

**Load-Date:** September 12, 2003

## HAMAS LEADER SURVIVES REVENGE AIR STRIKE

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## **ISRAEL BRACED FOR NEW ATTACKS AFTER KILLING OF HAMAS LEADER**

The Scotsman  
August 22, 2003, Friday

Copyright 2003 The Scotsman Publications Ltd.

**Section:** Pg. 12

**Length:** 874 words

**Byline:** Ben Lynfield In Jerusalem

### **Body**

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ISRAELIS were bracing themselves for a wave of new suicide attacks last night after two Islamic militant groups called off their truce in response to Israel's assassination of a leading member of Hamas.

Hamas and Islamic Jihad vowed bloody revenge after Ismail Abu Shanab and two aides were killed by Israeli missile fire as Mr Shanab drove near UN offices in Gaza City.

The "targeted assassination", the first for several weeks, also brought swift condemnation from the Palestinian Authority, which said the attack made it impossible for the authority to crack down on the militant organisations.

Yesterday's killing of Mr Shanab was in retaliation for Tuesday's suicide bombing of a crowded bus in Jerusalem that left 20 Israelis dead.

Mr Shanab was driving in his white estate car with two bodyguards when five missiles fired by an Israeli helicopter hit it.

He was decapitated by the blasts, both bodyguards were killed and 15 bystanders were wounded, including women and children, doctors said.

The burning wreck of the car was surrounded by throngs of Hamas supporters, some of whom smeared their fists with blood and soot and waved them in the air, vowing revenge and chanting "God is Great."

Thousands rallied outside Mr Shanab's house in Gaza City, and hundreds more gathered at the main Shifa hospital.

"No to Abbas and no to his road map!" they shouted, referring to the troubled plan intended to forge a Palestinian state in Israeli-occupied Gaza and West Bank territory by 2005.

"Death to the ceasefire and death to Israel!" they said of the truce agreed in late June by Palestinian militants that had marked a period of relative calm.

The Israeli cabinet released a statement before the assassination that military steps would be aimed "to allow the furthering of the peace process", by harming militant groups in the absence of action by the Palestinian Authority.

The leaders of the Palestinian Authority had regarded Mr Shanab as a moderate within Hamas, but Israel said he had approved military activities.

## ISRAEL BRACED FOR NEW ATTACKS AFTER KILLING OF HAMAS LEADER

"He was a murderer," said the Israeli vice-premier, Ehud Olmert. "I hope it's a lesson for the Hamas people. But it isn't enough. We have to get each and every Hamas leader."

The deputy industry minister, Michael Ratzon, of Prime Minister Ariel Sharon's Likud party, added: "It is our obligation to rub out all the political and military heads of the Palestinian organisations, including Yasser Arafat."

Ordinary Israelis were bracing for retaliation. "It is clear we are headed towards a tough war," said Israel's leading military analyst, Zeev Schiff.

Wadi Abu Nasser, a Haifa-based analyst, said: "Most Hamas leaders will now go underground and try to hide. But the reaction will come."

The US Secretary of State, Colin Powell, also voiced grave concern. "At the end of the road map is a cliff both sides will fall off." He urged the Palestinian president, Yasser Arafat, to use forces under his control to thwart Hamas attacks.

But Hamas announced it was no longer sticking to the ceasefire announced by the Palestinian Authority. "These missiles have destroyed all previous understandings," said Hamas's spiritual leader, Ahmed Yassin. "This was unprecedented aggression - killing a political person, and it crosses all the red lines that existed."

Ismail Haniye, a Hamas leader, said: "We will respond with actions, not words."

The truce had been the fruit of talks between the militants and the Palestinian prime minister, Mahmoud Abbas, who wanted to avoid a violent confrontation with them.

Although never endorsed by Israel, the ceasefire had brought weeks of relative calm, even if in recent weeks it had begun to fray with occasional Palestinian shootings and Israeli army raids that killed militants. In revenge, Hamas and the Islamic Jihad waged bombings that led to yesterday's action by Israel.

On Tuesday, a Hamas militant dressed as an orthodox Jew dealt the ceasefire its heaviest blow, blowing apart a bus heading from the Western Wall holy site with many Israeli children on board.

Until yesterday, Israel had refrained during the ceasefire from its practice of "targeted killings" or assassinations of prominent figures.

The Israeli justice minister, Yosef Lapid, said he had opposed the decision to kill Mr Shanab on the grounds that the Palestinian Authority should be given time to act against Hamas. "But Israel had to respond to the outrage in Jerusalem," he added.

The moderate Mr Abbas, who heard the news after finishing a meeting with the US envoy John Wolf, was facing his worst challenge since becoming prime minister in May, caught in the crossfire between Hamas and Israel.

"We condemn this crime completely because it is against peace and against the peace process," he said. Mr Wolf had reportedly been pressing Mr Abbas to move against Hamas.

Elias Zananiri, a spokesman for the Palestinian Authority security ministry, said the authority had decided on Wednesday to launch "an ongoing operation with the goal of neutralising Hamas and Islamic Jihad from a military standpoint."

But he added, the operation was called off after Mr Shanab's killing because now the public would not go along with a campaign against fellow Palestinians. "The entire environment has changed," he said.

**Load-Date:** August 22, 2003

## ISRAEL BRACED FOR NEW ATTACKS AFTER KILLING OF HAMAS LEADER

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## *Israeli strike kills bystander, but not Hamas members*

The Philadelphia Inquirer

AUGUST 27, 2003 Wednesday CITY-D EDITION

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**The Philadelphia Inquirer**

Found on Philly.com

**Section:** NATIONAL; Pg. A10

**Length:** 600 words

**Byline:** Ibrahim Barzak ASSOCIATED PRESS

**Dateline:** GAZA CITY, Gaza Strip

### **Body**

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Israel accelerated its campaign against members of armed Palestinian groups yesterday, killing a bystander and wounding 26 people in a botched missile strike against Hamas gunmen in the Gaza Strip.

Three Hamas members managed to flee their car on a crowded Gaza street as the missiles hit, witnesses said. Five children were among the wounded, doctors said.

Israel has killed seven radicals in two missile raids in Gaza and stepped up military operations in the West Bank since 21 people were killed in a Hamas suicide bombing on a Jerusalem bus last week. Hours before the Gaza strike, Israeli soldiers dressed as Arabs snatched two wounded radicals, one involved in a suicide bombing, from a West Bank hospital.

The violence has frozen progress on the U.S.-supported road map peace plan and further exposed the reluctance of Palestinian Prime Minister Mahmoud Abbas to confront the armed groups.

The Israeli crackdown, supported by warnings that every group member is marked for death, has also forced members of Hamas and other groups into deeper hiding. Hamas members said they were changing their appearances - shaving beards, losing weight, even wearing women's robes - to disguise themselves.

In the latest Israeli operation, a helicopter fired three missiles at a car stuck in a traffic jam on a crowded residential street just north of Gaza City, near the Jabaliya refugee camp.

"The people in the car jumped out and ran in two different directions" after one rocket hit near the front of the car, said Shadi Tayan, who owns an area bookstore. After the men fled, two more missiles hit.

Hamas sources said the car was carrying three group members, including Khaled Masoud, the brother of a Hamas military-wing commander killed in an Israeli raid in Gaza three months ago. The sources said Masoud was wounded in yesterday's strike. An Israeli security official said Masoud was responsible for building crude rockets of the type regularly fired into Israel and at Jewish settlements in Gaza.

## Israeli strike kills bystander, but not Hamas members

The dead man, Hassan Hamlawi, 65, was sitting outside his water-pipe shop when the missiles hit nearby. Blood stained the sidewalk amid the scattered plastic chairs in front of the store.

Crowds gathered at the scene, including Hamas supporters who brandished pieces of the charred white car and chanted, "Revenge, revenge!"

Health Minister Kamal Sharafi said four of the wounded were in critical condition, including an 8-year-old girl.

The Gaza operation came hours after Israeli soldiers seized two wanted members of the Al Aqsa Martyrs' Brigades, a radical group affiliated with Yasir Arafat's Fatah faction, from Raffidiyeh Hospital in Nablus. The two were wounded in a gun battle with Israeli soldiers Friday.

Soldiers yesterday asked a nurse to lead them to the two fugitives - one of them reportedly responsible for a suicide bombing that killed an Israeli on Aug. 12. The troops confined nurses and doctors to a few rooms, knocked on the door of the intensive-care unit, then broke it down.

Soldiers grabbed the medical files of the two men and wheeled them out on their hospital beds to waiting military ambulances, which took them to an Israeli military hospital.

Israel says it has no choice but to hunt down radicals because Palestinian leaders have not dismantled the armed groups - a key requirement of the road map. Abbas has been reluctant to confront the groups and has accused Israel of making his job more difficult.

\* An Israeli strike targeting Hamas members in the Gaza Strip instead kills one bystander and injures 26. Earlier, soldiers snatched two Palestinian radicals from a hospital. A10.

**Load-Date:** August 15, 2005

**International Roundup : Hamas defiant Palestinians shocked at use of suicide mother**

The Guardian (London) - Final Edition

January 27, 2004

Copyright 2004 Guardian Newspapers Limited

**Section:** Guardian Foreign Pages, Pg. 18

**Length:** 325 words

**Byline:** Chris McGreal in Jerusalem

## **Body**

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**Hamas** has defied widespread criticism among Palestinians for using a young mother as a suicide bomber by publishing photographs of Reem Riyashi and her two small children posing with weapons.

Mrs Riyashi, 22, blew herself up and killed four Israelis at a Gaza border crossing a fortnight ago after faking a disability to bypass a security check.

She was the first **female** suicide bomber for **Hamas**, leading to considerable speculation as to her motives, and criticism of the organisation even among some supporters.

Mrs Riyashi left behind two young children: a three-year-old son, Obedia, and her daughter, Doha, who is 18 months. In the photographs, the boy is clutching what appears to be a mortar shell and, like his mother, is wearing a **Hamas** headband. Another picture shows her gazing at both children.

Hani Almasri, a writer on the Palestinian newspaper Al-Ayyam, told the Associated Press that the decision by **Hamas** to release the pictures damaged the Palestinian cause.

"I think the military operations are not attracting large support from Palestinian people as before, so I think this factor will not work for **Hamas**'s interests," he said.

But **Hamas** has defended the photographs by saying that the pictures show both the depth of despair among Palestinian **women** and their desire to defeat the occupation.

After the bombing, Sheikh Ahmad Yassin, the spiritual leader of **Hamas**, said Mrs Riyashi had opened the door for more **women** to die in the fight against Israel, and he urged more to volunteer.

**Hamas** has denied reports in the Israeli press that Mrs Riyashi was coerced into becoming a human bomb to restore her family honour and atone for an extramarital affair. Some reports said her husband drove her to the site of the attack at a checkpoint between the Gaza strip and an industrial park.

Israeli intelligence officials said Mrs Riyashi had suffered from depression for many years and had tried to commit suicide before.

International Roundup : Hamas defiant Palestinians shocked at use of suicide mother

**Load-Date:** January 27, 2004

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## **ISRAELI COPTER ATTACK ON HAMAS KILLS BYSTANDER, WOUNDS CHILDREN**

St. Louis Post-Dispatch (Missouri)

August 27, 2003 Wednesday Five Star Late Lift Edition

Copyright 2003 St. Louis Post-Dispatch, Inc.

**Section:** NEWS; Pg. A14

**Length:** 592 words

**Byline:** The Associated Press

**Dateline:** GAZA CITY, GAZA STRIP

### **Body**

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Israel accelerated its deadly campaign against militants Tuesday, killing a water-pipe vendor in a missile strike aimed at **Hamas** gunmen in the Gaza Strip. The attack also wounded 26 bystanders.

Three **Hamas** members managed to flee from their car in a crowded Gaza City street before the missiles hit, witnesses said. Five children were among the wounded, doctors said.

Israel has killed seven militants in two missile raids in Gaza and stepped up military operations in the West Bank since 21 people were killed by a **Hamas** suicide bombing on a Jerusalem bus last week.

Hours before the Gaza strike, Israeli soldiers dressed as Arabs snatched two wounded militants, one involved in a suicide bombing, from their beds in a West Bank hospital.

The violence has frozen progress on the U.S.-backed "road map" peace plan and exposed the reluctance of Palestinian Prime Minister Mahmoud Abbas to confront the armed groups.

The Israeli crackdown, backed by warnings that every militant is marked for death, has also forced members of **Hamas** and other groups to go deeper into hiding. **Hamas** members said they were changing their appearances - shaving beards, losing weight, even disguising in **women's** robes. Leaflets hung in mosques throughout the Gaza Strip instructed **Hamas** activists to take precautions - such as not traveling in groups, avoiding use of their telephones - so as not to present easy targets.

In the latest Israeli operation, a helicopter fired three missiles at a car stuck in a traffic jam on a crowded residential street just north of Gaza City, near the Jebaliya refugee camp.

"The people in the car jumped out and ran in two different directions" after one rocket hit near the front of the white car, said Shadi Tayan, who owns a bookstore in the area. After the men fled, two more missiles hit.

**Hamas** sources said the car was carrying three of its members, including Khaled Masoud, the brother of a **Hamas** military wing commander killed in an Israeli raid in Gaza three months ago. They said Masoud was wounded in the strike.

## ISRAELI COPTER ATTACK ON HAMAS KILLS BYSTANDER, WOUNDS CHILDREN

An Israeli security official said Masoud was responsible for building crude rockets of the type regularly fired into Israel and Jewish settlements in Gaza - almost invariably missing their targets.

The dead man, Hassan Hamlawi, 65, had been sitting outside his water-pipe shop when the missiles hit nearby. Blood stained the sidewalk amid the scattered plastic chairs in front of the store.

Crowds gathered at the scene. They included **Hamas** supporters who brandished pieces of the charred white car and chanted, "Revenge, revenge!"

Health Minister Kamal Sharafi said four of the wounded were in critical condition, including an 8-year-old girl.

The Gaza operation came hours after Israeli soldiers seized two members of the Al Aqsa Martyrs Brigades, a militant group loosely affiliated with Yasser Arafat's Fatah faction, from Raffidiyeh Hospital in Nablus. The two had been wounded in a battle with Israeli soldiers on Friday.

Soldiers asked a nurse to lead them to the two fugitives - one of them responsible for a suicide bombing that killed an Israeli in a supermarket Aug. 12. The troops confined nurses and doctors to a few rooms, knocked on the door of the intensive care unit, then broke it down.

Soldiers grabbed their medical files and wheeled the two men out on their hospital beds to waiting military ambulances, which took them to an Israeli military hospital.

Israel says it has no choice but to hunt down militants because Palestinian leaders have not dismantled the armed groups - a key requirement of the peace plan.

## Notes

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WORLD

## Graphic

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PHOTO; Color Photo by JEROME DELAY/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS - A crowd gathers around a car destroyed by an Israeli helicopter attack on Tuesday north of Gaza City. The attack was aimed at **Hamas** guerrillas, and **Hamas** supporters brandished pieces of the charred white car and chanted, "Revenge, revenge!"

**Load-Date:** August 27, 2003

## ***Hamas' threat: First female bomber won't be its last***

The Philadelphia Inquirer

JANUARY 16, 2004 Friday CITY-D EDITION

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**The Philadelphia Inquirer**

Found on Philly.com

**Section:** NATIONAL; Pg. A07

**Length:** 430 words

**Byline:** Ibrahim Barzak ASSOCIATED PRESS

**Dateline:** GAZA CITY, Gaza Strip

### **Body**

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The first **female Hamas** suicide bomber was given a hero's funeral yesterday, a day after killing four Israeli border guards, and Israel sealed the Gaza Strip to review security at border crossings.

The one-day closure prevented thousands of Palestinian workers from getting to their jobs in Israel and a nearby industrial zone. The workers, among the few with jobs in the impoverished region, worried that life would only become harder - but few were willing to openly blame **Hamas** or other groups for their new hardship.

Wednesday's attack at the Erez border crossing between Israel and Gaza was the first time **Hamas** dispatched a **female** suicide bomber.

"She is not going to be the last," **Hamas** leader Mahmoud Zahar said, "because the march of resistance will continue until the Islamic flag is raised, not only over the minarets of Jerusalem but over the whole universe."

An Israeli closure shut down the Erez crossing and a nearby industrial park, where 6,000 Palestinians work. The army said that only those with humanitarian needs could cross.

Some workers, while unwilling to directly criticize **Hamas**, questioned the wisdom of the target. "I think we have the right to fight to end the occupation, but at the same time we have to think 100 times before any act," said Fawaz Radwan, 42, who works in a factory near the Israeli town of Ashkelon.

Even such veiled criticism is relatively rare, though some Palestinians grumble privately about tighter travel bans or other hardships prompted by attacks on Israelis. In a society where consensus is valued, criticizing the armed groups openly is seen by many as a betrayal.

The bomber was Reem Raiyshi, 22, the mother of two young children. Raiyshi had been escorted into a room for a security search, then blew herself up in an attack jointly claimed by **Hamas** and the Al Aqsa Martyrs' Brigade, which is linked to Yasir Arafat's Fatah movement.

### Hamas' threat: First female bomber won't be its last

Thousands marched through Gaza City during her funeral. **Hamas** and Al Aqsa gunmen carried her coffin, draped in the **Hamas** green flag.

Three of those killed were border police; the fourth was a private security guard. The army said four of the seven wounded were Palestinians.

Palestinian Prime Minister Ahmed Qureia declined to condemn the attack. Palestinian leaders usually denounce attacks on civilians in Israel, but not on soldiers or settlers in the West Bank and Gaza, which they view as legitimate targets.

Also yesterday, Israel's High Court decided, after a petition by a human-rights group, to hold a hearing within a month on the legality of a barrier Israel is building in the West Bank.

**Load-Date:** August 21, 2005



## *Europe faces pressure to toe Washington's line on Hamas*

Sydney Morning Herald (Australia)

June 26, 2003 Thursday

Late Edition

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**Section:** NEWS AND FEATURES; International News; Pg. 10

**Length:** 415 words

**Byline:** Ed O'Loughlin, Herald Correspondent in Jerusalem

### **Body**

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The United States was yesterday expected to ask European Union states to declare the Palestinian militant group **Hamas** a terrorist organisation, as Israel continued to question many of the 130 suspected **Hamas** supporters it detained in Hebron on Monday.

The latest pressure on **Hamas** comes despite hopes that the group is about to declare a ceasefire in its war with Israel.

Regarded as the most organised and ruthless of the Palestinian militant groups, **Hamas** is expected to lead the way for the other main groups should it call a halt to attacks on Israel.

Israel has repeatedly said, however, that it does not want a ceasefire. Instead it insists that under the terms of the faltering "road map" for peace in the Middle East that the Palestinian Prime Minister, Mahmoud Abbas, use his security forces to "exterminate" terrorism.

Monday's arrests in Hebron were among a series of Israeli operations against the group, including the assassination of several leading members, since the "road map" was ostensibly agreed at a summit in Aqaba on June 4.

On June 11 a **Hamas** suicide bomber killed 17 Israelis in Jerusalem, and the group has continued to fire home-made rockets at Israel from the Gaza Strip.

Palestinians say those held in Hebron include many regarded as supporters of **Hamas** or relatives of members, rather than members themselves. The detainees, who were blindfolded and handcuffed before interrogation, reportedly include **women** and minors.

At a summit meeting in Washington overnight, Sydney time, the US was expected to demand that the EU list **Hamas** as a terrorist organisation as part of its campaign to cut off all international donations to the group. Most EU states differentiate between **Hamas**'s military wing and its political wing, which is also intimately linked to Islamic charities in the West Bank and Gaza.

In Israel, the trial has begun of five Israeli Arabs accused of channelling funds to **Hamas**. Hundreds of Israeli Arabs demonstrated outside the court in Haifa to show their solidarity with the group headed by Sheik Raed Salah. The

## Europe faces pressure to toe Washington's line on Hamas

Arab world has widely denounced the prosecution as a show trial that demonstrates Israel's hostility to its large Arab minority.

Israeli Arabs, who constitute about a fifth of the population, say they suffer inferior treatment in practice and in law. At the outbreak of the current intifada 13 were shot dead by Israeli police in a single incident as they tried to demonstrate against the Government's behaviour in the occupied territories.

## Graphic

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ILLUS: Under pressure . . . Mahmoud Abbas.

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

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End of Document

## **HAMAS REAPS WHAT IT SOWS**

Daily News (New York)

September 3, 2003, Wednesday

SPORTS FINAL EDITION

Copyright 2003 Daily News, L.P.

**Section:** EDITORIAL;; EDITORIAL

**Length:** 700 words

### **Body**

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Israel - its patience and forbearance shattered, along with the lives of 21 innocents aboard a Jerusalem bus last month - is now at war with **Hamas**.

Total war. All-out war. War to the bitter end.

**Hamas** seeks Israel's destruction, but it is the terrorist group that must be destroyed. Six Israeli air strikes in two weeks have efficiently exterminated 11 key **Hamas** plotters. Now their comrades are in wild disarray, running for deep cover, knowing full well that any one of them could be next on Israel's dispatch list.

This war is being fought on Israel's terms. Unlike the mass murder perpetrated by **Hamas** - bombing buses, stores and restaurants, seeking to maximize the number of soft casualties, like children - Israel has been zeroing in on the killers themselves. Accordingly, the number of bystanders killed has been kept to an absolute minimum.

This is what is meant by a surgical strike. Think of it as removing a cancer without harming the patient. And a cancer **Hamas** is.

Notice that the usual bash-Israel crowd, like the Europeans and the United Nations, even the Arab states, is quiet. That's because Israel is performing a service to the civilized world - ridding it of monsters who revel in death.

Israeli Defense Minister Shaul Mofaz said yesterday that there will be no respite: "**Hamas** is in distress because of our activity, but we will not stop the pressure until the terror infrastructure is dismantled either by the Palestinian Authority or by us."

And the Palestinian Authority isn't doing diddly.

The blame for the inaction must rest with Yasser Arafat, who has willfully and wantonly sabotaged the U.S.-brokered road map to Middle East peace at every turn. Palestinian moderates are disgusted with him. Some 200 have signed a public letter, pleading with the boss to loosen his stranglehold on Prime Minister Mahmoud Abbas, who might yet provide some sane measure of leadership.

But it may well be too late for that. Under heavy fire from Arafat and his terrorist toadies, the Abbas government could fall in a matter of days.

That might serve Arafat, but it won't dissuade Israel from doing what is necessary to defend itself.

Victims' fund finis

## HAMAS REAPS WHAT IT SOWS

Almost two years after the Sept. 11 terrorist attacks, the trauma lingers, especially for the families of those lost. Unfortunately, many of them have yet to take advantage of help offered through the federal Sept. 11 Special Victims' Compensation Fund. Whatever their reasons for failing to file a claim, passing on the offer would be a mistake.

To date, 1,240 families of the dead - about 40% of those eligible - have filed. The Dec. 22 deadline is three months away. Those who put off starting the process may miss out on it for good. Their reasons are understandable. Some see making a claim as denying their still-fresh anger and pain. The families of those undocumented fear deportation. But filing a claim does not disrespect the dead, nor will it trigger punitive measures.

The federal fund was meant to give victims' families a fair, expedited alternative to drawn-out, unpredictable lawsuits. Missing the deadline will extend the process of redress indefinitely, and only for those who sue. Just 69 families have exercised that option thus far.

Ideally, the feds should extend the deadline. What difference would one or two more years make? Unfortunately, Capitol Hill is short on political will, and its reserve of sympathy for New Yorkers appears tapped out.

Kenneth Feinberg, who administers the fund, has done a remarkable and thorough job in shepherding families through the process and in making it transparent to the public at large. He has met accusations of insensitivity by making himself even more available and opening several claim assistance offices throughout the area. In the next month, he plans to make the rounds one more time, meeting with families in a series of town hall forums to persuade them to file.

Grief has no expiration date, but the federal fund does.

Girl from Ipanema

From the wires: BRASILIA, Brazil (Reuters) - A new study found Brazilian women care more about their appearance than any other women in the world, with half prepared to undergo plastic surgery.

Tall and tan and young and surgically enhanced.

**Load-Date:** September 3, 2003

## *Palestinians vow to avenge Hamas death*

The International Herald Tribune

August 23, 2003 Saturday

Copyright 2003 International Herald Tribune

**Section:** NEWS; Pg. 1

**Length:** 1026 words

**Byline:** Frank Bruni

**Dateline:** GAZA CITY, Gaza Strip:

### **Body**

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Thousands of enraged Palestinians at the funeral here of a slain Hamas official vowed Friday to take sweeping revenge against Israel, which signaled that it would continue to hunt down the leaders of militant groups.

As tension built throughout Israel, the Gaza Strip and the West Bank, Israeli troops fatally shot a Palestinian militant and wounded several others on the roof of a hospital in Nablus on the West Bank, according to witnesses.

The militants were apparently members of the Al Aqsa Martyrs Brigades, an armed faction within the mainstream Fatah national movement of Yasser Arafat, the Palestinian leader.

Far south in Gaza City, a sprawling crowd of what some estimated to be more than 10,000 filled the streets around a mosque and then marched dozens of blocks to a cemetery.

The New York Times

All the while, they chanted promises of "martyrdom" for Palestinian suicide bombers and death to Israelis in retaliation for the killing of Ismail Abu Shanab, a senior Hamas political leader, in an Israeli airstrike on Thursday. His remains were carried through the streets in a green Hamas flag.

"The response is coming in Tel Aviv, Jaffa, Haifa and Jerusalem," Abdel Aziz Rantisi, another Hamas leader, said as he moved from the mosque to the cemetery.

All around him, loudspeakers on vans and trucks broadcast voices that swore, "Revenge! Revenge!" To punctuate that point, some fired rifles into the air.

Away from the city, Israeli security forces fortified positions between the Gaza Strip and Israel.

Inside the Gaza Strip, they reestablished roadblocks along the main north-south highway, cutting Gaza into pieces and severely hindering residents' ability to travel through it. The disappearance of those check points during a relative lull in violence over the last two months had been seen as an important gesture by Israelis.

The Israeli military said it reestablished the checkpoints in response to the firing of rockets by Hamas at Jewish settlements in Gaza and at Israeli towns over the border. There were no reports of injuries from those rockets.

## Palestinians vow to avenge Hamas death

The developments Friday reflected the profoundly tense state of affairs between Palestinians and Israelis after a tumultuous week in which a suicide bomber affiliated with Hamas killed 20 passengers aboard a bus in Jerusalem on Tuesday night.

That bombing and subsequent events, including the killing of Abu Shanab and two of his bodyguards by Israeli forces, plunged an American-backed peace effort into uncertainty.

Diplomats scurried Friday to try to patch up and preserve that peace effort, known as the road map.

A special envoy sent by President Hosni Mubarak of Egypt visited Arafat, the Palestinian leader, at his West Bank headquarters in Ramallah in an apparent attempt to save the peace effort.

The envoy, Osama el-Baz, told reporters there that "all sides have to take steps to avoid escalation and implement the road map."

Israeli officials have demanded that Palestinian leaders arrest militants and dismantle their groups, one element of the road map. Palestinian leaders said they had intended to take such steps but that the killing of Abu Shanab had thwarted them.

Many Palestinians said in interviews Friday that any such action by Palestinian leaders would be unacceptable and could lead to a civil war. That emphatically, repeatedly stated position seemed to leave Palestinian leaders with limited room to maneuver.

It left Israel determined to do the work of striking against militant groups itself. Over the last 24 hours, Israeli tanks and other armored vehicles entered the West Bank cities of Jenin, Tulkarem and Nablus.

Among Palestinians on Friday in Gaza City, the anger was palpable. Around noon, hundreds paid tribute by cramming an intersection outside a new house into which Abu Shanab had recently moved.

"Your blood won't go in vain," shouted a man thronged by cheering, chanting members of Hamas. "Hamas, you are the rocket, and we are the bullets."

In between his proclamations, the sound of wailing women could be heard from the house. Abu Shanab's flag-draped remains were brought out on an orange stretcher, and as members of Hamas carried it, under a brutal sun, more than a mile to the mosque, the procession of mourners swelled into the thousands.

A loudspeaker blared the declaration: "Our one constitution is the Koran. Jihad is our only road. The best ambition for us is to die as martyrs."

Around the mosque, representatives from various militant groups, including Fatah and Islamic Jihad, gathered under their respective flags. Some wore camouflage uniforms and black hoods.

Children who appeared to be just five years old hoisted green Hamas flags that were nearly as big as they were. Vans and trucks were decorated with hastily made placards that bore photographs of Abu Shanab and his bodyguards and portrayed them as martyrs.

Speaking at the funeral, Rantisi said Israel would accomplish nothing by targeting and killing militant leaders.

"They think that targeting leaders will stop jihad," he said, using the Palestinian term for a holy war. "They are mistaken."

One of the many chants of the Palestinians in the funeral procession referred ominously to Prime Minister Ariel Sharon of Israel and Defense Minister Shaul Mofaz.

"Sharon and Mofaz, listen well," some men chanted. "Our retaliation will send you to hell."

## Palestinians vow to avenge Hamas death

Far away from the procession, Palestinians in Gaza who went about their everyday business said that they, too, had lost what slender hope they had for the road map and were braced for renewed, perhaps intensified violence.

"There will be no truce," said a man who identified himself as Abu Hossam, 53, an ambulance driver. His voice was more resigned and sorrowful than truculent. "You have to accept reality," he said as he bought bread.

But one of the bakery workers, Abu Emad Ammar, 31, responded to a question about what might lie ahead with a fiery declaration of defiance.

"I'm not afraid," Ammar said. "What could be worse than our daily lives?"

He made only one prediction, and it reflected the pessimism that took renewed root here Friday.

"We won't lose if they come and kill us," he said, referring to Israelis. "We will die as martyrs."

**Load-Date:** August 24, 2003

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End of Document

**HARD-LINER NAMED HAMAS LEADER;**  
**ISRAEL TO KEEP TARGETING ROOTS OF PALESTINIAN VIOLENCE**

Pittsburgh Post-Gazette (Pennsylvania)

March 24, 2004 Wednesday

SOONER EDITION

Copyright 2004 P.G. Publishing Co.

**Section:** WORLD,

**Length:** 779 words

**Byline:** GREG MYRE, THE NEW YORK TIMES

**Dateline:** JERUSALEM

## **Body**

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The Palestinian Islamic movement **Hamas** named one of its most combative figures, Dr. Abdel Aziz Rantisi, as its leader in the Gaza Strip yesterday following Israel's killing of the group's founder, Sheik Ahmed Yassin.

Meanwhile, senior Israeli security officials said top **Hamas** leaders would continue to be targets as part of an ongoing campaign against Palestinians linked to violence against Israel.

"Everyone is in our sights. There is no immunity for anyone," said Tzachi Hanegbi, Israel's minister of internal security.

Rantisi, a pediatrician in his mid-50s, has already survived one such Israeli effort. He suffered multiple wounds last June, when his car was hit by a missile on a Gaza City street, but he quickly recovered.

While a major figure in the movement, he lacks the towering stature of Yassin, who established the group in 1987. The sheik was killed in an Israeli helicopter strike as he left a Gaza City mosque following Monday morning prayers.

President Bush did not repeat statements made Monday by State Department spokesman Richard Boucher that the administration was "deeply troubled" by the killing of Yassin. Instead, the president told reporters that he was "worried about terrorist groups targeting America." He added, "Whether it be a **Hamas** threat or an al-Qaida threat, we take them very seriously in this administration."

Rantisi, who speaks frequently to journalists, has been the most visible and fiery **Hamas** spokesman in recent years. He vowed that under his leadership of **Hamas** from its Gaza stronghold, the group would continue to push hard to carry out suicide bombings and other attacks.

"The Israelis will not know security," Rantisi yesterday told the crowd at a memorial service for Yassin. "We will fight them until the liberation of Palestine, the whole of Palestine."

And in remarks directed at the military wing of **Hamas**, he said: "The door is open for you to strike all places, all the time and using all means."



## HARD-LINER NAMED HAMAS LEADER; ISRAEL TO KEEP TARGETING ROOTS OF PALESTINIAN VIOLENCE

The **Hamas** leadership structure is fuzzy -- Yassin held the title of spiritual leader -- and the full extent of Rantisi's authority was not immediately clear.

Khaled Mashaal, based in Syria, remains head of **Hamas**' political bureau, a key decision-making body, **Hamas** officials said.

In an interview last night with the Arab satellite television network Al Jazeera, Rantisi said he would "obey" the political bureau. In the past, there has been tension between **Hamas** leaders in the Palestinian territories and those in exile.

The killing of Yassin seemed -- at least in the short term -- likely to increase regional violence, as Palestinian groups called for retaliatory attacks.

Israeli aircraft carried out an attack last night just across the border in southern Lebanon against a group of militants assembling a missile launcher, the Israeli military said. Two Palestinian militants were killed, and one was injured, The Associated Press reported from Beirut, citing a Lebanese security official.

Also, Israeli troops shot and killed an armed Palestinian who was crawling as he attempted to approach the Jewish settlement of Morag in the southern Gaza Strip.

In **Hamas**, a group defined by its extreme positions, Rantisi is known as the leader who makes the most vitriolic statements and opposes any form of compromise with Israel. When **Hamas** and other Palestinian factions declared a unilateral truce with Israel last summer, Rantisi was a vocal critic of the decision. The truce never fully took hold and within a couple months had collapsed.

Rantisi no longer practices medicine and in recent years has taught medical courses at the Islamic University, where many students support **Hamas**.

He spent years imprisoned by Israel and was sent into exile in Lebanon in 1992 along with several hundred other **Hamas** activists. The Palestinian Authority, which he frequently criticizes, also jailed him for about two years in the late 1990s.

While Rantisi describes himself as a political figure, Israel says there is no distinction between the political and military wings of **Hamas** and that Rantisi is among those who have orchestrated the group's suicide bombing campaign, even if they have not planned the details of attacks.

The death of Yassin brought a deluge of international criticism directed at Israel, and it also produced a measure of Palestinian political unity, at least temporarily.

The Fatah movement, which is more nationalist than religious, is headed by Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat and Prime Minister Ahmed Qurei and is the main rival of **Hamas** in Palestinian politics. But Fatah leaders have lavished praise on Yassin, and Qurei traveled from the West Bank to Gaza to attend yesterday's memorial service.

## Graphic

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PHOTO: Oded Balilty/Associated Press: Israeli **female** soldiers walk next to a coffee shop on their way to be deployed in downtown Jerusalem yesterday. Amid increased security, army troops have been reinforcing police units in the city.

PHOTO: Kevin Frayer/Associated Press: **Hamas** leader Dr. Abdel Aziz Rantisi talks on a cell phone next to a poster of Sheik Ahmed Yassin at his mourning tent in Gaza City yesterday.

HARD-LINER NAMED HAMAS LEADER; ISRAEL TO KEEP TARGETING ROOTS OF PALESTINIAN  
VIOLENCE

**Load-Date:** March 24, 2004

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## **HAMAS BETTING ON FAILURE OF PEACE EFFORTS TO STRENGTHEN ITS HAND**

Pittsburgh Post-Gazette (Pennsylvania)

July 6, 2003 Sunday

FIVE STAR EDITION

Copyright 2003 P.G. Publishing Co.

**Section:** WORLD,; ANALYSIS

**Length:** 1175 words

**Byline:** JAMES BENNET, THE NEW YORK TIMES

**Dateline:** GAZA CITY, Gaza Strip

### **Body**

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The agreement by the three main Palestinian factions to suspend attacks on Israelis is based on bad faith -- and that may give it a fragile chance of success.

The truce, announced last weekend, came because of new international pressure after the war in Iraq. But its roots are deeper than that, in the complex politics of Palestinian violence, which have fed the 33-month-old uprising against Israel and now might, haltingly, be bringing it to a close.

Mahmoud Abbas, the Palestinian prime minister, has set a trap for **Hamas** and other militant groups. He is hoping to whipsaw any relative calm resulting from a cease-fire to extract concessions from Israel, like this past week's opening of military checkpoints inside Gaza and preliminary pullback of Israeli forces from parts of the West Bank.

Then he wants to use the political support he hopes will follow to comply with the international peace plan known as the road map, collecting weapons and punishing whoever violates the truce, his advisers say. He has made no secret that his goal is to turn **Hamas** into just another political party, stopping it from conducting in effect its own foreign policy toward Israel.

**Hamas** leaders see the trap clearly. That is why they called for Abbas' resignation, after he urged an end to the armed uprising against Israel.

**Hamas** leaders are gambling that the cease-fire will fail and with it, Abbas and an American-led peace plan, say Palestinian officials who have negotiated with them. The **Hamas** men hope that Abbas' own trap will close over him, the conflict will resume and a negotiated solution will seem more hopeless than ever.

The question is why **Hamas** feels it must play along with the governing Palestinian Authority even for a short time. There are two sets of motivations cited by Palestinian officials and militant leaders. One arises from external considerations and the other, subtler one, from intensely factionalized Palestinian politics.

The U.S. defeat of Saddam Hussein played a central role, as **Hamas** sponsors in Syria and Iran came under new American pressure and other Arab governments, including Saudi Arabia, moved to calm the region.

## HAMAS BETTING ON FAILURE OF PEACE EFFORTS TO STRENGTHEN ITS HAND

"After September 11, the Palestinian resistance lost its international support," said Samir al-Mashharawi, a top official here of Abbas' mainstream Fatah faction. "After the Iraq war, the Palestinian resistance lost its Arab support."

Other motives stem from Palestinian politics. In the view of Abbas' allies and other Fatah officials, Fatah's initial leadership of the intifada, or uprising, legitimated Hamas violence. After the uprising erupted in September 2000, these officials noted, it was months before Hamas began playing a high-profile role. Now, with Fatah pursuing a truce, Hamas had little choice but to play along.

"Having Fatah involved made the conflict a national conflict," said Qadoura Fares, a Fatah legislator who negotiated the truce in Damascus, Syria, with Khaled Mashal, a top Hamas leader, and Ramadan Shalah, of Islamic Jihad. "If Fatah is out, you have two extreme Muslim groups against Israel, against the peace process and against the Palestinian state. They understand these things."

Abbas is acting now because, along with the Palestinian people, Fatah is in trouble. Once Hamas joined fully in the fighting, Fatah found itself in a new competition for respect in the street.

In the view of some of Abbas' advisers, the great mistake made then by Yasser Arafat, the Palestinian leader and a founder with Abbas of Fatah, was to try to out-Hamas Hamas. That was an impossible proposition for Fatah, given its official acceptance of a two-state solution with Israel.

It is significant that the name chosen for Fatah's violent wing was "Al Aqsa Martyrs Brigades." The name reflects, in part, the fact that the intifada began after Ariel Sharon, with hundreds of policemen, visited the site of Al Aqsa Mosque in Jerusalem in September 2000. The site is sacred to Muslims as the Noble Sanctuary and to Jews as the Temple Mount.

But the name also reflected what some Palestinian officials lament as an Islamicization of Fatah, a secular faction, as it tried to top Hamas.

The name was not enough. Although lacking the same fundamentalist visions of paradise as Hamas, Al Aqsa Martyrs added suicide to its arsenal. More than a year into the conflict, with Hamas gaining popularity, the group began in January 2002 to conduct suicidal bombings and shootings against Israelis, after Israel killed a popular local leader of the group.

Unlike Hamas, which felt bound by religious injunctions, Al Aqsa Martyrs felt free to use women as suicide bombers. Further, like Hamas, the group began striking frequently across the so-called Green Line, the boundary of the West Bank.

Those attacks helped persuade Israelis that Fatah, like Hamas, was bent on erasing Israel, not only on attaining a state in the West Bank and Gaza Strip, which Israel occupied in the 1967 war.

The increasingly anarchic violence bolstered Fatah's popularity. In an interview early in March 2002, shortly before Israel arrested him on charges of terrorism, Marwan Barghouti, a rising Fatah leader, noted that the faction had been slipping. Now, he said proudly at the time, "there is no Hamas, no Islamic Jihad."

It was Barghouti, who denies the Israeli charges against him, who sent Fares to Damascus for a truce.

During that March a year ago, Palestinian violence reached a peak in what seemed daily attacks. Palestinian security officials learned that Israel was preparing a broad offensive into the West Bank, and some pleaded with Arafat to act forcefully to stop the violence, a longtime associate of Arafat said.

He refused, this adviser said, believing that Israel would not take the step. Arafat preferred not to confront the Islamic groups, preserving his own broad popularity and the option of unleashing violence as a bargaining lever, this adviser and Israeli intelligence officials said.

## HAMAS BETTING ON FAILURE OF PEACE EFFORTS TO STRENGTHEN ITS HAND

At the end of March, Israeli troops stormed into the West Bank in their biggest ground offensive since they invaded Lebanon two decades earlier.

Over the succeeding year, as Israel began putting whole Palestinian cities under curfew and taking back territory ceded to Palestinian control under the Oslo peace accord, a debate grew inside Fatah over whether the faction had lost control of its youth and its message. Fares and other 40-something Fatah leaders, who grew up under Israeli occupation rather than living decades in exile as Arafat did, argued that Fatah needed to reach out again to Israeli moderates.

Some Fatah leaders continued to urge attacks but only against soldiers and settlers, to clarify that Fatah was seeking only to throw off occupation.

Abbas, however, was intent on rebuilding Palestinians' shattered relations with the U.S. government, and he realized that the Bush administration would not accept such distinctions. He sought a total halt, as did the Egyptian government. Abbas is trying to play to Fatah's relative strength, as the faction that can make gains through negotiation.

**Load-Date:** July 9, 2003

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End of Document

***Social service, with a vengeance ;  
 Hamas, extreme in terror and charity, is key to 'road map'***

The International Herald Tribune

June 17, 2003 Tuesday

Copyright 2003 International Herald Tribune

**Section:** NEWS; Pg. 3

**Length:** 901 words

**Byline:** Ian Fisher

**Dateline:** GAZA:

## **Body**

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To most Israelis, **Hamas** is a terrorist group and little more, the core of Palestinian hatred that explodes against civilians who are innocently shopping or riding on buses. When talk of any peace accord nears, **Hamas** advocates the ideological extreme: no compromise on a Palestinian state, based on Islam, that stretches from the Mediterranean east to the Jordan River. It talks often of driving all Jews from the land.

But to a Palestinian brother and sister here who are raising the four children of another brother who was killed in a construction accident in 1997, **Hamas** is a very practically minded savior. It pays for the children's school, buses, clothing, even food.

The New York Times

"I am so happy **Hamas** is taking care of them," said the brother, Abu Shaher Safdi, 26, a tailor. "There is no way I could afford it now."

Since **Hamas** was founded in 1987 during the first Palestinian uprising, these have been the group's pillars: religion, charity and the fight against Israel. It is zealous on all three fronts, and that makes it a difficult foe, not easy to "deal harshly with," as President George W. Bush urged on Sunday. **Hamas** itself, the Arabic acronym for Islamic Resistance Movement, means "zeal" or "bravery."

The difficulty, many experts say, is the acceptance of **Hamas** by ordinary Palestinians, which has grown over 32 months of renewed violence, to rival more mainstream political groups, like Yasser Arafat's Fatah movement.

There is no agreement among Palestinians on suicide bombing, and many do not want an Islamic state either. But still **Hamas** has gained currency as a serious alternative to Arafat's Palestinian Authority: better organized, less corrupt and more effective against what they see as Israeli aggression.

"**Hamas** is not some dark, shadowy organization in a corner," said Magnus Ranstorp, a **Hamas** expert at the University of St. Andrews in Scotland. "They are part of Palestinian society."

But many Palestinians are also exhausted by this conflict. The question now is whether **Hamas** itself under much pressure in Gaza and in strongholds like Syria and Lebanon is prepared to act on that and to agree to a cease-fire against Israel that would allow growth to the new peace plan pushed by the Bush administration.

Social service, with a vengeance ; Hamas, extreme in terror and charity, is key to 'road map'

For several days, this looked unlikely: Following the killing last week of five Israeli soldiers by Hamas, which had just rejected the peace plan, Israel tried to kill a top Hamas leader, Abdel Aziz Rantisi.

Hamas struck back with a suicide bombing, in which 17 Israelis were killed. After that, Israel and Hamas vowed all-out war. In a storm of bombs, bullets and missiles, about 60 Israelis and Palestinians died in one week.

But this weekend, both sides crept back from the edge. As American monitors arrived and the Bush administration ratcheted up pressure on Arab governments to help rein in Hamas, Israel proposed halting its strikes on Hamas to allow the Palestinian Authority to renew cease-fire talks with the group.

Hamas, which had pulled out of the cease-fire talks a week and a half ago, said it was ready to begin negotiations again. On Sunday it met with an Egyptian delegation, and on Monday it may meet with the new Palestinian prime minister, Mahmoud Abbas.

What Hamas is willing to accept is not likely to please Israel's hard-line prime minister, Ariel Sharon. Rantisi, recovering from wounds, said on Sunday that Hamas would halt suicide bombings inside Israel, but with conditions that include a halt to actions directed against Hamas. He said that the group would not, however, stop its attacks on Israeli soldiers or Jewish settlers in the West Bank and Gaza.

"We have an initiative," Rantisi said in an interview with an Arab journalist working for The New York Times. "We will avoid attacking Israeli civilians as long as Israelis stop killing our children, our women and stop destroying our houses."

Whether Hamas is actually willing to honor a cease-fire that might give the peace plan a chance goes to the very heart of what Hamas is as a group.

Many Israelis believe that Hamas would scuttle any peace plan. Its commitment to military action, suicide attacks and to one Palestinian state on land that includes Israel, they argue, makes it impossible to accept one state for Israelis, one for Palestinians. In 1997, it was added to the American list of terrorist organizations.

But Ziad Abu Amr, the Palestinian minister of culture in charge of negotiations with Hamas, said Sunday that he believed that was a misreading of Hamas's roots. He noted that Hamas rose from the Muslim Brotherhood, which he said compromised and worked within mainstream politics, even while adhering to its long-term goals.

"Let's remember the history of Hamas and the history of its mother organization," he said. "Violence is a tactic. We had flare-ups, and we had periods of attacks and counterattacks. But they can refrain from these suicide attacks and other attacks if there is an alternative."

The roots of Hamas begin in the person of Sheikh Ahmed Yassin, who was active in Muslim Brotherhood politics in Gaza and established a social welfare group.

In 1987, when Palestinians rose up against the Israeli military occupation, he founded Hamas.

The group's popularity stemmed in part from the absence of the PLO, whose leaders were exiled in 1982.

Some experts contend that Israel encouraged the development of Hamas indirectly as a way to weaken Arafat's Fatah party.

**Load-Date:** June 17, 2003

## **Truce ends after killing of Hamas leader PEACE PROCESS:**

Financial Times (London, England)

August 22, 2003 Friday

London Edition 1

Copyright 2003 The Financial Times Limited

**Section:** MIDDLE EAST & AFRICA; Pg. 7

**Length:** 647 words

**Byline:** By SHARMILA DEVI and HARVEY MORRIS

**Dateline:** JERUSALEM

### **Body**

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**Hamas** called off an eight-week-old ceasefire yesterday after Israeli forces assassinated a senior leader of the Islamic militant group, plunging the fragile US-backed peace process into the worst crisis since it was launched in June.

The smaller Islamic Jihad also announced it was abandoning the three-month truce declared on June 29.

Ismail Abu Shanab, a founder of **Hamas** and one of its top three political leaders, was killed with two bodyguards when Israeli helicopters fired five missiles at his car in a busy Gaza street. Witnesses said **women**, children and construction workers at a nearby site were among dozens injured.

The Israeli strike, the first assassination operation since the start of the ceasefire, came hours after Israel's security cabinet approved military action in response to Tuesday's bus bombing in Jerusalem in which a **Hamas** suicide bomber killed 20 people.

The government of Mahmoud Abbas, the Palestinian prime minister, under intense Israeli and US pressure to launch a crackdown on **Hamas** and Islamic Jihad, also met on Wednesday to discuss security measures. A Palestinian spokesman said Yassir Arafat, the Palestinian president, had approved action against the militants.

"**Hamas** and Jihad broke the rules and we will eliminate their weapons storehouses and the terror infrastructure," Elias Zananiri, spokesman for Mohamed Dahlan, the Palestinian security chief, told Israel Radio. Later, however, he said the PA would have to reassess its decision in the light of the Gaza assassination.

Mr Abbas said the killing of Abu Shenab was an "ugly crime" which was "against the peace process".

The latest violence came as Colin Powell, the US secretary of state, warned both sides against abandoning the current peace process. He called on Mr Arafat and Mr Abbas to use the security forces at their disposal to end attacks against Israel and added: "At the end of the road map is a cliff that both sides will fall off."

The Israeli government yesterday defended the killing of Abu Shenab, described in a statement from the office of Ariel Sharon, the prime minister, as a senior **Hamas** terrorist who supported a violent campaign against Israeli targets.



## Truce ends after killing of Hamas leader PEACE PROCESS:

It was the first time that Israeli forces had successfully targeted a political leader of the movement. In mid-June, another **Hamas** political leader, Abdelaziz Rantisi, escaped with injuries from a missile strike that delayed Mr Abbas's efforts to secure a ceasefire.

"Israel does not differentiate between political and military leaders," said Gideon Meir, a foreign ministry official. "We regard them as all the same."

Israeli officials were angered by Mr Abbas's decision to seek Mr Arafat's approval for action against the militants. Israel has ostracised the Palestinian president for more than a year and holds him responsible for encouraging violence.

The Israeli army launched raids into the West Bank on Wednesday night in pursuit of Islamic militants in areas still under Israeli security control. Nablus was placed under curfew, tanks moved into Jenin and a 17-year-old **Hamas** militant was arrested in Tubas.

Abu Shenab was killed in Gaza City, which is under Palestinian Authority control. The 53-year-old engineering lecturer lived openly, teaching at the city's Islamic University.

A soft-spoken man who studied at Colorado State University, he served as the "moderate" face of **Hamas**, contrasting with the more intemperate Mr Rantisi. He was understood to be among the key supporters of the three-month ceasefire.

Yesterday's Israeli statement noted that he had been imprisoned for the kidnapping and murder of an Israeli soldier and said he was responsible for directing military operations.

Abu Shenab appeared to have taken no special security measures. He said in June: "Anybody can see what I'm doing. This is my house and it's open for everybody. I go to work at the university. I say my ideas publicly."

**Load-Date:** August 21, 2003

**Israel threatens assassinations: Defence minister responds to Hamas threats of abductions**

The Star Phoenix (Saskatoon, Saskatchewan)

February 2, 2004 Monday Final Edition

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**Section:** World; Pg. D6; News

**Length:** 397 words

**Dateline:** JERUSALEM

## **Body**

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JERUSALEM (AP) -- The leaders of violent Islamic groups are targets for assassination, Israel's defence minister said Sunday, raising the possibility of a further escalation in the three years of Israeli-Palestinian bloodshed.

Shaul Mofaz issued the threat in response to a declaration by the spiritual leader of **Hamas**, Sheik Ahmed Yassin, that the group plans an all-out effort to kidnap Israeli soldiers.

"The statements of Yassin just emphasize the need to strike the heads of **Hamas** and the Islamic Jihad," Mofaz told the weekly meeting of the Israeli cabinet, according to an Israeli official who attended the meeting.

Associated Press

The statements by Mofaz and Yassin threaten to inflame an already violent confrontation that has led to the deaths of more than 3,500 people on both sides during three years of fighting.

Last week, Israel killed eight Palestinians in a shootout in Gaza City, while a Palestinian suicide bomber killed 11 people in Jerusalem.

**Hamas** took responsibility for the bombing, a day after a claim from the Al Aqsa Martyrs' Brigades, loosely linked to Palestinian President Yasser Arafat's Fatah movement.

Sunday marked the beginning of the four-day Eid al-Adha holiday, and **Hamas** officials were not available to react to Mofaz's comments.

During more than three years of violence, Israel has carried out many pinpoint attacks aimed at leaders of **Hamas** and Islamic Jihad -- often prompting a violent response.

In September, Yassin narrowly escaped an Israeli air strike in the Gaza Strip.

But Israel has greatly reduced the number of targeted killings in recent months.

Last month, Mofaz's deputy, Zeev Boim, retracted comments calling for Yassin's assassination, saying later that no decision had been made.

**Hamas**, responsible for dozens of suicide bombings over the last three years, also appeared to have scaled back its activities until a **Hamas female** suicide bomber killed four Israelis at a Gaza-Israel checkpoint Jan. 14.

Israel threatens assassinations: Defence minister responds to Hamas threats of abductions

Also Sunday, Israeli troops raided the town of Jericho for the first time in months, killing a Palestinian militant. The fighting forced many residents to stay indoors on the first day of Eid.

The military said troops entered the town to arrest fugitives planning an attack. In the ensuing shootout, one fugitive was killed and another wounded.

There were no Israeli casualties, and the army withdrew in the afternoon.

## Graphic

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Photo: Associated Press; A Palestinian youth stands Sunday atop the rubble of at least three houses in the West Bank town of Jericho

**Load-Date:** February 2, 2004

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End of Document

## **HAMAS LEADER ASSASSINATION: Yassin sought to destroy Israel**

The Atlanta Journal-Constitution

March 29, 2004 Monday

Home Edition

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### **The Atlanta Journal-Constitution**

**Section:** Editorial;; Column

**Length:** 516 words

**Byline:** HAROLD KIRTZ

### **Body**

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Let there be no mistake. Israel is in its own war against terrorism. When Israeli Defense Forces killed Sheik Ahmed Yassin, the founder and leader of **Hamas**, last week, it eliminated a hardened enemy of the state of Israel. For the Journal-Constitution

Israel cannot back away from the fight against terrorism. That was made painfully clear to Israel after it unilaterally left its defensive positions in southern Lebanon in early 2000. Shortly afterward, in September 2000, the Palestinians started the current intifida (uprising). Yasser Arafat learned from the Lebanon episode that Israel is vulnerable to the type of harassing attacks that Hezbollah committed in Lebanon.

Under the leadership of Yassin, **Hamas** has been a central foe of Israel during the intifida. Yassin was not interested in simply moving the Israelis out of Gaza and the West Bank. He repeatedly called for the elimination of Israel.

Yassin unequivocally rejected the idea of a two-state solution for the Israeli-Arab conflict. He even recently stated that any formation of a Palestinian state would be just the first step to the eventual destruction of Israel. Israel has a right to exist and has a right to defend itself against the forces attempting to destroy it.

**Hamas** should be interested in helping the Palestinian people. It already provides some social services, which were Yassin's sole focus in the 1970s and early 1980s. But then he switched to tactics of violence, and those are what have now led to his death.

Yassin's severe personal handicap did not inhibit his ability to command the violence of the last 10 years. His personal approval, for example, of the March 27, 2002, suicide bombing of the dining room of the Park Hotel was particularly heinous --- 30 people were killed and 140 injured in the midst of their Passover holiday Seder meal.

During the last three years, **Hamas** has perpetrated 425 attacks, including 52 suicide attacks, and killed 377 Israelis and wounded 2,076, including many **women** and children, fathers and mothers, grandfathers and grandmothers.

## HAMAS LEADER ASSASSINATION: Yassin sought to destroy Israel

Yassin's contempt does not stop at Israel. Last May, he praised Osama bin Laden, wishing that Allah grant bin Laden the possibility to continue his fight against the United States.

By contrast, Israel is fighting this war on terrorism by targeting and trying to eliminate only the Palestinian leaders who plan, approve and carry out attacks mostly on Israeli civilians, including young children. In fact, Israel has shown great restraint in waiting for Arafat to live up to his pledge to curtail the violence, because Israel could have wiped out Yassin and others years ago.

Terrorism must be defeated for Israel and the Palestinians to have an opportunity to resolve their differences peacefully around a negotiating table. Israel's action against Yassin can ultimately diminish Hamas' terrorist capability and enhance the prospects for peace. As the new Passover season approaches, we pray for the redemption of all peoples of the Middle East.

Harold Kirtz is chair of the Community Relations Committee of the Jewish Federation of Greater Atlanta.

## Graphic

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Photo: Harold Kirtz; Photo: A Palestinian youth holding a poster of Hamas spiritual leader Ahmed Yassin hurls stones at Israeli soldiers during clashes in the West Bank city of Hebron. Yassin was slain in an Israeli missile strike. / NASSER SHIYOUKHI / Associated Press

**Load-Date:** March 29, 2004

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## GRIEVING PALESTINIANS PLEDGE BLOODY REVENGE FOR KILLING OF HAMAS LEADER; MIDDLE EAST CRISIS

The Independent (London)

April 19, 2004, Monday

Copyright 2004 Independent Print Ltd

**Section:** First Edition; NEWS; Pg. 4,5

**Length:** 1108 words

**Byline:** DONALD MACINTYRE IN GAZA Amid the chants of revenge and grief and volleys of gunfire and grenade blasts, the body of Abdel Aziz Rantissi, the newly appointed **Hamas** leader, is borne through the streets of Gaza city packed with armed and masked militants and thousands of angry mourners, many carrying his portrait AP

### **Body**

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**HAMAS** MOVED swiftly yesterday to build a new underground leadership in the aftershock of Israel's assassination of Abdel Aziz Rantissi little more than three weeks after he took over as head of the faction in Gaza.

It secretly designated the third Gaza leader in a month to replace Mr Rantissi, who was assassinated by a helicopter missile that destroyed his car on Saturday near his home. His driver and bodyguard were killed instantly.

Khaled Mashaal, chairman of the **Hamas** political bureau in Damascus, ordered **Hamas** to choose a new leader in the Strip but not to name him in the hope of preventing him becoming an immediate target for a fresh assassination. **Hamas** used the second huge funeral procession in Gaza within a month to mount a defiant and emotional demonstration of support and continuity in the face of the loss of the hardline and utterly uncompromising figurehead Israel holds personally responsible for the deaths of scores of its own citizens in suicide attacks.

As tens of thousands of chanting supporters packed into the narrow streets of Gaza City's old souk district to accompany Mr Rantissi's body from his home to the al-Omari mosque, **Hamas** activists handed out hastily printed leaflets to bystanders announcing the decision on the new leadership. The leaflets pledged "to the Palestinian and Arab nation that the resistance will continue".

Discolouration was still visible on Mr Rantissi's pallid and bearded face as his body, covered with a sheet and green **Hamas** flag, left the mosque on an open stretcher borne through a dense, swaying crowd by armed balaclava-clad pallbearers from the faction's Qassam military wing. There were volleys of gunfire into the air as the procession wound away from the mosque beneath a 30ft green banner proclaiming the faction's religious slogan: "There is no God but Allah and Mohammed is the messenger of Allah".

As the procession wound towards the Sheikh Bedwan cemetery, the crowd chanted: "Our blood, our souls, we sacrifice for you Rantissi."

On the side of Lababidi street in Gaza city yesterday, there were still fragments of charred debris from Mr Rantissi's burnt-out white Subaru where it had slewed to a halt opposite a mineral water shop some 30 yards on from where it took the missile hit.

## GRIEVING PALESTINIANS PLEDGE BLOODY REVENGE FOR KILLING OF HAMAS LEADER; MIDDLE EAST CRISIS

Amal Abdul Jawad, 35, who runs the shop, said he had been outside at the time. "I heard a very loud explosion. I rushed into my house because the glass had broken and I wanted to see if my family was all right. Then I came down with a fire extinguisher and helped to put the fire out. My brothers also came with water from the shop."

He said the two men in front had been killed instantly, and that Mr Rantissi, whom he had not immediately recognised, was in the back. "People tried to pull him out but the front seats had collapsed on his knees. He was moving but he couldn't speak and he was bleeding from the mouth and nose." Mr Jawad said that the Hamas leader had finally been pulled out by his shoulders. No ambulance arrived so bystanders had stopped a passing motorist to take him to Shifa Hospital, where he died. Mr Jawad said the process had taken longer because passers-by feared another missile attack.

Of the repeated calls for retaliation against Israel for Mr Rantissi's death, some of the most strident came from hejab-clad members of Hamas's women's movement, bussed in earlier to join the procession, who chanted: "Revenge, revenge militias of Qassam."

The green flags of the Hamas supporters mingled in a show of unity with the yellow and black banners of Islamic Jihad, the yellow ones of the al-Aqsa Martyrs Brigades and the occasional red one of the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine (PFLP). Ahmed Jebril, secretary general of the PFLP-GC (General Command), based in Damascus, warned of an "open war against the Zionist-American enemy and Arabs ... who side with them".

Hamas activists repeatedly pledged through loudspeakers that the faction would easily survive the assassination as it had that of Sheikh Yassin, leading incantations of "Your leader? Rantissi. Your way? Resistance. Your movement? Hamas. Your hope? To be martyrs."

With repeated grenade explosions and gunfire, Mr Rantissi was buried on the slopes of Sheikh Bedwan amid a huge crowd of mourners and watched by several hundred more packed on the half-mangled concrete floors of what had once been a multistorey building overlooking the cemetery.

Earlier, in the green mourning tent close to the Rantissi home, the Hamas leader's son Mohammed, 25, who had originally been reported as having been in the car, said he had gone to the scene of the attack. After he was told of his father's death he had gone home to join his mother and receive condolences. His father had not been living at home in the days before the attack, he said. "He was a fugitive; he stayed in different houses at different times."

Asked whether he expected retaliation in vengeance for the assassination of his father, he said: "God willing", adding that this was a matter for the military wing of Hamas.

Before the funeral procession left the neighbourhood, hundreds of the mourners pointed skywards shouting "Allah akbar" (God is great). A Hamas activist declaimed: "Our leaders are presented to death before our normal soldiers. Millions of Hamas supporters will follow you, Mr Rantissi, until we gain the whole of Palestine."

Unsurprisingly, most bystanders expressed strong support for Hamas and its assassinated leader. "Now every Palestinian is required to get revenge for this, not just Hamas," said Mohammed al-Haj, 28, as he watched the funeral procession. "Israel didn't have to get any green light from America for this because it is already a state of America."

But one of his friends, who gave his name only as Ameen, said that for all the dire predictions of revenge after Sheikh Yassin's killing, none had yet materialised. "Hamas has taken many losses in the West Bank," Ameen, 26, admitted. "There will be a retaliation but it may take time and new techniques."

Mr Rantissi had said in a BBC interview that if he had the choice between dying because of a heart attack or an Apache helicopter he would choose the latter. An unknown graffiti writer covered a wall near Mr Rantissi's home with his own epitaph in Arabic: "You've got what you wanted, Abu Mohammed. You win."

GRIEVING PALESTINIANS PLEDGE BLOODY REVENGE FOR KILLING OF HAMAS LEADER; MIDDLE  
EAST CRISIS

w Israeli prosecutors yesterday indicted a 16-year-old would-be suicide bomber whose globally televised surrender last month brought condemnation of Palestinian militants. Hussam Abdu had a bomb strapped to his body when soldiers stopped him at a checkpoint near Nablus.

Leading article, page 30

Andreas Whittam Smith, page 31

**Load-Date:** April 19, 2004

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## **Bush Rebukes Israel for Attack on Hamas Terrorist**

New York Sun (Archive)

June 11, 2003 Wednesday

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**Section:** FRONT PAGE; Pg. 1

**Length:** 865 words

**Byline:** By BENNY AVNI, Special to the Sun- With the Associated Press

### **Body**

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Signaling it would not let the peace process derail its war against terror, Israel yesterday tried to gun down an outspoken **Hamas** leader - but the assassination attempt drew international criticism, including a sharp rebuke from President Bush.

Abdel-Aziz Rantisi, often described as a "spokesman" for the Islamic group, but dubbed "master terrorist" by Israel, was injured in the attack on his car traveling in the Gaza Strip. A bodyguard and another passenger were killed and about 20 bystanders injured.

From his hospital bed, Mr. Rantisi defiantly vowed to continue fighting Israel until its eradication, and called Prime Minister Sharon "a pig."

The early morning incident, which **Hamas** vowed to answer with a terror attack, seemed certain to escalate tensions in the Middle East.

"I'm concerned that the attacks will make it more difficult for the Palestinian leadership to fight off terrorist attacks," Mr. Bush said in the White House. "I also don't believe the attacks help the Israeli security."

Other critics included United Nations Secretary General Annan, who condemned the attempt at "extra-judicial killing," and a host of European leaders.

A White House spokesman said that Mr. Bush has instructed his Middle East representatives, starting with the national security adviser, Condoleezza Rice, to call Israeli officials and relay the president's message. The flurry of phone calls did not include Mr. Bush, said the spokesman, Ari Fleischer.

From his hospital bed, Mr. Rantisi told reporters he was on his way to visit a sick friend when a rocket hit his SUV. He jumped out and threw himself on the ground as the car, driven by his son Ahmad, crashed into a wall, he said.

The car burst into flames and was reduced to a scorched pile of metal. One of Mr. Rantisi's bodyguards and a **female** bystander were killed. Mr. Rantisi took shrapnel in the leg, arm, and chest.

Thousands of **Hamas** supporters crowded the courtyard outside Shifa Hospital, chanting slogans against the Palestinian prime minister, Mahmoud Abbas, also known as Abu Mazen. "Abu Mazen, we want resistance," the crowd shouted. Dozens of **Hamas** gunmen fired assault rifles in the air.

## Bush Rebukes Israel for Attack on Hamas Terrorist

Mahmoud Zahar, a Hamas leader, said there would be quick retaliation: "The Hamas response will be like an earthquake. An eye for an eye...a politician for a politician."

Hours after the failed assassination attempt, six Kassam rockets, manufactured in Gaza for attacks on neighboring towns across the border, landed in the Israeli town of Sderot.

Anticipating the rocket attack, Israeli helicopters identified the moving vehicle where the rockets were shot from and destroyed it, Israeli army sources said. Two brothers known to be Hamas activists and their sister were killed.

Speaking in a television interview, Mr. Abbas said the Israeli actions were meant to derail the peace process.

"We don't just condemn these acts, we consider them a crime," he told a Dubai-based satellite station. "We have said that to the American government, and we have asked them to intervene immediately to save the peace process and save the road map."

An Israeli official told The New York Sun that Israel still sticks by its obligations under the peace plan known as the "road map." But, he added, Mr. Abbas has not moved on the war against terror, as was shown in attacks against Israeli soldiers earlier this week.

"We can't have a situation in which there would be an interim period when people like Rantisi will have immunity to continue terrorist attacks," the official said.

Mr. Rantisi, who rose to prominence as one of the most extremist leaders of Hamas, earned the moniker of "spokesman" when he was exiled by Israel to Southern Lebanon in 1992.

Israeli security sources contend he is one of the most unbending leaders of the organization who most recently was active in derailing cease-fire talks with Mr. Abbas. They also say he planned numerous Hamas attacks against Israeli civilians.

Mr. Rantisi was unyielding in a hospital bedside interview with Al Jazeera television. "We will continue with our holy war and resistance until every last criminal Zionist is evicted from this land," he said. "This pig Sharon will not enjoy security since Palestine is a land of jihad."

Israel, meanwhile, continued to dismantle illegal outposts in the West Bank. But an attempt by the army to evacuate three settled posts was delayed after the settlers challenged the government's legal authority in the Israeli Supreme Court.

According to sources in Jerusalem, Mr. Sharon planned to continue the process of dismantling the illegal settlements, but not let up on the war on terror.

An Israeli army official reportedly told the Knesset yesterday that there was no let-up of Palestinian Arab terrorism in the 70 days since Mr. Abbas assumed the leadership of the Palestinian Authority. There was also an intense struggle between Mr. Abbas and terrorist leaders, he added.

Israelis contend that one such leader continues to be Yasser Arafat, who controls three terrorist organizations through his political party, Fatah. Defense Minister Shaul Mofaz reportedly told legislators that the day might come soon that there would be "no choice" other than deporting Mr. Arafat.

**Load-Date:** May 11, 2004

## **At least 13 die in Israel suicide bombs HAMAS ATTACKS:**

Financial Times (London, England)

September 10, 2003 Wednesday

London Edition 2

Copyright 2003 The Financial Times Limited

**Section:** MIDDLE EAST; Pg. 10

**Length:** 445 words

**Byline:** By HARVEY MORRIS

**Dateline:** JERUSALEM

### **Body**

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At least 13 people were killed in two separate suicide attacks yesterday as Palestinian bombers evaded a high-level security alert to strike targets in Jerusalem and near Tel Aviv.

Seven soldiers, three of them women, were killed when a bomber detonated explosives outside the Tzrifin army base east of Tel Aviv as troops going off duty waited for buses or to hitch rides.

Less than six hours later, a second bomb killed at least six people at a crowded cafe in the German Colony district of west Jerusalem. The city had been placed under intensive security throughout the day after intelligence reports indicated a bomber had crossed into Israel and was heading there.

Twenty-five people were taken to hospital with injuries from the blast. The bomber blew himself up at the entrance to the cafe in the main street of the German Colony, which is lined with late-night shops and restaurants.

The attacks came after a day of violence in the Palestinian territories in which four Palestinians died.

Israeli officials had feared the Islamic militant group Hamas would try to mount an attack after the Islamic organisation vowed revenge for last Saturday's failed Israeli attempt to kill its leader, Sheikh Ahmed Yassin, in an F16 bombing raid on Gaza.

Hamas claimed responsibility for the two bombings.

David Baker, an official in the office of Ariel Sharon, the prime minister, said after the Tzrifin bombing: "The attack today is further indication that the Palestinian Authority (PA) is doing absolutely nothing whatsoever to rein in terrorists or to dismantle the terror infrastructure in their areas."

The US condemned the bombings and last night the State Department said the attacks underscored the importance of the next Palestinian Authority prime minister having the power to take steps to dismantle Hamas and other militant groups. Officials said Richard Armitage, US deputy under-secretary, had put off a visit to the region, which had been provisionally scheduled to begin tomorrow and include Iraq and Israel.

Mr Sharon, who is on an official visit to India, said at the weekend that Hamas leaders were "marked for death" following a suicide bombing in Jerusalem last month in which 22 died.

At least 13 die in Israel suicide bombs HAMAS ATTACKS:

In the West Bank town of Hebron, an 11-year-old Palestinian boy was killed by shrapnel from a tank shell when the Israeli army killed two **Hamas** militants during an attack on a building. The army later destroyed two floors of the building with explosives. The army said the operation had been mounted against a **Hamas** cell that it alleged was planning to carry out an attack.

In the Gaza Strip, army tank-fire killed a Palestinian suspected of planting a bomb near a border crossing.

**Load-Date:** September 9, 2003

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End of Document

## *Juggling with Hamas*

Hamilton Spectator (Ontario, Canada)

August 12, 2003 Tuesday Final Edition

Copyright 2003 Metroland Media Group Ltd

**Section:** CANADA & WORLD; Pg. D04; News

**Length:** 1995 words

**Byline:** Johann Hari

### **Body**

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We sip sweet tea in a tiny apartment somewhere in Gaza City, my new friends Yousef, Hamid, Mujaheed and I, and talk about Cheers.

Usually, they hate American television because it is, Hamid explains, "a tool the Jews use to break our resistance. They show pictures of naked women so that we will think about sex and depravity and not about fighting for Islam."

But Cheers -- that's a different matter.

"It is very funny," Hamid says. "So very funny. But I think that since Shelley Long left and Kirsty Alley arrived it hasn't been so good. And Woody is nowhere near as funny as Coach. I guess the truth is that it isn't what it used to be."

The Independent, London

We all nod sombrely. And, of course, Mujaheed adds, they disapprove of the whole idea of a bar that serves alcohol.

Hamid opens a window. We are all sweating.

"Is it true that in London it never stops raining, ever? Do you travel in boats?" he asks.

All three of the young men I am sitting with -- chatting about the usual pop-cultural slurry that is the universal language of twentysomethings everywhere -- are members of Hamas.

The faces of Hamas that we see so often in the West are old men like Sheikh Ahmed Yassin, a tiny, withered man with a long white beard who delivers statements from a hut. We are being fed a lie: Hamas is, overwhelmingly, a network of young people like this testosterone-soaked trio.

If you want to understand the organization, I was told, don't go for the polished spokesmen with their middle-aged moustaches, go for the lads on the street. They overwhelmingly make up the ranks, not just of Hamas but of the Palestinians, too.

More than 50 per cent of the population of the Occupied Territories is under 16; a middle-aged Palestinian is in a tiny minority. So my contact arranges for us to meet in his friend's apartment, but our chat doesn't start well. As I enter, I offer everyone a cigarette -- a gesture I've never known fail to earn gratitude in the Arab world. Hamid, the

## Juggling with Hamas

oldest, at 28 and the most serious of the three, says with a blank expression, "No. Cigarettes are evil and un-Islamic."

Ah, I say, nobody told me. He nods and goes to get some tea.

Hamid wears small, studious-looking black-rimmed glasses and has a face that is almost Botoxed in its inscrutability. Mujaheed is his exact opposite: only 19, and looking younger, he is excitable, prone to swaggering and totally transparent. He is the first to open up when I ask the group when they first remembered thinking about the conflict between Israel and Palestine.

"I have always known they were there. They are like a black cloud," Mujaheed says.

"They have been there since I was born. I grew up in Saudi Arabia and we didn't come to Palestine until I was 10, but I saw it on the television and I knew.

"My father explained that these were the people who threw us out of our country and took it over. He told me they were still beating and killing the people who were left. My brothers -- there are six of us -- would beg our father to take us back so we could join the first intifada, but we only came in 1992 when it was mostly over. But I was a fighter even in that intifada: I threw stones at the soldiers!"

We all laugh, and the power blinks off. The fan stops working. While we wait for the electricity to return, we quietly bake.

Hamid, as he returns with the drinks, explains that he remembers the first intifada better, not least because he spent 1990 in prison for street-fighting against the occupying forces. He decided he had to fight, he says, "one day when I was 12 and the first intifada was just starting.

"My mother came home and she was crying, and I didn't know why. She went into the bedroom and she was talking to my father, and then he made a phone call and her sisters came to the house with a first-aid kit.

"She didn't come out of her room for six hours, and when she did, her arm was in a sling. The soldiers broke her arm because she wouldn't let them look in her basket. She only had shopping and didn't see why she should let them look. She cried for days. I knew then I had to fight."

Yousef, on the other hand, has never been arrested. He is skinny, pale and geeky-looking. He has a habit of mumbling. He is 24 -- born two days before I was.

Mujaheed has been trying to cut into the conversation ever since he stopped speaking, and now speaks over Yousef to explain.

"The day I decided I really hated the Israelis and I would gladly die for my people was just after we came back to Palestine. I was about 10, and my parents took me and one of my brothers to visit my uncle in prison.

"When we arrived, they wouldn't let us in because we were so young, so my parents went in alone and left us sitting with the prison guards. There was barbed wire and just these Jewish soldiers and their dogs, who were snarling and sniffing at me. Sometimes when I am really angry I can still hear those dogs and remember how frightened I was that day."

These three men are part of a generation of Palestinians that is rapidly being lost to the cause of peaceful coexistence. They are the children of the first intifada, who saw their parents try non-violent forms of resistance such as withholding taxes and ripping up their Israel-issued ID cards.

They saw their parents being beaten and shot in return. Then they lived through the Oslo peace process, during which time the situation actually deteriorated for Palestinians. This was partly because of the corruption of the Palestinian Authority, but also because Israel introduced new restrictions and doubled the number of settlers in the Occupied Territories.

## Juggling with Hamas

I ask if any of them would like to become suicide bombers. All three of them nod vigorously.

"Of course," Mujaheed says, as though it is a stupid question. My contact had warned me that the number of people loudly claiming that they want to be suicide bombers is high; if they all actually did it, the whole of the Middle East would be blown off the map.

But Mujaheed, in particular, seems sincerely enthusiastic. He says: "The Israelis are a fighting people. They are all soldiers so they are all targets. It is legitimate to kill them all."

But what about, say, Israeli children?

"We never attack them," he says.

Er, you do, I add, politely. Lots of times.

"Not deliberately. And if you ask about suicide bombing, ask us what we think of Israelis killing our children every day. Ask us that."

Many commentators in the West argued that public opinion is being cluttered with myths about Hamas: that they are supporters of al-Qaeda, for example, or they believe suicide bombers end up in paradise with 72 virgins. I wanted these stories to be myths, too. So I ask, cautiously, what they think of Osama bin Laden.

Yousef's face lights up. "He is our love, he is our sheikh, he is a symbol for Muslims. He leads the nation to the shore of safety by implementing the law of God," he says, calmly.

Hamid, who is the most politically astute of the trio, chips in: "But this does not mean we support everything he does. We do not support the attacks on New York and Washington."

The others shake their heads.

"I support it," Yousef says.

"They are the places that conspire against Muslims. They deserved it. Look at the world. The Americans support their government against Iraqis. The Russians support their government against the Chechens. Why shouldn't we support Bin Laden?"

At this point, I want to go back to sitcom chat, but I know I can't avoid discussing such issues with these men. Their world-view is dominated by ideas in a way that's hard to explain to young Westerners: if you ask them practical questions about their everyday lives, they quickly bring the conversation back to their politico-religious beliefs.

They don't live in a privatized mental world, where politics happens somewhere "out there". It determines their every action. "The moment I wake up," Yousef says, "I say, bless God for making me live after I was dead. (Mohammed says this in the Koran; he considered sleep a form of death.) God is in my thoughts every second of the day. Everything I do, I do for God."

Their mental landscape has a far wider scope than mine. They talk about the battle between the Persians and the Romans, or Mecca and Medina at the time of the Prophet, the way North Americans may talk about sports teams.

They see themselves as fitting into a vast picture organized and understood by God -- and they have no doubt that God sees them as integral to that picture. "Bush is right. We are in a war of good against evil," Yousef says to laughter. "He just got the sides mixed up. There is an American writer (Samuel Huntington) who talks about the clash of civilizations. He is right. Civilizations rise and fall, and they fight."

So is Islamic civilization rising again?

"Of this I have no doubt. I know it as surely as I know you are sitting in front of me."

## Juggling with Hamas

I ask these lads what they would say to my friends back home, who drink and smoke and have premarital sex.

"The Jews have destroyed your Christianity just like they are trying to destroy our Islam," Hamid says. "You should read the words of the Prophet. Join us. We do not just want to liberate Palestine. We want all countries to live under the Caliphate. The Islamic army once reached the walls of Vienna. It will happen again. We do not have time for girls and for alcohol. We think only about the cause."

Do you have female friends? "No," he says, clearly appalled. "Women are very precious but they are not friends. They are women."

What do you think about the fact that we tolerate, say, gay people? "This is depraved," he says as the others look away, disgusted even by the question. "Anybody who does this sin must be killed."

He begins to explain the story of Sodom and Gomorrah, which always sounded like pretty cool places to me. I nod as strongly as I can.

Their remarks about Jews are contradictory. On the one hand, they claim that Jews could live perfectly safely under the Islamic Caliphate they want to create, because they are "people of the Book" and "sons of Abraham". On the other hand, Mujaheed says, "The Jews were made to live in ghettos in Europe. It is true, isn't it? They should live in isolation.

"They are the source of all evil and moral corruption. We will be engaged in a battle with them until the Day of Judgement."

I ask if they have ever met any Jews.

"No," Yousef says. "I have never left Gaza."

Hamid is the same.

Mujaheed starts talking about those Jewish prison guards again. They all claim, however, that they would settle for a two-state solution. "If the two-state solution happens, we will live with it, but we will not recognize it. Hamas will never recognize Israel, but if we have our own state, we will not fire at them."

I ask if the claims by right-wing Israeli politicians that Hamas is using the current hudna (cease fire) to re-arm are true.

"Of course," Hamid says. "Just like the Israelis will be getting new F16s from the Americans, we build up our little guns."

I try desperately to lighten the tone. So, what do you enjoy doing on a quiet evening? You know -- to relax? Yousef grins. "I am a juggler," he says. "Shall I show you?"

I nod, and he takes an orange, a remote control and a hole-punch from the desk in the corner of the room.

Juggling with Hamas: this is not how I expected my life to turn out.

It is not hard to see why people succumb to this madness, repulsive though it is, I thought, as my contact and I drove out of Gaza and back towards Jerusalem. From one viewpoint, you are the disenfranchised citizens of a displaced, tiny people who have been abused by the Israelis, abandoned by the Arabs and ignored by the world for 50 years. You will probably never have a decent job; you'll be lucky if you leave Gaza once in your life. You are nothing.

But turn that around, and you are central to God's vision. You are part of the revival of a great and true civilization. You are at the centre of the fight between good and evil, a fight that will lead to the gates of Vienna and beyond. You are everything.



## Graphic

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Photo: Suhaib Salem, Reuters; The emerging face of **Hamas** reveals a generation of Palestinians lost to the cause of peaceful coexistence. Their world view is dominated by ideas difficult to explain to young Westerners.; Photo: Mohammed Salem, Reuters; **Hamas** leader Sheikh Ahmed Yassin is the front man for movement of angry young men.; Photo: Vadim Ghirda, the Associated Press; **Hamas** supporters reach out for information leaflets during a protest in Jordan last June.

**Load-Date:** August 12, 2003

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End of Document

## THE FANTASY OF INCLUDING HAMAS ON THE ROAD-MAP

The Independent (London)

August 25, 2003, Monday

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**Section:** COMMENT; Pg. 13

**Length:** 867 words

**Byline:** DAVID HOROVITZ

### **Body**

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It was always an absurd notion: That Hamas, avowedly committed to the destruction of Israel, would somehow transform itself into anti- Hamas, a movement reconciled to co-existence alongside Israel.

But an insistence that this would happen, however improbable, has been at the root of the political philosophy of Abu Mazen, the Palestinian Prime Minister, these past few weeks. Don't expect me to send my thousands of armed security personnel to arrest the few hundred bomb-makers and recruiters from Hamas and the other terrorist groups, he told the Israelis and the Americans. I don't have the power or support. And I wouldn't survive the Palestinian civil war I'd be sparking.

Moreover, Abu Mazen claimed, so seismic a confrontation wasn't necessary anyway. If Israel would only pull its troops out of West Bank cities and tear down its roadblocks, ordinary Palestinians would swiftly feel the beneficial impact and raise their voices against suicide bombings, Hamas would be deprived of backing, and Israelis and Palestinians would enter a new era of tranquility.

To his credit, Ariel Sharon, Israel's Prime Minister, put aside some of his scepticism and tried to make a go of this. No sooner had Abu Mazen persuaded most (but not all) Palestinian factions to declare a three-month timeout from terror at the end of June, than the Israeli government pulled the army out of Bethlehem, issued thousands of work permits for Palestinian labourers, and began a limited release of prisoners. A short, bloody week ago, the prime minister was finalising the terms of the army's withdrawal from four more cities.

Mr Sharon did so even though the very term used for the ceasefire - hudna - was designed to emphasize that the respite would be short-lived: in Islamic history, a hudna has been employed by a regime too weak to vanquish its enemies, to provide a breathing space in which to re-group for subsequent victory. He did so even though Hamas was abusing the timeout, to manufacture more bombs.

But that absurd notion of a Hamas transformed literally exploded last Tuesday, when one of its recruits blew apart a civilian bus in central Jerusalem, and killed more than 20 innocents - ordinary men, women and children ripped limb from limb by a heartlessly assembled explosive concoction.

This carnage was justified by Hamas and the many Palestinian and international legitimisers of suicide bombings as some kind of acceptable "revenge" for the Israeli army's killing, a week earlier in Hebron, of a Hamas murderer, Mohammed Sider (found hard at work in his private explosives laboratory). With the same moral blindness, there are many who "understand" why, when Israel lashed out after the bus bombing and killed Ismail Abu Shanab, a

## THE FANTASY OF INCLUDING HAMAS ON THE ROAD-MAP

leader of Hamas, the extremists have now terminated their hudna and declared open season on murdering Israeli civilians again.

Like the Oslo Accords before it, the American- and European-backed road- map is now crumbling. And just like the Oslo Accords, it will surely fall apart, as will every effort to bring harmony to this region, until Abu Mazen or one of his successors finds the moral backbone and tenacity to put the bombers out of business: to arrest and keep in jail those who employ and advocate violence against Israelis, Jews and anyone else who obstructs their Islamic fundamentalist death cult; to seize their weaponry and close down their bomb factories; to take their preachers out of the mosques, their leaders out of the television studios, and their message out of the classrooms.

Whether Abu Mazen is well-meaning and dumb, or disingenuous, nobody can seriously expect these groups to moderate of their own free will. It doesn't matter to them that most Palestinians were telling pollsters that they supported the ceasefire and wanted it prolonged. It doesn't matter to them that the road-map they are destroying promises the Palestinians an independent state within two years. For the now-renewed terrorist onslaught is not about liberating the West Bank, Gaza Strip and East Jerusalem to enable Palestine to rise. Had that been the goal, the bombers would have confined themselves to targets in the disputed territory. That kind of campaign would have prompted enormous argument within Israel, and quite possibly a unilateral Israeli withdrawal.

The true goal, made bloodily plain by the deaths of hundreds upon hundreds of civilians blown to pieces all across supposedly undisputed sovereign Israel, is far more ambitious: to terrorise the entire nation, destroy its economy, prompt mass emigration, and ultimately overwhelm Israel completely. Yasser Arafat shares this vision. Abu Mazen says he opposes it, but has yet to prove this. If he is unable to do so, Israel will have no choice but to wait for someone braver and defend itself as best as it can in the interim - building fences, imposing curfews, killing bombers en route, and attempting to minimize the civilian casualties - against an enemy hell-bent on maximizing the number of Israelis it takes down to an early grave.

The writer is the editor of 'The Jerusalem Report' and author of 'Still Life with Bombers: Israel in the Age of Terrorism', to be published by Knopf (US) next March

**Load-Date:** August 25, 2003

*Israel wounds Hamas leader;  
Bush denounces failed assassination attempt, tries to save peace plan.*

The Atlanta Journal-Constitution

June 11, 2003 Wednesday

Home Edition

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## The Atlanta Journal-Constitution

**Section:** News;

**Length:** 836 words

**Byline:** MARGARET COKER

### Body

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Gaza City, Gaza Strip --- In a troublesome development for U.S.-backed peace efforts, Israel tried to assassinate a senior Hamas leader Tuesday in one of two helicopter gunship attacks in the Gaza Strip.

In Washington, President Bush immediately expressed concern that the attacks, which left five Palestinians dead and injured at least 35 others, "will make it more difficult for Palestinian leadership to fight off terrorist attacks."

Bush said he does not believe the attacks "helped Israeli security."

The first attack, an operation against Hamas leader Abdul Aziz Rantisi, continued a week of violence that has endangered the U.S.-sponsored "road map" peace plan.

Cox International Correspondent

Bush was in the region just a week ago to meet with Israeli and Palestinian leaders and throw the weight of his office behind peace negotiations. The U.S. effort faces growing public doubts that the two sides can fulfill the essential conditions of the road map: more security for Israelis and more freedom for Palestinians.

Hamas vowed swift and severe retaliation for the missile strike that was aimed at Rantisi. The militant group pledged to go after Israeli politicians "whenever and however we can find them," according to a Hamas leaflet handed out in Gaza.

The Israeli operation followed a rare joint attack by Hamas, Islamic Jihad and the Al Aqsa Martyrs' Brigades on Sunday that killed four Israeli soldiers at an army outpost in Gaza.

The peace "road map" obligates Israel to end repressive policies against Palestinians, while Palestinian authorities must try to put an end to violence against Israelis.

Israel wounds Hamas leader; Bush denounces failed assassination attempt, tries to save peace plan.

In unusually strong criticism, Bush said Tuesday he was "deeply disturbed" by Israel's actions, which came as Palestinian Prime Minister Mahmoud Abbas was attempting to establish credibility among Palestinians and coax Hamas and other militant groups into a political deal to end attacks against Israeli civilians.

Abbas, also known as Abu Mazen, called the Israeli action a "terrorist attack" and said it would undermine his efforts to persuade Hamas to halt its terrorist campaign against Israelis.

Israeli Prime Minister Ariel Sharon was defiant and vowed that Israeli forces would continue to retaliate against "those who initiated, those who fund and those who send terrorists to kill Jews."

Sharon not sorry

Israeli security sources confirmed Tuesday night that they had launched the strike against Rantisi, a rare admission because such operations, known in Israel as "targeted killings," are widely denounced by international human rights organizations.

The Israeli government considers the 55-year-old pediatrician, who is one of the founders of Hamas, an "arch-terrorist," according to a statement issued after the Tuesday morning attack.

Rantisi, who suffered shrapnel wounds, denied in an interview from Shifa Hospital in downtown Gaza City that he has been involved in terrorist attacks. He called himself a political leader within Hamas, not a member of its military wing, which has claimed responsibility for many of about 100 suicide bomb attacks against Israelis during the past 32 months of violence between the two sides.

Rantisi was traveling in a black four-wheel-drive vehicle on the southern side of Gaza City on Tuesday morning when two Apache helicopters fired missiles at the vehicle, witnesses said. The first missile missed the car, allowing Rantisi to push his son and himself out of the passenger door before a second missile struck, killing the driver.

In all, six missiles were fired, killing a 55-year-old female passer-by and wounding dozens of other people.

Rhetoric of revenge

Lying in his hospital bed as he recovered from minor wounds on his left leg, Rantisi threatened reprisal attacks against Israeli political leaders.

"An eye for an eye, a nose for a nose and a politician for a politician," he said.

Hamas militants responded to the attempted killing of Rantisi by firing rockets from a northern neighborhood of Gaza City into a town in nearby Israel. This prompted a second Israeli helicopter attack that killed three Palestinians and wounded 32, most of whom were children, hospital officials said.

The Israeli attack on the Hamas leader appeared to doom prospects for cease-fire talks between the ruling Palestinian Authority and Hamas any time soon.

Hundreds of Hamas supporters gathered outside the hospital where Rantisi and others wounded in the attacks were recuperating to chant political slogans and Islamic verses. Much of the shouting was anti-Israeli, but some was also against Abbas, with the crowd yelling: "Abu Mazen is a collaborator."

Speaking on Palestinian television, Abbas called the Israeli operations in Gaza "foolish" and "criminal" because they would not allow him to advance his strategy of dialogue with the militant groups.

"We don't just condemn these acts, we consider them a crime," Abbas told Palestinian TV. "We have said that to the American government and we have asked them to intervene immediately to save the peace process and save the road map."

Israel wounds Hamas leader; Bush denounces failed assassination attempt, tries to save peace plan.

## Graphic

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Map: Map locates where the senior **Hamas** leader was wounded in an Israeli missile strike Thursday, with inset map of area of detail in the Middle East. / Staff; Photo: Wounded **Hamas** leader Abdul Aziz Rantisi gets a kiss from his brother Saklah in a Gaza City hospital on Tuesday. Israel admitted trying to kill Rantisi, who it says is a terrorist. Rantisi vowed "an eye for an eye." / ABID KATIB / The Associated Press

**Load-Date:** June 11, 2003

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## *Hamas promises 100 retaliations to avenge leader*

DAILY MAIL (London)

April 19, 2004

Copyright 2004 Associated Newspapers Ltd.

**Section:** ED\_3RD; Pg. 2

**Length:** 542 words

**Byline:** MATTHEW KALMAN

### **Body**

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ISRAEL was braced for a new wave of suicide bombings last night following the assassination of Hamas leader Abdel-Aziz Rantissi.

The group promised 'one hundred retaliations' after Rantissi, 56, was killed when a helicopter fired two missiles at his car on Saturday night.

He staggered away from the wreckage but died a short time later in hospital.

He was the second Palestinian militant to be assassinated in less than a month.

Hamas founder and spiritual leader Sheikh Ahmed Yassin, a quadriplegic who could barely see, died in a similar attack on March 22.

Yesterday, prime minister Ariel Sharon congratulated the air force for the attack and vowed to continue targeting terrorists ahead of Israel's planned withdrawal from the Gaza Strip next year.

But experts fear Hamas, which has already sent women and children to carry out suicide bombings, will resort to even more brutal measures in revenge.

Its terror wing, Kassem Brigades, said: 'One hundred retaliations are coming, and the blood of Yassin and Rantissi will explode the coming volcanoes.' The latest killing heaped international fury on Israel.

The Arab world reacted with outrage. Britain and the EU condemned the attack.

However, the U.S. did not. It pointed to Israel's right to defend itself from terrorist attack and urged Palestinians to use restraint in responding.

A spokesman added: 'The United States strongly urges Israel to consider carefully the consequences of its actions.' The Foreign Secretary Jack Straw used far tougher language, describing 'assassinations of this kind' as 'unlawful, unjustified and counterproductive'.

Nearly 200,000 people swarmed the streets of Gaza City for Rantissi's funeral yesterday as his body was carried on a stretcher, his face exposed.

Masked gunmen fired automatic rifles in the air and called for revenge over loudspeakers.

## Hamas promises 100 retaliations to avenge leader

Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat condemned Israel's 'state terrorism'.

Declaring three days of official mourning, he said: 'The Palestinian leadership invites the world community to provide international protection for our Palestinian people and their leaders against the state terrorism practised by the government of Israel.' Palestinian Prime Minister Ahmed Qurei accused George Bush of giving Israel virtual carte blanche to strike.

He said the attack, which came after Mr Bush backed Mr Sharon's plans to hold on to parts of the West Bank, was 'a direct result of American encouragement and the complete bias of the American administration'.

**Hamas** appeared to be reeling from the onslaught.

One Israeli border policeman was killed yesterday in Gaza, but at least three suicide bombings within Israel have been foiled in the past two weeks.

The group has appointed a new leader, but refused to name him. Media reports identified Mahmoud Zahar, an official who survived a missile attack on his home last year.

As Israel prepared last night to mark the beginning of Holocaust memorial day with a series of solemn ceremonies, hundreds of extra police, soldiers and volunteers patrolled sensitive areas.

The army clamped a 'closure' on the West Bank and Gaza Strip, forbidding Palestinians to enter or leave. The closures were expected to last until after Israeli Independence Day next week.

Comment Page TEN

END

**Load-Date:** April 20, 2004



## **Terror group threatens U.S. Palestinians promise to avenge assassination of Hamas leader**

Charleston Gazette (West Virginia)

March 23, 2004, Tuesday

Copyright 2004 Charleston Newspapers

**Section:** News; Pg. P1A

**Length:** 1262 words

**Byline:** Lara Sukhtian The Associated Press

### **Body**

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GAZA CITY, Gaza Strip - Hundreds of thousands of Palestinians chanting "Revenge! Revenge!" flooded Gaza's streets Monday to bury Hamas founder Sheik Ahmed Yassin, who was assassinated by an Israeli missile. As ordinary Palestinians seethed with anger, militants pledged unprecedented retaliation - including threats against the United States.

U.N. Secretary-General Kofi Annan and many world leaders condemned Monday's killing of Yassin, the most prominent Palestinian targeted by Israel in 3 1/2 years of fighting. The Bush administration said it was "deeply troubled" by the attack and that it had no advance warning.

"We will get revenge for every drop of blood that spilled," said Salman Bdeiri, a Hamas supporter crying near the mosque where Yassin prayed shortly before being killed by an Israeli airstrike.

Israel sealed off the West Bank and Gaza, banning Palestinians from Israel, and placed its security forces on high alert.

Later Monday, Palestinian militants fired several homemade rockets and mortar shells at Israeli targets in and near Gaza. To the north, Hezbollah guerrillas fired an anti-tank missile at Israeli troops along Israel's border with Lebanon.

Israel quickly responded to both attacks. It struck at Hezbollah with planes and artillery fire. No casualties were reported. Israel sent tanks into northern Gaza near the town of Beit Hanoun. Israeli security officials said the purpose of the operation was to prevent further rocket fire.

The Yassin assassination was part of Prime Minister Ariel Sharon's effort to crush Hamas ahead of a possible Israeli withdrawal from Gaza. However, the killing was seen as a major gamble that could galvanize the Palestinians behind Hamas. Rival Palestinian militant groups immediately pledged solidarity with Hamas.

The missile strike dealt what could be the final blow to the stalled U.S.-led "road map" peace plan. It also angered Egypt and Jordan, moderate Arab states whose tacit support Sharon needs for any unilateral withdrawal from Gaza.

Since Yassin founded Hamas in 1987, the group has killed hundreds of Israelis in scores of attacks. Hamas wants to destroy the Jewish state and replace it with an Islamic one.

## Terror group threatens U.S. Palestinians promise to avenge assassination of Hamas leader

For the first time Monday, Hamas threatened the United States and suggested it might seek outside help in carrying out revenge attacks.

"The Zionists didn't carry out their operation without getting the consent of the terrorist American administration, and it [the United States] must take responsibility for this crime," Hamas said in a statement. "All the Muslims of the world will be honored to join in on the retaliation for this crime."

In the past, Hamas has refrained from targeting U.S. citizens or interests, instead focusing on fund raising and recruitment within the United States, according to senior U.S. law enforcement officials.

Homeland Security Secretary Tom Ridge was heeding the Hamas terror warning.

"If they are threatening the United States, we have to take it quite seriously," he told reporters in Washington.

While not condemning the assassination, the State Department said it increases tensions and would make it harder to pursue peace in the Middle East. "We are troubled," spokesman Richard Boucher said.

President Bush's national security adviser, Condoleezza Rice, told NBC that "it is very important that everyone step back and try now to be calm in the region."

But Israel said it will press ahead with more targeted attacks and raids.

"The war against terror has not ended and will continue day after day, everywhere," Sharon said. He called Yassin the "mastermind of Palestinian terror" and a "mass murderer who is among Israel's greatest enemies."

More than 200,000 Palestinians, some carrying billowing green Hamas flags, poured into the streets of Gaza City for Yassin's funeral procession.

Mourners in Gaza jostled to touch Yassin's flag-draped coffin, and women ululated and threw flowers and candy. Two Israeli helicopters flew above, and the sky was blackened from the smoke of burning tires.

At the cemetery, Yassin's body was paraded through an honor guard of 400 militants armed with anti-tank missiles and machine guns.

"Our leader has left us, but we say to him, 'Your lessons will stay within our hearts and minds and our generations,'" Abdel Aziz Rantisi, a Hamas leader, said in a eulogy.

In addition to Yassin, who was in his 60s, 12 Palestinians were killed Monday, seven in the airstrike, four in clashes with Israeli troops and one while handling explosives.

The attack came before daybreak, when Israeli helicopters swooped toward a Gaza street and fired three missiles as Yassin, his bodyguards and dozens of others left the mosque.

Blood and flesh splattered on the walls. Nearby windows shattered. Only a charred metal seat and two twisted wheels were left of Yassin's wheelchair, and a blood-soaked brown shoe lay in the street. Lying in tatters nearby was the brown blanket in which Yassin - a quadriplegic - was nearly always wrapped.

"Two or three people were lying next to him on the ground. One was legless," said taxi driver Yousef Haddad.

Among those killed were several of Yassin's bodyguards and his son-in-law. Seventeen people were wounded, including two of Yassin's sons.

After the attack, residents rubbed their hands in pieces of gravel mixed with Yassin's blood, a traditional sign of anger and a preparation for revenge.

The Palestinian Authority declared three days of mourning and closed schools. Flags at Yasser Arafat's headquarters in the West Bank town of Ramallah headquarters were lowered to half-staff.

## Terror group threatens U.S. Palestinians promise to avenge assassination of Hamas leader

Palestinian ministers stood as Arafat recited a Muslim prayer for Yassin and then added: "May you join the martyrs and the prophets. To heaven, you martyr."

The missile strike shook Arafat in more ways than one. The massive outpouring of support for Hamas showed how formidable a rival the Islamic group has become to Arafat's weakened Palestinian Authority.

Arafat also fears he may be next on Israel's hit list, said a confidant, Communications Minister Azzam Ahmed.

However, an Israeli security official, speaking on condition of anonymity, said Israel's campaign focuses on Hamas, at least for now.

Boucher, the State Department spokesman, urged Israel to keep its promise to not harm Arafat. "We think that's an important pledge, and we would expect them to stand by that."

Israeli Defense Minister Shaul Mofaz said Yassin's killing will eventually weaken Hamas.

"If we have to balance how many more terrorists Yassin would have sent, how many terror attacks he would have approved, if we weigh this on the scales, we acted rightly," Mofaz was quoted as telling a parliamentary committee.

But Sharon's critics in Israel warned that the Yassin killing could be viewed as an attack on Islam.

"This had nothing to do with security, nothing to do with protecting Israeli citizens. It's all about politics and public opinion," said lawmaker Yossi Sarid of the dovish Yahad Party.

Yassin's killing virtually buried hopes of reviving the road map, which envisioned an end to violence and the creation of a Palestinian state by next year.

"Such actions are not only contrary to international law, but they do not do anything to help the search for a peaceful solution," Annan said of the assassination.

European and Arab leaders condemned the killing. Egypt canceled a trip by legislators and other dignitaries to Israel to mark the 25th anniversary of the peace treaty between the two countries.

British Foreign Secretary Jack Straw said the assassination "is unacceptable, it is unjustified and it is very unlikely to achieve its objectives."

**Load-Date:** March 23, 2004

**Minister threatens to assassinate terrorists: Move in response to Hamas' vow to kidnap soldiers**

Ottawa Citizen

February 2, 2004 Monday Final Edition

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**Section:** News; Pg. A9; News

**Length:** 389 words

**Byline:** Josef Federman

**Dateline:** JERUSALEM

## **Body**

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JERUSALEM - The leaders of violent Islamic groups are targets for assassination, Israel's defence minister said yesterday, raising the possibility of a further escalation in the three years of Israeli-Palestinian bloodshed.

Shaul Mofaz issued the threat in response to a declaration by the spiritual leader of Hamas, Sheik Ahmed Yassin, that the group plans an all-out effort to kidnap Israeli soldiers.

"The statements of Yassin just emphasize the need to strike the heads of Hamas and the Islamic Jihad," Mr. Mofaz told the weekly meeting of the Israeli cabinet, according to an Israeli official who attended the meeting.

The Associated Press

The statements by Mr. Mofaz and Mr. Yassin threaten to inflame an already violent confrontation that has led to the deaths of more than 3,500 people on both sides during three years of fighting.

Last week, Israel killed eight Palestinians in a shootout in Gaza City, while a Palestinian suicide bomber killed 11 people in Jerusalem. Hamas took responsibility for the bombing, a day after a claim from the Al Aqsa Martyrs' Brigades, loosely linked to Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat's Fatah movement.

Yesterday marked the beginning of the four-day Eid al-Adha holiday, and Hamas officials were not available to react to Mr. Mofaz's comments.

During more than three years of violence, Israel has carried out many pinpoint attacks aimed at leaders of Hamas and Islamic Jihad -- often prompting a violent response. In September, Mr. Yassin narrowly escaped an Israeli air strike in the Gaza Strip.

But Israel has greatly reduced the number of targeted killings in recent months.

Hamas, responsible for dozens of suicide bombings over the last three years, also appeared to have scaled back its activities until a Hamas female suicide bomber killed four Israelis at a Gaza-Israel checkpoint Jan. 14.

Also yesterday, Israeli troops raided the town of Jericho for the first time in months.

The military said troops entered the town to arrest fugitives planning an attack. In the ensuing shootout, one fugitive was killed and another wounded.

Minister threatens to assassinate terrorists: Move in response to Hamas' vow to kidnap soldiers

There were no Israeli casualties.

The dead terrorist was Shadi Jaradat, an Al Aqsa Martyrs' Brigades member from Jenin who apparently sought refuge in Jericho. Israeli security officials said Mr. Jaradat, 23, was planning a bomb attack inside Israel.

## Graphic

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Colour Photo: Lefteris Pitarakis, The Associated Press; The Israeli army made a predawn push into Jericho yesterday, killing Palestinian terrorist Shadi Jaradat, who security officers say was planning an attack in Israel, and destroying three houses.

**Load-Date:** February 2, 2004

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End of Document

## **SHARON HINTS AT HALTING ASSASSINATIONS AS EGYPT URGES HAMAS TO CALL CEASEFIRE**

The Independent (London)

June 16, 2003, Monday

Copyright 2003 Independent Print Ltd

**Section:** NEWS; Pg. 2

**Length:** 608 words

**Byline:** JUSTIN HUGGLER IN JERUSALEM

### **Body**

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ISRAEL SAID yesterday that it was considering gradually withdrawing troops from the West Bank city of Bethlehem and allowing Palestinian security forces to resume control, as President George Bush insisted that a Middle East peace was still possible despite the welter of violence since his landmark summit in Aqaba.

Fresh talks were under way in the Gaza Strip with Egyptian mediators trying to persuade the Palestinian militant group Hamas - which vowed last week to bomb Israel to "ruddle" - to agree to a temporary ceasefire.

Sources close to the talks said they were optimistic Hamas would agree to a ceasefire. The Palestinian Prime Minister, Abu Mazen, is expected to join the talks today.

The Israeli Prime Minister, Ariel Sharon, appeared to back off from an Israeli threat to "wage war to the bitter end" against Hamas. He was quoted as saying: "If no one fires on us, we will not return fire, except in cases of ticking bombs", a remark that was interpreted as meaning Mr Sharon would call off the helicopters that have assassinated Hamas leaders almost daily in the Gaza Strip, though he refused to give an explicit guarantee.

Sixty-three people have been killed on both sides since the summit in Jordan, where Mr Sharon and Abu Mazen committed themselves to the United States-backed "road-map" peace plan, which calls for an independent Palestinian state by 2005.

The road-map agreement is in serious trouble after a round of violence between Israel and Hamas, which was triggered when Israel attempted to assassinate one of the leaders of the militant group's political wing last week.

Mr Bush said yesterday: "I believe peace is possible" but conceded: "I believe we've got a lot of work to do." On Hamas, he said: "The free world and those who love freedom and peace must deal harshly with Hamas and the killers ... Until these people are brought to justice, those who will kill innocent people in order to deny the establishment of a Palestinian state, there will be violence."

There was no mention of the innocent bystanders, including women and children, who were killed in the Israeli assassination attempts. A seven-year-old girl who was wounded in the botched assassination of the Hamas leader Abdel-Aziz Rantisi died yesterday.

"We would like the Palestinian Authority to set up a security force ... That will do the job" of dealing with Hamas, President Bush said.

## SHARON HINTS AT HALTING ASSASSINATIONS AS EGYPT URGES HAMAS TO CALL CEASEFIRE

The PA has volunteered to take over security in areas of the occupied territories if the Israeli army withdraws, and the Israeli Defence Minister, Shaul Mofaz, told the Israeli cabinet yesterday that talks were under way on a possible withdrawal from Bethlehem.

Israel has already said it is willing to withdraw troops from the northern Gaza. Mohammed Dahlan, the Palestinian security chief, also wants Israeli troops out of Ramallah, the PA's administrative centre, but that is not on offer.

Israel has made numerous withdrawals from West Bank cities including Bethlehem since it reoccupied them last summer, placing their populations under curfew, but the army has always returned after the first militant attack. Under the new talks, Israeli soldiers will pull out of the northern Gaza towns of Beit Lahiya and Beit Hanoun first. Despite the talks, Israeli soldiers went into Beit Hanoun yesterday, killing a Palestinian militant.

Meanwhile, Peace Now, an Israeli peace movement, said Jewish settlers had set up five new settler outposts in the West Bank since the Israeli army began dismantling outposts last week. Mr Sharon pledged at Aqaba to remove outposts not authorised by the Israeli government. All the settlements are illegal under international law.

**Load-Date:** June 16, 2003

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End of Document

## **'*Hamas will not be defeated': New leader's name kept secret as thousands vow revenge***

Ottawa Citizen

April 19, 2004 Monday Final Edition

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**Section:** News; Pg. A6; News

**Length:** 683 words

**Byline:** Molly Moore and John Ward Anderson

**Dateline:** GAZA CITY, West Bank

### **Body**

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GAZA CITY, West Bank - Tens of thousands of Palestinians escorted the corpse of **Hamas** leader Abdel Aziz Rantisi through the streets of Gaza City yesterday amid condemnation of Israel for his assassination and warnings that fracturing the terrorist group could fuel greater extremism.

Hundreds of hands reached out to stroke Dr. Rantisi's shrapnel-scarred face and touch the bloodstained shroud stretched over his body outside the city's main mosque, while thousands of mourners shook their fists at Israeli F-16 fighter jets roaring above the funeral procession.

Dr. Rantisi, 56, and two bodyguards were killed Saturday evening when Israeli AH-64 Apache helicopters fired two missiles at his car near his Gaza City home, a month after he took over as the Gaza head of **Hamas** following Israel's assassination of the group's spiritual leader and founder, Sheik Ahmed Yassin.

**Hamas**, formally known as the Islamic Resistance Movement, has claimed responsibility for dozens of suicide bombings and other attacks against Israelis.

The Washington post

"They said that they killed Rantisi to weaken **Hamas**," Ismail Haniya, a senior political leader of **Hamas**, told a frenzied mob through loudspeakers outside the Omari Mosque in the heart of Gaza City. "They are dreaming. **Hamas** might have a crisis at hand after losing its leaders, but it will not be defeated."

Across the West Bank, Palestinians demonstrated against the assassination. In Nablus, protesters shot, then burned effigies of U.S. President George W. Bush and Israeli Prime Minister Ariel Sharon, according to news service reports.

Palestinian Foreign Minister Nabil Shaath cancelled a trip to meet with Bush administration officials in Washington next week, saying that "Israel commits crimes and is rewarded by the American president."

But a spokesman for Mr. Sharon, Raanan Gissin, said that "the U.S. had nothing to do with this."

"We don't ask for a green light and we did not get a green light," Mr. Gissin said. "Rantisi was the No. 1 terrorist operator in Gaza and we had to take him out."



' Hamas will not be defeated': New leader's name kept secret as thousands vow revenge

In a statement posted on its website yesterday, the military wing of Hamas, the Izzedine al-Qassam Brigades, warned: "One hundred responses are on their way and the blood of Yassin and Rantisi will explode in the coming volcanos."

Hamas leaders in Damascus said Saturday that they had selected a replacement for Dr. Rantisi but would not announce who it was in an effort to keep him from being targeted by Israel.

Palestinian analysts warned that with the leadership of Hamas in disarray and its thirst for revenge high, the organization could become more dangerous.

"This is killing any prospects for moderation," said Eyad Sarraj, a psychiatrist and human rights activist in Gaza. "It's encouraging more radicalism and violence."

For many residents of Gaza, Dr. Rantisi, a pediatrician who no longer practised medicine, was a particularly charismatic force.

"He was a good man, he helped everybody, he was a doctor," said Amna Abu Asha, 70, using the ends of her white head scarf to mop tears that spilled down cheeks as wrinkled as a walnut shell. "There is a big pain in my heart."

Dr. Rantisi's funeral procession, part cortege, part military show and part festival, consumed the city.

Members of the military wing of Hamas, faces hidden by black ski masks or home-sewn head covers, shouldered the weapons of a guerrilla army -- polished Kalashnikov rifles and crudely constructed rocket launchers. Some wore the green headbands of Hamas, others sported green baseball caps emblazoned with the Hamas logo.

Ragtag forces from other terrorist organizations appeared in blue jeans and T-shirts and toted Kalashnikovs held together by electricians' tape. Among the tens of thousands of men, a few dozen women marched wearing head-to-toe black chadors that exposed only their eyes through slits or the cuffs of blue jeans.

The funeral procession trampled over the charred remains of Dr. Rantisi's car, scraps of which were scattered across a boulevard a few blocks from the Martyrs' Cemetery where he was buried under a soaring pine tree.

## Graphic

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Colour Photo: Bassem Tellawi, the Associated Press; About 1,000 Palestinian refugees demonstrated yesterday in al-Yarmouk refugee camp on the outskirts of Damascus, Syria, to protest the killing of Abdel Aziz Rantisi.

**Load-Date:** April 19, 2004

## *Hamas vows revenge for killing , Israeli missile strike kills spiritual leader, seven others*

Charleston Daily Mail (West Virginia)

March 22, 2004, Monday

Copyright 2004 Charleston Newspapers

**Section:** News; Pg. P3A

**Length:** 821 words

**Byline:** THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

### **Body**

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CAIRO, Egypt - Anti-Israel demonstrations erupted in the Middle East today after Israel's killing of the spiritual leader of the Islamic militant group Hamas, and hopes for recent Arab moves to reinvigorate the region's peace process were dimmed by shouts for revenge.

Arab rage over the death of Hamas founder Ahmed Yassin, killed by an Israeli helicopter gunship at daybreak as he left a mosque near his Gaza Strip home, reverberated across the Middle East.

Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak, who had been using his influence to press ahead with peace efforts, called it "cowardly."

Asked about its likely impact on the peace process, Mubarak replied: "What peace process, when the situation is on fire?"

Mubarak canceled already controversial plans for a few Egyptian legislators to participate in a celebration Tuesday in the Israeli parliament of the 25th anniversary of the Egypt-Israel peace treaty. The treaty was the first between Israel and an Arab state.

Hamas threatened a harsh response. "Yassin is a man in a nation, and a nation in a man. And the retaliation of this nation will be of the size of this man," said Abdel Aziz Rantisi, a prominent Hamas leader in Gaza who himself escaped an Israeli assassination attempt last June.

For the first time, Hamas also threatened the United States, saying America's backing of Israel made the assassination possible. "All the Muslims of the world will be honored to join in on the retaliation for this crime," Hamas said in a statement.

In the past, Hamas leaders have insisted their struggle is against Israel and that they would not get involved in causes by militant Muslims in other parts of the world. Today's statement suggested that Hamas might seek outside help in carrying out revenge attacks, since its capabilities have been limited by Israeli military strikes.

Rival militant groups also promised revenge.

Yassin was the most prominent Palestinian leader killed by Israel in more than three years of fighting, and his assassination was seen as a major escalation.

## Hamas vows revenge for killing , Israeli missile strike kills spiritual leader, seven others

More than 200,000 Palestinians, some carrying billowing green Hamas flags, flooded the streets for the funeral procession, the largest gathering in Gaza City in recent memory. Thousands also took to the streets in the West Bank.

Mourners jostled to touch Yassin's flag-draped coffin, and women ululated and threw flowers and candy. Two Israeli helicopters flew above, and the sky was blackened from the smoke of tires set ablaze in the streets by protesting Palestinians.

At the cemetery, Yassin's body was carried between two rows of 200 militants armed with anti-tank missiles and machine guns.

"Words cannot describe the emotion of anger and hate inside our hearts," said Hamas official Ismail Haniyeh, a close associate of Yassin.

Israeli Prime Minister Ariel Sharon called Yassin the "mastermind of Palestinian terror" and a "mass murderer who is among Israel's greatest enemies."

Sharon said Israel will press ahead with its war on terror, signaling more targeted attacks and raids. "The war against terror has not ended and will continue day after day, everywhere," he said.

In addition to Yassin, 12 Palestinians were killed today, seven in the airstrike, four in clashes with Israeli troops and one while handling explosives.

Bush administration National Security Adviser Condoleezza Rice said Washington had "no advance warning" of the attack. Rice said she knew of no consultations between Sharon and President Bush about any plan to target the sheik.

But Rice, asked about U.S. reaction to the attack during an interview on NBC television, said, "Let's remember that Hamas is a terrorist organization and that Sheik Yassin has himself, personally, we believe, been involved in terrorist planning."

State Department spokesman Lou Fintor said U.S. officials were in touch with Israeli and Palestinian authorities. "The United States urges all sides to remain calm and exercise restraint," he said.

Israeli helicopters fired three missile as Yassin, his bodyguards and dozens of others left a mosque in Gaza City at daybreak today. Yassin, a quadriplegic who uses a wheelchair, and seven others were killed, including several bodyguards. Seventeen people were wounded.

Only a charred metal seat and a twisted wheel were left of his wheelchair and a blood-soaked brown shoe lay in the street. "Two or three people were lying next to him on the ground. One was legless," said taxi driver Yousef Haddad, who had rushed out of a nearby grocery when the missiles shook the Sabra neighborhood.

Fearing reprisal attacks, Israel sealed off the West Bank and Gaza and confined many West Bank Palestinians to their communities.

The Rafah border crossing between Gaza and Egypt was also closed. Troops reinforcements were sent to Gaza, and security forces in Israel were placed on high alert.

Three more Palestinians were killed in Gaza later today in clashes with Israeli troops, and one was killed while handling explosives.

**Load-Date:** March 23, 2004

## *Sheikh 'marked for death': Hamas's spiritual leader ignores warning by top Israeli, vows violence will continue*

Ottawa Citizen

January 17, 2004 Saturday Final Edition

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**Section:** News; Pg. A10; News

**Length:** 493 words

**Byline:** Ian MacKinnon

**Dateline:** JERUSALEM

### **Body**

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JERUSALEM -- Israel signalled its intent yesterday to avenge the latest suicide bombing that killed four people in Gaza, by vowing to track down and murder Sheikh Ahmed Yassin, the Hamas spiritual leader who sanctioned the attack.

Military chiefs were considering a resumption of targeted killings of Islamic leaders in retaliation for the explosion set off by Reem al-Rayashee, 22, a mother of two children. Zeev Boim, Israel's deputy defence minister, said that Sheikh Yassin, the founder of Hamas, who approved Mrs. al-Rayashee's mission, headed the list of targets. The Times, London With files from The Associated Press

"Sheikh Yassin is marked for death," Mr. Boim said in an interview. "He should hide himself deep underground where he will not know the difference between day and night. We will find him in the tunnels and we will eliminate him."

Sheikh Yassin, 66, who uses a wheelchair and has survived one attempt to kill him, remained defiant. He denied planning attacks, but said Hamas would not bow to pressure.

He was pushed to the mosque in Gaza for Friday prayers flanked by children, worshippers and bodyguards, pausing outside to address journalists. He promised that violence would continue. "There is no room to speak about a truce," he said. "Resistance must continue until the removal of the occupation. We do not fear death threats. We are seekers of martyrdom."

In September, Sheikh Yassin narrowly avoided death when an Israeli jet dropped a 250-kilogram bomb on a building where Hamas leaders were meeting. He emerged with only a cut to his hand.

After Wednesday's suicide attack at Erez Crossing, Sheikh Yassin hailed Hamas's first female suicide bomber, saying the tactic was because of stringent security checks on men.

In more than three years of fighting, Israel has killed more than 140 suspected terrorists in targeted attacks, but refrained from going after top Palestinian leaders. It has threatened to "remove" Yasser Arafat, suggesting it would either exile or kill him, but has refrained from doing either, in part because of U.S. opposition.

Sheikh 'marked for death': Hamas's spiritual leader ignores warning by top Israeli , vows violence will continue

An Israeli strike against Sheikh Yassin would likely provoke bloody Hamas attacks and boost support for the group, Mr. Arafat's main political rival, said Palestinian legislator Hanan Ashrawi. "If they target Hamas leaders, I don't think anybody can control the (Hamas) military wing," she said.

In Washington, State Department spokesman Richard Boucher reiterated U.S. policy against targeted assassinations and criticized Hamas and other groups for violent acts that make peacemaking more elusive. The European Union also spoke out against any plan to kill Sheikh Yassin as counterproductive to peace efforts.

After a spike in violence in the summer, there was a lull in Israeli missile strikes and Palestinian bombings which some attributed to an unspoken agreement between the two sides to lower tensions. However, Israel said it forced a drop in attacks by arresting as many as 30 potential suicide bombers.

## Graphic

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Photo: Mohammed Salem, Reuters; Sheikh Ahmed Yassin, the Hamas spiritual leader who sanctioned Wednesday's suicide attack, is pushed to Friday prayers by a bodyguard.

**Load-Date:** January 17, 2004

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**What is Hamas?: It's a terrorist group, according to some. But to Abu Shaheh Safdi, it pays for school, buses, clothing for his brother's children**

The Gazette (Montreal, Quebec)

June 17, 2003 Tuesday Final Edition

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**Section:** News; Pg. A20; Crime; Chronology

**Length:** 973 words

**Byline:** IAN FISHER

**Dateline:** GAZA CITY, Gaza Strip

## **Body**

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To most Israelis, **Hamas** is a terrorist group and little more, the core of Palestinian hatred that explodes against civilians who are innocently shopping or riding on buses. When talk of any peace accord nears, **Hamas** advocates the ideological extreme: no compromise on a Palestinian state, based on Islam, that stretches from the Mediterranean east to the Jordan River. It talks often of driving all Jews from the land.

But to a Palestinian brother and sister here who are raising the four children of another brother who was killed in a construction accident in 1997, **Hamas** is a very practically minded saviour. It pays for the children's school, buses, clothing, even food. "I am so happy **Hamas** is taking care of them," said the brother, Abu Shaheh Safdi, 26, a tailor. "There is no way I could afford it now."

New York Times

Since **Hamas** was founded in 1987 during the first Palestinian uprising, these have been the group's pillars: religion, charity and the fight against Israel. It is zealous on all three fronts and that makes it a difficult foe. **Hamas** itself, the Arabic acronym for Islamic Resistance Movement, means "zeal" or "bravery."

The difficulty, many experts say, is the acceptance of **Hamas** by ordinary Palestinians, which has grown over 32 months of renewed violence here, to rival more mainstream political groups, like Yasser Arafat's Fatah movement.

There is no agreement among Palestinians on suicide bombing, and many do not want an Islamic state either. But still **Hamas** has gained currency as a serious alternative to Arafat's Palestinian Authority: better organized, less corrupt and more effective against what they see as Israeli aggression.

"**Hamas** is not some dark, shadowy organization in a corner," said Magnus Ranstorp, a **Hamas** expert at the University of St. Andrews in Scotland. "They are part of Palestinian society."

But many Palestinians are also exhausted by this conflict. The question now is whether **Hamas** - itself under much pressure here and in strongholds like Syria and Lebanon - is prepared to act on that and to agree to a ceasefire against Israel that would allow growth to the new peace plan pushed by the Bush administration.

For several days, this looked unlikely: Following the killing last week of five Israeli soldiers by **Hamas**, which had just rejected the peace plan, Israel tried to kill a **Hamas** leader, Abdel Aziz Rantisi.

What is Hamas?: It's a terrorist group, according to some. But to Abu Shaheh Safdi, it pays for school, buses, clothing for his brother's children

**Hamas** struck back with a suicide bombing, in which 17 Israelis were killed. After that, Israel and **Hamas** vowed all-out war. In a storm of bombs, bullets and missiles, 60 Israelis and Palestinians died in one week.

Rantisi, recovering from wounds, said on Sunday that **Hamas** would halt suicide bombings inside Israel, but with conditions that include a halt to actions directed against **Hamas**. He said the group would not, however, stop its attacks on Israeli soldiers or Jewish settlers in the West Bank and Gaza.

"We have an initiative," Rantisi said in an interview with an Arab journalist working for the New York Times. "We will avoid attacking Israeli civilians as long as Israelis stop killing our children, our **women** and to stop destroying our houses."

Whether **Hamas** is actually willing to honour a ceasefire that might give the peace plan a chance goes to the very heart of what **Hamas** is as a group.

Many Israelis believe that **Hamas** would scuttle any peace plan. Its commitment to military action, suicide attacks and to one Palestinian state on land that includes Israel, they argue, makes it impossible to accept one state for Israelis, one for Palestinians. In 1997, it was added to the U.S. list of terrorist organizations. Canada added it to its list of such groups last year.

"Let's remember the history of **Hamas** and the history of its mother organization," said Ziad Abu Amr, the Palestinian minister of culture in charge of negotiations with **Hamas**. "Violence is a tactic. We had flare-ups, and we had periods of attacks and counter attacks. But they can refrain from these suicide attacks and other attacks if there is an alternative."

But in the past three years, the lives of Palestinians have gotten much worse. This has led to some rethinking by many Palestinians about the wisdom of suicide attacks. "The suicide attacks have been very, very damaging to us," said Haider Abdel Shafi, once a top PLO negotiator. "They deprived us of the sympathy of the world."

Still Shafi said he believed **Hamas** has developed organizationally to the point that it could replace the Palestinian Authority, though he added that most Palestinians could not, in the end, subscribe to a militant or terrorist doctrine.

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### **Hamas**, Since Its Founding

1987: **Hamas**, an acronym for the Islamic Resistance Movement, is founded by Muslim Brotherhood members during the first intifada, or uprising, against the Israeli military presence in the West Bank and Gaza.

1988-1992: Period known as the "war of knives." **Hamas** members kill members of the Palestine Liberation Organization and several Israeli soldiers.

1989: Israel arrests and jails **Hamas**'s spiritual leader, Sheik Ahmed Yassin.

1991-1992: **Hamas** kidnaps several Israeli soldiers, leading to expulsion of leaders to Lebanon. Contact with Hezbollah increases **Hamas**'s knowledge of explosives.

1996: Israelis kill Yihye Ayash, **Hamas** leader known as "the Engineer." **Hamas** responds with suicide bombings that help elect a Likud prime minister, Benjamin Netanyahu, who promises to fight terror groups. Yasser Arafat, the Palestinian leader, begins crackdown on **Hamas** leadership.

1997: Yassin is released from prison.

2000: Second intifada begins. Support for **Hamas** grows, especially in Gaza, based on its willingness to fight Israel.

2001: Clashes between Palestinian Authority and **Hamas**.

What is Hamas?: It's a terrorist group, according to some. But to Abu Shaheh Safdi, it pays for school, buses, clothing for his brother's children

2003: Of nearly 100 suicide attacks since 2000, **Hamas** has carried out the greatest number.

New York Times

## Graphic

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Color Photo: ODED BALILTY, AP; A general view of a bus explosion carried out by a **Hamas** suicide bomber in downtown Jerusalem last week. Israel is demanding Palestinian Prime Minister Mahmoud Abbas forcefully crack down on militants, but a faceoff with the popular and well-organized **Hamas** would be a very difficult battle for the new premier's hobbled security forces, analysts say.

**Load-Date:** June 17, 2003

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**Israel hints it will strike against Syria for bombings: Anyone who harbours Hamas terrorists a target for retaliation, Sharon warns**

Ottawa Citizen

September 2, 2004 Thursday

Final Edition

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**Section:** NEWS; Pg. A12

**Length:** 335 words

**Byline:** Mark Lavie, The Associated Press

**Dateline:** JERUSALEM

## **Body**

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JERUSALEM - Israeli leaders warned Syria yesterday that it bears the blame for a double suicide bombing by **Hamas** terrorists because it harbours the group's leadership, and they hinted at possible retaliation.

In a first response to Tuesday's attack that killed 16 people in a southern Israeli city, Israeli troops blew up the home of one of the bombers and isolated the West Bank city of Hebron, where the attackers lived. However, Israel was looking farther afield to assign the blame.

"The fact that **Hamas** is operating from Syria will not grant it immunity," Raanan Gissin, an adviser to Israeli Prime Minister Ariel Sharon, told the Associated Press.

The overall leader of **Hamas**, Khaled Mashaal, and his deputies are based in Syria. Earlier this year, Israel assassinated **Hamas**' founder and his successor in Gaza, throwing the Islamic group into temporary disarray. But major decisions are made by Mr. Mashaal, not by **Hamas** leaders in Gaza.

The Israeli army chief, Lt.-Gen. Moshe Yaalon, said yesterday that those who support terrorism "cannot sleep quietly at night," mentioning Palestinian leaders, Lebanese Hezbollah guerrillas, Syria and Iran.

Mr. Sharon added his own implied threat: "Israel's struggle against terrorism will continue unabated. We will apparently need to decide on additional steps to stop terrorism." He did not elaborate.

Last Oct. 5, Israeli planes attacked the training camp of another terrorist group, Islamic Jihad, outside Damascus, the Syrian capital, a day after a **female** suicide bomber blew up a restaurant in the Israeli port city of Haifa, killing 21 people.

Security officials said Israel would go after **Hamas** leaders in the West Bank and step up military patrols in the sparsely populated southern part of the territory. The target of Tuesday's bombings was Beersheba, south of the West Bank.

Mr. Sharon also pledged to finish the West Bank security barrier, which is aimed at keeping Palestinian suicide bombers from getting into Israel. The plan has drawn international criticism.

Israel hints it will strike against Syria for bombings: Anyone who harbours Hamas terrorists a target for retaliation, Sharon warns

**Load-Date:** September 2, 2004

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## **27 ISRAELI PILOTS SAY THEY WON'T HIT CIVILIAN AREAS ATTACKS ON HAMAS KILLING BYSTANDERS**

Pittsburgh Post-Gazette (Pennsylvania)

September 25, 2003 Thursday

SOONER EDITION

Copyright 2003 P.G. Publishing Co.

**Section:** WORLD,

**Length:** 643 words

**Byline:** GREG MYRE, THE NEW YORK TIMES

**Dateline:** JERUSALEM

### **Body**

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In the midst of a campaign of airstrikes that aim at Hamas but sometimes kill Palestinian civilians, 27 reserve pilots in the Israeli air force presented a signed petition last night saying they would not take part in "illegal and immoral" strikes in Palestinian areas in the West Bank and the Gaza Strip.

"We refuse to participate in air force attacks on civilian populations," said the letter, which was sent to the head of the air force, Maj. Gen. Dan Halutz. "We refuse to continue harming innocent civilians."

The petition is similar to a letter signed by hundreds of reserve soldiers who have pledged not to serve in the West Bank or the Gaza Strip. Most of the pilots who signed the petition have not been on active duty in recent years, the air force said. It was not clear whether any had been involved in the strikes.

Israel calls the strikes "targeted killings." They have broad support among Israelis, with Prime Minister Ariel Sharon's government saying they are the most effective way to attack terrorists who hide among civilians.

The Israeli news media said one of the petition's signers was Yiftach Spector, a brigadier general in the reserves, who took part in the bombing of the Osirak nuclear reactor in Iraq in 1981.

In a sharp response to the pilots' letter, Halutz said members of the military should not take political positions. "We do not choose our wars or missions," he said on Israeli television.

"We will continue to hunt terrorists," he said, adding, "We have no intention of harming civilians."

One recent Israeli target, Sheik Ahmed Yassin, the spiritual leader of Hamas, emerged yesterday for the first time since he was lightly wounded on Sept. 6 in the bombing of a Gaza City apartment where he was meeting with Hamas members.

In a news conference at a Gaza City mosque, the defiant sheik said Hamas was not prepared to call off its bombing campaign, and he accused President Bush of declaring war on Islam.

"Resistance and holy war are the only choices for victory," he said. "We promised God and we promised the people that we won't surrender and we won't raise white flags."

## 27 ISRAELI PILOTS SAY THEY WON'T HIT CIVILIAN AREAS ATTACKS ON HAMAS KILLING BYSTANDERS

"Bush today is declaring war on Islam. He has to understand that those who have faith are not afraid of threats, and that Islam is stronger than Bush."

The direct criticism of Bush was somewhat unusual; Hamas usually focuses on the conflict with Israel and avoids otherwise irritating the United States, Israel's strongest ally.

The remarks came a day after Bush, speaking at the opening of the U.N. General Assembly, defended American military action to topple the Taliban in Afghanistan and Saddam Hussein in Iraq.

"He is going to lose in Afghanistan, Iraq and Palestine," Yassin said.

Until recently, the top Hamas leaders appeared frequently in public, speaking at large rallies and granting frequent interviews.

But since Israeli forces began striking at senior Hamas leaders, they have gone into hiding. Israel has struck at four of the group's top figures since June, killing one and wounding three.

Yassin said yesterday his group would keep attacking Israel, and would not allow itself to be disarmed by the Palestinian government or anyone else. The Hamas leader said his movement would not participate in the new Palestinian government being formed by the prime minister-designate, Ahmed Qurei.

Qurei, who was nominated two weeks ago following the resignation Mahmoud Abbas, is expected to present a Cabinet in the next few days.

After high school, most Israeli men perform three years of military service, while women serve for two years. After that, the men are liable for annual reserve duty of up to a month. Some of the soldiers who have refused duty have been jailed for the amount of time they were supposed to serve.

The military says the number refusing to serve remains quite small in a country where service is so widespread.

**Load-Date:** September 25, 2003

***Hamas wins hearts by saving lives where Arafat fails: How Islamic resistance movement has built up support with potent mixture of welfare and religion***

The Guardian (London)

June 24, 2003

Copyright 2003 Guardian Newspapers Limited

**Section:** Guardian Foreign Pages, Pg. 15

**Length:** 1039 words

**Byline:** Chris McGreal in Sabra, Gaza

## **Body**

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The letter from the Palestinian Authority's health ministry said Soad el-Dairy's husband was urgently in need of drugs to treat a heart condition but the ministry could not help.

Mrs Dairy passed the letter to the man behind the desk, and after a few questions it was agreed that she would receive 100 shekels (pounds 14).

There was no talk of politics, no mention of which side Mrs Dairy's family might be on. But, by indirectly providing what the Palestinian government could not, **Hamas** added to its burgeoning support in Gaza.

"I have nine dependants, including my husband, and one-year-old twins," Mrs Dairy said. "The Palestinian Authority can't help me, the UN can't help me. But I know this society will. When I gave birth to the twins they helped me with 500 shekels.

"Most of the people in my street are dependent. The unemployed, the **women** with sick husbands or dead husbands. Most of the young are unemployed. Without this help we could not survive."

**Hamas** - an acronym for the Islamic resistance movement that means "zeal" in Arabic - has been responsible for more suicide bombings during the latest intifada than any other organisation.

There were reports yesterday that **Hamas** was finally edging closer to a ceasefire after weeks of negotiation, a move that could be pivotal to the implementation of the US-backed "road map" to peace.

The Israelis, though, have linked the organisation to al-Qaida and have said they will settle for nothing less than its total destruction.

Last week in Jerusalem, the US secretary of state, Colin Powell, took a similar line. "Despite whatever charitable or other social good these organisations may perform, as long as they have as an organisational culture a commitment to terror and violence and a desire to destroy the state of Israel, it is a problem we have to deal with in its entirety," he said.

Hamas wins hearts by saving lives where Arafat fails: How Islamic resistance movement has built up support with potent mixture of welfare and religion

There is little doubt that at the core of support for Hamas - and its challenge to Yasser Arafat's Fatah movement - lies its power to inflict pain on Israel, much as many bitter Israelis back Ariel Sharon for his willingness to make Palestinians suffer.

But far from being an underground organisation hidden in the shadows, Hamas has sunk its roots deep into many aspects of Gaza society in a way that will make it hard to weed out.

The organisation has pursued a shrewd strategy to build on support for its war in Israel with religion and welfare - both in growing demand among an increasingly shattered population.

The bulk of the 1.2m Palestinians caged behind security fences and Israeli machine-gun posts around Gaza are living in increasingly dire conditions. Unemployment has surged to around 70%, while average incomes have fallen to a fraction of their levels before the intifada. Malnutrition is on the rise.

Through welfare organisations and mosques, Hamas provides what the Palestinian Authority frequently does not - medical care, education, food, clothes and schoolbooks. Its kindergartens are popular.

"They give to everybody," said Mokraam Sara, another woman waiting for help to buy medicine. "They don't distinguish. They don't care if you are Fatah or Hamas. They come to our houses and ask if we know of any of the neighbours who also need help. They never steal the money."

Hamas's reputation for honesty is in stark contrast to the rampant and widely scorned corruption of the Palestinian Authority. And while Palestinian cabinet ministers have provided themselves with large homes and tailored suits, the Hamas leadership is seen to retain a simple lifestyle.

The US and Britain have demanded that the rest of the world blocks funds to Hamas because they say the money finances killing. In reality, most of the Saudi and Syrian funds pay for the social and religious activities that have bought what Hamas hopes will be long-term political support.

Ironically, it is EU and US money that helps pay for what is widely seen by people in Gaza as one of Hamas's greatest services, the Il-Wafa hospital, to which it is closely tied.

The Islamic University is also dominated by Hamas, with several of the organisation's leaders teaching there.

In March, the Israeli army assassinated one of the co-founders of Hamas, Ibrahim Makadme, who worked in the university's clinical department. Thousands turned out for a memorial service in the university grounds and everyone but the chancellor and his officials stood to pledge loyalty to Hamas.

"People support Hamas for all sorts of reasons," said one Hamas activist, Namer Amr, who won a reputation in Gaza for fearlessly confronting Israeli tanks during the first intifada. "Some are Islamists, others see Hamas as the road to liberation from the Israelis. Some sympathise with the acts of jihad(the suicide bombings). Some see it as a political organisation, some see it as a military organisation. That's its strength."

Its support has strengthened further in recent weeks amid popular anger at the perceived sellout of the intifada by the new Palestinian prime minister, Mahmoud Abbas, after he declared an end to the conflict without securing a halt to the occupation.

Israel may now seek Hamas's destruction, but during the 1970s the Jewish state gave the fledgling resistance movement money and breathing space as it emerged from the Muslim Brotherhood. Israel thought it would provide a useful counter to Mr Arafat's secular Palestine Liberation Organisation, and even registered its political and social organisations.

But by the time Sheikh Ahmed Yassin seized control of Hamas at the beginning of the first intifada in 1987, the Israelis had come to regret their support and grown to fear the rise of Islamism.

Hamas wins hearts by saving lives where Arafat fails: How Islamic resistance movement has built up support with potent mixture of welfare and religion

Ultimately, **Hamas** knows it cannot maintain support solely through violence and that it will have to come to a political deal, despite the public line that it is committed to driving the Jews from the Jordan valley to the Mediterranean.

Last week, a military leader who gives his name as Abu Sabbah said **Hamas** could settle for an agreement with Israel based on the 1967 borders and would leave the "next generation" to decide on a permanent agreement.

Many Palestinians who are sick of the killing could live with that. The question is whether Israel can live with **Hamas**.

[guardian.co.uk/palestinians](http://guardian.co.uk/palestinians)

**Load-Date:** June 24, 2003

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End of Document

## *Female bomber a first for Hamas*

Sydney Morning Herald (Australia)

January 15, 2004 Thursday

Late Edition

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**Section:** NEWS AND FEATURES; International News; Pg. 10

**Length:** 563 words

**Byline:** Ed O'Loughlin, Herald Correspondent, in Erez Crossing, Gaza and agencies

### **Body**

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The use of a **female** suicide bomber by the Palestinian militant group **Hamas** in the Gaza Strip yesterday marks a new departure for a deeply conservative Islamic organisation that has traditionally regarded conflict as men's business.

Reem Raiyshi, a 21-year-old mother of two from Gaza City, killed four Israeli guards and wounded seven other people, reportedly including Palestinian civilians, when she detonated herself at a checkpoint in the Erez industrial area.

Built between Israel and the Gaza Strip, the high-security industrial estate employs cheap Palestinian labour for Israeli businesses.

"For the first time [**Hamas**] used a **female** fighter and not a male fighter and that was a new development in resistance against the enemy," **Hamas**'s founder, Sheik Ahmed Yassin, later told the Reuters news agency in Gaza.

Other Palestinian groups have used **female** suicide bombers on a small number of occasions.

The Al-Aqsa Martyrs' Brigade claimed joint responsibility for yesterday's attack, the first Palestinian suicide bombing to claim Israeli lives this year.

After the attack Israeli troops rounded up hundreds of Palestinian civilians who were already at work and ordered them to assemble in a rainswept car park, from where they would eventually be sent back to Gaza.

An Israeli military commander told journalists at the scene that the attack showed the militant groups did not care about their own people.

"An incident like this will not help us to help the Palestinians," he said. "The Palestinians lose because they can't work here."

The Israeli Prime Minister, Ariel Sharon, meanwhile, faces intensifying corruption allegations following the publication of a clandestine tape recording and reports that prosecutors will next week indict a former associate on charges of bribing him.



## Female bomber a first for Hamas

With new revelations expected shortly in the so-called "Cyril Kern" and "Greek island" scandals the Israeli media are speculating that further damage to Mr Sharon's credibility could force him to resign, or spark a leadership battle within his Likud party.

The linked scandals involve payments of millions of dollars by overseas donors to companies and charities under the control of Mr Sharon or his sons Gilad and Omri, and allegedly used in part to fund his campaign to win control of the right-wing Likud party in 1999.

In the "Greek Island" affair, a Likud member and Sharon associate, David Appel, paid nearly \$US500,000 to Gilad Sharon, ostensibly in return for consultancy work on the tourist potential of a casino Mr Appel was hoping to build on a Greek island.

Prosecutors allege Mr Appel was trying to enlist Mr Sharon's support in gaining permission for the project from the Greek authorities.

Israeli media reports say Mr Appel is likely to be charged with bribery as early as next week, and even if Gilad and his father escape related charges, revelations from the case could severely embarrass them.

On Monday, another former Sharon adviser and associate, David Spector, a private investigator, showed a September 2000 tape on Israeli television in which Mr Sharon presses him for detailed information on overseas payments to a political front organisation. Tom Hurndall, 22, a British activist who had been in a coma in a London hospital since being shot in the head by Israeli troops on April 11, while acting as a so-called human shield, died on Tuesday night, his family said yesterday.

## Graphic

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ILLUS: A wounded woman is carried into the Barzilai hospital, south of the Israeli town of Ashqelon. Photo: AP

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

**4 ISRAELIS DIE AS HAMAS USES WOMAN AS BOMB;**  
**Mother of two tricks guards at crossing**

Dayton Daily News (Ohio)

January 15, 2004 Thursday CITY EDITION

Copyright 2004 Dayton Newspapers, Inc.

**Section:** NEWS; Pg. A8

**Length:** 231 words

**Byline:** Margaret Coker Cox News Service

## **Body**

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EREZ CROSSING, Israel - After expressing a final wish to turn her body into "deadly shrapnel," a Palestinian mother blew herself up Wednesday at the heavily fortified border between Israel and the Gaza Strip, killing four Israelis and wounding seven Israelis and Palestinians.

The suicide bomber, identified as 22-year-old Reem al-Raiyshi, was the first **female** bomber to have been married with children.

She left behind a 3-year-old son and 18-month-old daughter. The militant group **Hamas** said it was a new tactic in its war against Israel.

**Hamas** and al-Aqsa Martyrs' Brigades, the two largest Palestinian militant groups, claimed responsibility for the attack.

**Hamas** had never used **women** in its numerous attacks against Israeli targets, although smaller militant groups have.

Witnesses said al-Raiyshi faked a limp as she entered Erez, where thousands of poor Palestinian workers maneuver through security in hopes of getting into Israel for work each day.

When she set off a metal detector she told a guard it was because of a metal surgical implant in her leg, according to Israeli Brig. Gen. Gad Shamni. The male guard, who is prohibited by custom from searching a Muslim woman, summoned a **female** soldier.

"While she was waiting for the arrival of the woman soldier, (the bomber) apparently succeeded in penetrating a meter or two into the inspection hall, and blew herself up," said Shamni.

## **Graphic**

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PHOTO, LEFTERIS PITARAKIS/ASSOCIATED PRESS/ ,AN ISRAELI ARMY officer lifts his rifle while he orders Palestinian workers to move back as they wait at the Erez Crossing, the major crossing point between Israel and

4 ISRAELIS DIE AS HAMAS USES WOMAN AS BOMB; Mother of two tricks guards at crossing

the Gaza Strip, on Wednesday./ **HAMAS**/ASSOCIATED PRESS/ ,REEM AL-RAIYSHI , a mother of two from Gaza, in an image taken from video. Raiyshi was named as the woman who blew herself up Wednesday at Erez Crossing, killing four Israelis.

**Load-Date:** January 16, 2004

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End of Document

**Israeli fire met with U.S. criticism;  
A Hamas official was wounded. The White House  
said the strike would not help peace efforts.**

The Philadelphia Inquirer

JUNE 11, 2003 Wednesday CITY-D EDITION

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**The Philadelphia Inquirer**

Found on Philly.com

**Section:** NATIONAL; Pg. A01

**Length:** 1064 words

**Byline:** Michael Matza INQUIRER STAFF WRITER

**Dateline:** GAZA CITY, Gaza Strip

## **Body**

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Israeli helicopter gunships fired six Hellfire missiles at the car of **Hamas** spokesman Abdel Aziz Rantisi yesterday in Gaza City, wounding him, and knocking the wind out of the latest effort to bring peace to the region.

The attack killed Rantisi's driver and a **female** passerby, and left an 8-year-old Palestinian girl brain-dead.

"Tell [Israeli Prime Minister Ariel] Sharon that for every drop of blood lost here, [the Israelis] will lose a soul," said the girl's father, Nimer al-Jarasha, looking devastated on the dusty sidewalk where daughter Amal had been playing. "This is not the road to peace."

The midmorning attack near a crowded refugee camp drew a sharp rebuke from President Bush, who was described by his spokesman as "deeply troubled" by the attack and its impact on peace efforts. At a high-profile summit in Aqaba, Jordan, last week, Bush pledged to help resolve the Israeli-Palestinian conflict through a series of reciprocal steps designed to lead Israel and the Palestinian Authority back to negotiations after 32 months of deadly violence.

Since September 2000, more than 780 people have been killed on the Israeli side and more than 2,370 on the Palestinian side. Many attacks on Israelis have been suicide bombings carried out by **Hamas**, an Islamic resistance group the United States considers a terrorist organization.

Yesterday, **Hamas** threatened new suicide bombings and attacks on Israeli political leaders.

Rantisi is the highest-ranking **Hamas** political figure to be targeted in an Israeli assassination attempt.

Witnesses said Rantisi, 55, and his son Ahmed, about 20, jumped from the Nissan sport-utility vehicle in which they were riding and ran after the first missile struck the ground.

Israeli fire met with U.S. criticism; A Hamas official was wounded. The White House said the strike would not help peace efforts.

The car glanced off the wall of a school, hit a taxi, and was destroyed by a barrage of five more missiles fired from two Apache helicopters, said Mohammed Abu Arab, 33, a car salesman, who was injured by flying glass from the force of the blast. His head, arm and foot were wrapped in Betadine-soaked gauze.

The Palestinian Authority condemned the attack, which Information Minister Nabil Amru called an intentional derailing of the Aqaba process.

In the short time since Aqaba, Hamas also has undermined the process with attacks, including one Sunday that killed four Israeli soldiers at an army outpost at the Erez crossing between Israel and the Gaza Strip.

Rantisi, a pediatrician, is Hamas' political spokesman, but yesterday, Israel accused him of also planning and inciting attacks, including the one at Erez, which was conducted jointly by Hamas, Islamic Jihad and the Al-Aqsa Martyrs Brigade.

In Washington, White House spokesman Ari Fleischer said: "The President is concerned that the strike will undermine efforts by Palestinian authorities and others to bring an end to terrorist attacks and does not contribute to the security of Israel."

Palestinian Prime Minister Mahmoud Abbas and his minister of culture, Ziad Abu Amr, a resident of Gaza, have been trying to negotiate a cease-fire agreement with Hamas and other Palestinian groups responsible for attacks on Israelis. Abbas has preferred persuasion to the use of force but has been unable to persuade Palestinian militants to lay down their arms.

Yesterday's attack continued Israel's policy of targeted killings of militants and generally was perceived as Israel's answer to the lack of a Palestinian crackdown.

"Abdel Aziz Rantisi . . . has preached and directed murder, sabotage, terror and incitement for many years," the Israeli government said in a prepared statement. "The Palestinian Authority has been well aware of Rantisi's activities . . . but is taking no action to stop them. Thus, the State of Israel has been compelled to protect its citizens."

Rantisi was reportedly wounded in the leg. From his bed at an undisclosed location in Gaza he told the Arab TV satellite station Al-Jazeera: "We will continue with our holy war and resistance until every last criminal Zionist is evicted from this land."

Mahmoud al-Zahar, a Hamas leader also interviewed by Al-Jazeera, added: "Israel should expect that this crime . . . will not pass without severe punishment."

"They said they are going to retaliate. I can't even talk to them about a truce," said Abu Amr, the culture minister who has been trying to demilitarize the Palestinian uprising while avoiding a civil war.

"I'm not only depressed but also frustrated and embarrassed," he said, sitting in a Gaza restaurant not far from where Rantisi's car was hit.

Sunday, at a meeting with 12 Palestinian factions including Hamas and Islamic Jihad, Abu Amr said, he worked out an agreement for the militant groups to resume dialogue with the Palestinian Authority. Angered by what they perceived as Abbas' overly conciliatory remarks at the Aqaba summit, Hamas had cut off dialogue with Abbas over the weekend.

"We need to start with a modest truce. If the yield is productive and convincing, then gradually the need for weapons will become less," said Abu Amr, who said the road map was deeply damaged but "salvageable," provided Bush intervened.

"Otherwise, I can't see a future for the peace process," Abu Amr said. "We believe the United States has a lot of clout that exceeds sheer words."

Israeli fire met with U.S. criticism; A Hamas official was wounded. The White House said the strike would not help peace efforts.

About seven hours after the attack on Rantisi, an Israeli helicopter gunship struck a car in the northern Gaza Strip carrying two cousins who witnesses said had just fired Kassam rockets at Israeli territory. The men were killed along with a woman who was near the car when it was hit by a missile.

Information released by the Israeli government yesterday and attributed to security sources said: "Hamas operatives point to Rantisi as directing Hamas terrorist policy. His public statements serve as instructions for terrorists to carry out attacks."

Israeli security sources said that after Sheikh Ahmed Yassin, the Hamas spiritual leader, returned from exile to the Gaza Strip in October 1997, Rantisi helped reorganize Hamas leadership to restore its activity.

"Hamas tries to present a separation between the political leadership and the military wing, as if the military activity serves no political aim," the Israeli government said in a statement.

"In practice . . . the political leadership . . . directs, instructs and determines policy, including terrorist activity," the statement said.

Contact staff writer Michael Matza at 215-854-2405 or [foreign@phillynews.com](mailto:foreign@phillynews.com).

## Graphic

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PHOTO;

MICHAEL MATZA, Inquirer Staff

In a second Israeli attack on a car, two men accused of firing missiles at Israel were killed in northern Gaza about seven hours after the attack on the Hamas official. A woman nearby also was killed.

Abdel Aziz Rantisi said from his hospital bed: "We will continue with our holy war.. . ."

**Load-Date:** August 1, 2005

## ***Hamas gleeful as bombings kill at least 13: PM designate condemns blasts***

Ottawa Citizen

September 10, 2003 Wednesday Final Edition

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**Section:** News; Pg. A12; News

**Length:** 683 words

**Byline:** Laura King and Henry Chu

**Dateline:** JERUSALEM

### **Body**

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JERUSALEM -- Two Palestinian suicide bombers struck hours apart yesterday, setting off powerful explosions at a crowded bus stop outside a suburban Tel Aviv army base and a trendy late-night cafe in Jerusalem. At least 13 people were killed in the blasts, along with the bombers, and dozens of others were hurt.

The back-to-back bombings underscore the difficulty the new Palestinian prime minister-designate, Ahmed Qureia, is likely to face in winning the confidence of the Israeli government and the Bush administration to revive a faltering U.S.-backed peace plan.

After receiving news of the attacks, Israeli Prime Minister Ariel Sharon cut short what had been the first visit by an Israeli leader to India to fly home for urgent consultations. Israel has repeatedly accused the Palestinian Authority of failing to crack down on militants, and some officials said yesterday's bombings would lead to a renewed debate on expelling Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat from the West Bank.

The Los Angeles Times

The bombings came three days after Israel dropped a laser-guided bomb on a building in Gaza City where the leadership of the militant group **Hamas** was meeting. No one was killed in that attack, but **Hamas** vowed vengeance "on a scale never before seen." **Hamas** praised yesterday's bombings, but stopped short of claiming responsibility.

**Hamas** supporters rejoiced as word of the two bombings spread. In a rundown neighbourhood of Gaza City that is home to many **Hamas** leaders, celebrants fired semiautomatic weapons into the air and shouted "God is great!"

In the course of the nearly three-year Palestinian uprising, there have been more than 100 suicide bombings against Israeli targets, but it is rare for two to take place on the same day.

The first bomber struck outside the Tzrifim military base in the Tel Aviv suburb of Rishon Letzion just before 6 p.m., as a shift change was taking place and as the gates of the base were filled with arriving or departing soldiers.

In the blast's wake, bloodied army boots, torn knapsacks and mangled body parts littered the area around an open-air roadside shelter used by young soldiers catching buses or hitching rides. Seven soldiers, three of them **women**, were killed. About two dozen others were injured.

## Hamas gleeful as bombings kill at least 13: PM designate condemns blasts

"I saw what looked like an injured man lying on the ground," said Meirav Aish, an 18-year-old soldier who ran to help when she heard the blast. "Then I got closer and saw he was dead, torn all to bits. I saw a woman soldier who was completely burned -- her hair, her eyelashes, her clothes, everything."

Barely 51/2 hours later, the second bomber struck, targeting a popular cafe on a Jerusalem street packed with restaurants and boutiques. The bomber managed to force his way among the tables, even with two security guards posted in the cafe, one indoors and one outside.

The evening bombings capped what had already been a bloody day. In the West Bank, Israeli troops for hours besieged a seven-storey building in Hebron that the army described as a hide out for militants, although it was home to many Palestinian families as well. Three Palestinians were killed, including a local **Hamas** commander, an aide of his and a child onlooker.

A fourth Palestinian died in the Gaza Strip, apparently as he tried to plant an explosive device.

Mr. Qureia condemned bloodshed on all sides in his first policy statement since his nomination Sunday by Mr. Arafat.

"We condemn all acts of killing that target innocents, whether they be Palestinians ... or the Israelis who were victims of today's explosion," he said, speaking after the first attack, but before the second. "Such incidents confirm the necessity for both the Israeli and Palestinian leaderships to ... study the most effective ways to put an end to the killing."

The renewed violence came as Mr. Qureia, whose acceptance of the prime minister's job appeared all but certain, continued to weigh his terms for formally agreeing to take the job. Mr. Qureia has insisted that the U.S. and Israel end their isolation of Mr. Arafat, whom they have tried to marginalize for more than a year.

## Graphic

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Photo: Gil Cohen Magen, Reuters; A bomber struck a popular night-time cafe in Jerusalem just hours after a blast outside an army base that killed seven soldiers.

**Load-Date:** September 10, 2003



## *Justice served in assassination of Hamas leader*

University Wire

April 1, 2004 Thursday

Copyright 2004 The Lariat via U-Wire

**Section:** COLUMN

**Length:** 609 words

**Byline:** By Jonathan Ludwig, The Lariat; **SOURCE:** Baylor U.

**Dateline:** WACO, Texas

### **Body**

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I believe it was Voltaire who once correctly wrote that "prejudices are what fools use for reason." Americans love ideals that emphasize liberty in the face of bigotry -- be it religious, ethnic or sexual bigotry, and our parents taught us that intolerance and prejudices against others are wrong. But these ideals are rarely emphasized when we think of other peoples who need, at the very least, liberty of thought -- in this case those who are part of the Israeli-Palestinian conflict.

Last week, the Israeli Defense Force (IDF) killed Sheikh Ahmed Yassin, the leader of Islamic terrorist organization **Hamas** and of Palestinians in their fight against Israelis. Before condemning the assassination or commending it, a history of this figure is in order.

Yassin was born in Ashqelon and became a refugee to Gaza as result of the 1948 war between Arabs and Jews over Palestine. Influenced by the teachings of the Muslim Brotherhood in his earlier years, Yassin joined the organization in 1955 and after receiving teacher's training in Cairo, returned to Gaza in 1957 to serve Palestinians as a teacher, preacher and community volunteer. After returning to Egypt to further his education, he was expelled because of subversive activities and placed back in Gaza where he taught and helped in the revival of the Muslim Brotherhood.

Initially an ally to Israel, the Muslim Brotherhood offered a counterbalance to Palestinian nationalists in the Palestinian Liberation Organization (PLO) and controlled much of the charitable health and religious services in Gaza by 1984. However, extremism soon took hold.

In 1983 Yassin was arrested after Israeli forces discovered a weapons cache, but was released in 1985 in a prisoner-exchange agreement. After being returned, Yassin co-founded the **Hamas** organization in 1987 which was received with wide support in response to Yasser Arafat's failed attempts at meeting the basic needs of Palestinians. Later on, Yassin was jailed again for instigating the murders of Israeli soldiers and eventually returned to the Palestinians in another exchange-deal.

Since then, Yassin has been a leading opponent of peace with Israel, authorizing **Hamas** terrorist bombings and declaring, "The so-called peace path is not peace and it is not a substitute for jihad and resistance." Even the Palestinian Authority has jailed him repeatedly for his involvement in terrorist activities.

## Justice served in assassination of Hamas leader

The world's response to this targeted killing was outrage. According to The Associated Press, "U.N. Secretary-General Kofi Annan and many world leaders condemned Monday's killing of Yassin, the most prominent Palestinian targeted by Israel in three and a half years of fighting." Even the Bush administration was "deeply troubled."

Unfortunately, these condemnations do not emanate from the belief Americans hold that equality, justice and freedom of expression are to be the highest of values. Yassin repeatedly has been connected with the murders of hundreds of innocent men, women and children, called for an end to Israel altogether, and exercised religious bigotry to such an extent that the world seems blinded by it.

Justice, whether one believes in the death penalty or life in prison, has been served.

The west prides itself on tolerance; it's a grave catastrophe we don't hold the same standards of conduct when we look upon instigators of immeasurable hatred and violence.

Perhaps Israel should rein in its military strikes and remove its settlements in Palestinian-controlled lands, and perhaps the world should refuse to turn a blind eye to many Palestinians' foolish prejudices that seek the death of the innocent.

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**Load-Date:** April 1, 2004

**Arafat shrugs off assassination threat: Hamas takes credit for overnight killing at West Bank settlement**

The Gazette (Montreal, Quebec)

April 4, 2004 Sunday Final Edition

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**Section:** News; Pg. A13

**Length:** 288 words

**Dateline:** JERUSALEM

## **Body**

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Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat, who has been confined to his West Bank compound for nearly two years, said yesterday that he is not troubled by warnings from Israel that it could assassinate him.

Prime Minister Ariel Sharon said in interviews published Friday Arafat had "no insurance policy" against Israeli action.

New York Times

In his first response, Arafat said: "I don't care for it. I am caring for my people, for our children, for our women, for our students."

He spoke to journalists outside his badly damaged compound in Ramallah in the West Bank.

Yesterday, the Palestinian group Hamas claimed responsibility for an overnight shooting in which a gunman killed an Israeli man and wounded his 12-year-old daughter at a West Bank settlement. The gunman was then killed by Israeli soldiers.

Hamas said the attack was in retaliation for an Israeli helicopter strike on March 22 that killed the group's founder and leader, Sheik Ahmed Yassin, Reuters reported.

It was the first killing of an Israeli Jew since a suicide bombing on March 14 by Hamas that claimed 10 Israeli lives.

Palestinian factions have threatened to step up attacks in response to that killing, and Israel's security forces have been on high alert during the weeklong holiday of Passover, which began Monday night.

Sharon has promised President Bush that he will not harm Arafat, and Israeli officials say that still stands. However, in a contradictory move, Sharon's cabinet agreed in principle last year that Arafat should be removed. Cabinet ministers have said the options could range from arresting him to sending him into exile or killing him.

The Israeli policy of "targeted killings" has been widely criticized, even by the United States.

## **Graphic**

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Arafat shrugs off assassination threat: Hamas takes credit for overnight killing at West Bank settlement

Photo: MOHAMMED BALLAS, AP; Youths peer from behind a poster of Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat at a rally yesterday commemorating a battle with Israeli troops two years ago in the West Bank town of Jenin.

**Load-Date:** April 4, 2004

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End of Document

## **EU TO FREEZE HAMAS ASSETS**

Pittsburgh Post-Gazette (Pennsylvania)

September 7, 2003 Sunday

TWO STAR EDITION

Copyright 2003 P.G. Publishing Co.

**Section:** WORLD,; WORLD BRIEFS

**Length:** 581 words

### **Body**

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RIVA DEL GARDA, Italy -- The European Union will declare all wings of the militant Palestinian group **Hamas** a terrorist organization and freeze its assets after dozens of deadly attacks in Israel, the bloc's foreign ministers said yesterday.

The EU previously had blacklisted only the group's military arm, Izzedine al Qassam. But -- taking a cue from Washington -- it agreed yesterday to block funding to **Hamas** political offshoots, fund-raising charities and social welfare groups, after a suicide bus bombing last month that killed 22 people.

Taiwan independence urged

TAIPEI, Taiwan -- A crowd estimated at 150,000 marched to a boulevard in front of the Presidential Office in Taipei yesterday, demanding that the island change its name from the Republic of China to Taiwan in a step toward independence.

Retired President Lee Teng-hui gave a rousing speech favoring the change. Lee said the Republic of China -- which once included the mainland and Taiwan -- stopped existing five decades ago when the Communists took over China.

Beijing still claims Taiwan as part of its territory and threatens to use force if the island declares formal independence.

Colombia kills 25 rebels

BOGOTA, Colombia -- Soldiers killed at least 25 suspected rebels and paramilitary fighters yesterday in three military operations in central Colombia.

Police also captured 50 suspected rebels, some of whom are allegedly responsible for the killing of 10 hostages including a state governor during a botched rescue attempt in May.

Government troops fired on guerrillas in their camp in the mountains of Casanare state. Sixteen rebels, including eight **women**, were killed.

The army also killed three suspected rebels from the National Liberation Army and six paramilitary fighters in rural areas 90 miles north of Bogota.

## EU TO FREEZE HAMAS ASSETS

## 9 die in Kashmir attacks

SRINAGAR, India -- Violence surged sharply in Indian-controlled Kashmir yesterday with a series of separatist attacks across the Himalayan region. At least nine people were killed and more than 40 wounded.

In the deadliest attack, a bomb exploded in a busy wholesale market on the outskirts of Srinagar, killing six people and wounding 34. A Pakistan-based militant group, Hezb-ul Mujahedeen, claimed responsibility in a telephone call.

## France WWII compensation

PARIS -- France will compensate thousands of people whose parents were victims of "Nazi barbarity" in World War II, including those killed in massacres or for resisting the German occupation, the government said yesterday.

Between 5,000 and 8,000 people will likely be eligible, and will have the choice of either a \$30,400 lump sum or monthly payments.

The compensation matches that awarded three years ago to 12,600 Jewish orphans whose parents were deported to Nazi extermination camps during the 1940-1944 occupation when France's Vichy regime collaborated with the Nazis.

## Also in the world

Britain is sending 120 more soldiers to Iraq, the Ministry of Defense said yesterday. The 120 soldiers are part of the 2nd Light Infantry stationed in Cyprus. Some left Friday and the rest yesterday . . . Tom Ridge, secretary for homeland security, urged European leaders yesterday to cooperate with U.S. demands to share information on airline passengers such as names, place of birth and date of birth, saying European resistance was hampering anti-terrorism efforts. He said the European Union's demand to protect passengers' privacy must be balanced by the right of those passengers to travel safely.

**Load-Date:** September 8, 2003

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## **HAMAS EXACTS REVENGE AS SUICIDE BOMBS KILL 14 IN JERUSALEM AND TEL AVIV**

The Independent (London)

September 10, 2003, Wednesday

Copyright 2003 Independent Print Ltd

**Section:** FOREIGN NEWS; Pg. 11

**Length:** 710 words

**Byline:** DONALD MACINTYRE IN JERUSALEM Israeli security officers cover a body after the suicide attack at a bus stop near Tel Aviv AFP; A victim of the bombing at the Cafe Hillel in Jerusalem, top, is taken to an ambulance EPA

### **Body**

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UP TO 14 people were killed in two separate suicide bombs in Israel last night when **Hamas** fulfilled its threat to exact revenge for the assassination of militants.

In the first attack a Palestinian suicide bomber killed at least six Israelis - mainly soldiers - at 6pm local time as they waited at a bus stop on a main highway near Tel Aviv.

In the second, nearly five hours later, another Palestinian bomber struck at the Cafe Hillel, a new and popular venue in the heart of Jerusalem's German Colony.

**Hamas** claimed responsibility for both bombings.

Israeli sources said the death toll in Jerusalem stood at six and could not confirm reports that those who died near Tel Aviv had risen to eight.

The Jerusalem bomber was stopped by a security guard as he approached the cafe and detonated the explosion blowing in the windows on the main street, killing six or seven bystanders and injuring dozens of others - 40, by some estimates.

"I arrived just a few moments after the blast. I saw things that just can't be described, there are no words," said a witness. The security guard was almost certainly among the dead. One young woman was killed by a bolt from the nail-bomb as she walked along the pavement some 25 yards away from the cafe. Bolts and pellets smashed through metal and glass in cars across the street from the cafe.

The German Colony is a mildly bohemian district of the city with bars and cafes. The Cafe Hillel attracted clients who have become increasingly reluctant to visit the city centre since the beginning of the intifada three years ago.

As ambulances took the injured to hospitals, police and emergency workers cleared the area in front of the cafe.

The earlier suicide bomb near Tel Aviv, which left at least 14 wounded, was detonated at the bus stop used by soldiers going on leave from Tzrifin, one of the biggest military bases in the country, and by patients and families using the nearby Asaf Harofeh Hospital.

## HAMAS EXACTS REVENGE AS SUICIDE BOMBS KILL 14 IN JERUSALEM AND TEL AVIV

It blew human remains 20 feet upwards to the underside of the roof of the bus shelter beside the Route 44 highway, which runs besides the base. It was still spattered with blood last night as police continued packing up limbs. Ninety minutes later a leg still lay on the ground and a dismembered limb could be seen dangling from the bus shelter roof.

Niram Poskowitz, a 26-year-old soldier, said he had just finished training as a reservist and was being picked up by his girlfriend. He waved at two other women soldiers he knew to join them in the car, but only one made it as the bomb detonated. "There was smoke everywhere and it was a blur. But I think I may have seen the terrorist coming apart," he said.

Because of the proximity of the military base, soldiers immediately flooded the area to secure it for fear of a second explosion and troops ran to guard the footbridge over the highway between the bus shelter and the hospital grounds.

One of those already guarding the bridge, Eyal Schneider, 19, said he almost fainted from shock when he looked down at the scene moments after the blast. At the hospital last night he said: "I saw a leg lying on the ground, I saw a girl bleeding, I saw one woman soldier being resuscitated and I heard people screaming, help us'."

Two of the victims were killed instantly and two were dead on arrival at the hospital, only 500 metres from the carnage. Two more died shortly afterwards in intensive care.

Doctor Ido Katz, deputy director of the hospital, said that of the seriously injured victims one had bad head injuries, one facial injuries, one wounds to the chest and abdomen and one a tear in a major blood vessel.

The blasts are the first since the suicide bombing by Hamas on 19 August in Jerusalem, and the assassination by Israel of the Hamas leader Abu Shanab two days later.

Just after the killing of Abu Shanab, Hamas vowed vengeance and stepped up its threat after a bungled assassination attempt on the group's founder, Sheikh Ahmed Yassin, in Gaza on Saturday.

Israel immediately heightened security throughout the country after that attack left Sheikh Yassin only slightly injured.

Earlier yesterday, the Israeli army killed another Hamas leader in Hebron, Ahmed Badar, thought to have been responsible for the suicide bomb in Jerusalem last month.

**Load-Date:** September 10, 2003



## *Day of carnage leaves Middle East in chaos: Israel and Hamas count the dead*

The Guardian (London)

June 12, 2003

Copyright 2003 Guardian Newspapers Limited

**Section:** Guardian Home Pages, Pg. 1

**Length:** 726 words

**Byline:** Chris McGreal in Jerusalem

### **Body**

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A teenage suicide bomber dressed as an Orthodox Jew killed 16 people on a rush-hour bus in the heart of Jerusalem yesterday, fulfilling a vow by the militant Islamic movement Hamas to avenge a botched Israeli attempt to assassinate its political leader a day earlier.

More than 100 people were injured as the explosion destroyed the bus, scattered body parts for hundreds of feet and blew the windows out of buildings over a wide area.

Less than an hour later, Israeli helicopters launched another missile attack in Gaza on a car carrying Hamas activists. Two Hamas members were killed, including a bodyguard to its spiritual leader, Sheikh Ahmed Yassin, and five passersby, including two women.

The attacks continued just after midnight, when Israeli helicopters fired missiles at a car in the Zeitoun neighborhood of Gaza City, witnesses said. Two members of Hamas' military wing were killed.

President George Bush and the Palestinian leader, Yasser Arafat, joined a chorus of condemnation of the suicide bombing. But the primary concern of the White House was to ensure that neither the assassination attempt against Abdel-Aziz al-Rantissi on Tuesday, nor the latest terrorist attack, derails the US-led "road map" to peace launched by Mr Bush at a Middle East summit last week.

However, Israel's prime minister, Ariel Sharon, remained defiant in the face of escalating violence that has left 24 Palestinians and 21 Israelis dead in the week since the Aqaba summit. "Israel will continue to pursue the terrorists and those that send them," he said.

The suicide bomber boarded the rush-hour bus on one of Jerusalem's busiest streets and detonated his explosives at the next stop.

The bomber was identified as an 18-year-old high school student, Abdel Madi Shabneh.

"The force threw me on to the ground," said Yonathon Menachem, who was standing across the street from the blast. "Then I felt these wet patches on my shirt. It was terrible. I was pulling someone's flesh off my clothes."

## Day of carnage leaves Middle East in chaos: Israel and Hamas count the dead

The former Soviet dissident Natan Sharansky, now Israel's minister for Jerusalem affairs, was visibly upset as he looked at the bus. "My daughter rides that bus, so immediately you start checking where your family is, and getting irritated because one doesn't know."

**Hamas** claimed responsibility for the bombing. It was "a message to all the Zionist criminals that the Palestinian fighters are capable of reaching them everywhere".

Israeli officials attempted to deny any link between the assassination attempt on Dr Rantissi and the suicide bombing by saying that it takes days for **Hamas** to organise such attacks.

Mr Bush was visibly angry as he condemned the bus bombing and urged all states to "isolate those who hate so much they are willing to kill".

Mr Arafat also swiftly criticised the bombing. "I strongly condemn this terrorist attack that targeted Israeli civilians today in Jerusalem," he said in a televised address. "I also condemn the (Israeli) operations that took place in Gaza, and other operations in which Palestinian civilians were killed and wounded."

Whether the bus bombing knocks the US-led road map off course or strengthens the determination of the Israeli and Palestinian leaderships to make it work is largely in Mr Sharon's hands.

The Israeli delegation to last week's summit with Mr Bush in Jordan said it would not allow the process to be held hostage by suicide bombers, and that it was prepared to "suffer some blows" while the new Palestinian prime minister, Mahmoud Abbas, also known as Abu Mazen, asserts his authority and control.

Mr Abbas called for both parties "to immediately move into a serious implementation of the road map".

The bombing followed 24 hours in which the Israeli government scrambled to justify the attempted assassination of Dr Rantissi in the face of stiff criticism from the US.

When pressed about the timing of the attack, Israeli officials tried to persuade the Americans that Dr Rantissi posed an immediate threat, by saying he is "a bomb factory."

Mr Sharon told a local newspaper that he had nothing to apologise for. "I told Bush and Abu Mazen that I am willing to walk a long path of compromise-making for the sake of a settlement, but on one issue there will be no compromises - harm to Israelis," he said.

Middle East crisis, pages 4 and 5

Oona King, page 21

The Editor, page 24

[guardian.co.uk/israel](http://guardian.co.uk/israel)

**Load-Date:** June 13, 2003

**Peace road map in tatters as Hamas says it's time 'for Israel to pay for its crimes' Cafe bombed**

Townsville Bulletin/Townsville Sun (Australia)

September 11, 2003 Thursday

Copyright 2003 Nationwide News Pty Limited

**Section:** WORLD; Pg. 15

**Length:** 207 words

## **Body**

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JERUSALEM -- The international road map for peace in the Middle East appeared in tatters yesterday after two Palestinian suicide bombers killed at least 14 Israelis in back-to-back attacks in Jerusalem and near Tel Aviv.

A late-night attack in a popular cafe in west Jerusalem, which left seven people dead and wounded some others yesterday, came just hours after a similar blast near a military base killed eight soldiers in addition to the bomber, casting an ever-deepening gloom over the peace process.

AAP

Those injured included three Australian women.

Israeli authorities had been on high alert after threats of revenge operations by the hardline Islamic Hamas movement following Israeli attacks targeting its leaders.

Two Palestinians killed on Tuesday in an Israeli army operation in the West Bank were identified as the head of Hamas' armed wing, and one of his aides, Palestinian security sources said.

Police in Jerusalem said a security guard had tried to prevent the second bomber from entering a cafe. He then blew himself up outside the building. The Tzrifin explosion went off at the bus stop.

The armed wing of the hardline Islamic Hamas hailed the suicide bombings, saying that the "moment has come for Israel to pay for its crimes".

**Load-Date:** September 11, 2003

**Israel blames Syria for 2 suicide bombing attacks; Israeli leader warns of 'additional steps' for harboring leadership of the Hamas militant group**

Telegraph Herald (Dubuque, IA)

September 2, 2004 Thursday

Copyright 2004 Woodward Communications, Inc.

**Section:** National/World; Pg. b6

**Length:** 222 words

**Byline:** ASSOCIATED PRESS

**Dateline:** JERUSALEM

## **Body**

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Israeli leaders warned Syria on Wednesday that it bears the blame for a double suicide bombing by **Hamas** militants because it harbors the group's leadership, and they hinted at possible retaliation.

In a first response to Tuesday's attack that killed 16 people in a southern Israeli city, Israeli troops blew up the home of one of the bombers and isolated the West Bank city of Hebron, where the attackers lived.

But Israel was looking farther afield to assign blame.

"The fact that **Hamas** is operating from Syria will not grant it immunity," said Raanan Gissin, an adviser to Israeli Prime Minister Ariel Sharon.

The overall leader of **Hamas**, Khaled Mashaal, and his deputies are based in Syria.

The Israeli army chief, Lt. Gen. Moshe Yaalon, said Wednesday that those who support terrorism "cannot sleep quietly at night," mentioning Palestinian leaders, Lebanese Hezbollah guerrillas, Syria and Iran.

Sharon added his own implied threat: "Israel's struggle against terrorism will continue unabated. We will apparently need to decide on additional steps to stop terrorism." He did not elaborate.

Last Oct. 5, Israeli planes attacked the training camp of another militant group, Islamic Jihad, outside Damascus, the Syrian capital, a day after a **female** suicide bomber blew up a restaurant in the Israeli port city of Haifa, killing 21 people.

**Load-Date:** September 2, 2004

***Hamas chief's killing may unify militants;  
It has brought rival groups closer together and hardened their resolve to  
wreak havoc in Israel***

The Straits Times (Singapore)

March 26, 2004 Friday

Copyright 2004 Singapore Press Holdings Limited

**Section:** World

**Length:** 813 words

**Byline:** John R. Bradley

## **Body**

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THE assassination of Sheikh Ahmed Yassin cut off the head of **Hamas** but may have created a bigger, more dangerous enemy for Israel by uniting Palestinian opponents now bent on waging a campaign of all-out war and terror.

An unprecedented round of anti-Israel violence now seems inevitable; it will take a high toll on Israeli civilians and sow the seeds of chaos in the occupied territories.

'The decision by Ariel Sharon's Cabinet to pursue such targeted killings will not put an end to the ongoing cycle of violence, but in fact exacerbate it,' Palestinian political analyst Massoud Derhally told The Straits Times.

'Various Palestinian militias, while under separate command, now feel they share a similar agenda - one that will bring mayhem to Israeli society.'

The signs of a new unity among the traditionally splintered armed Palestinian factions were already in evidence at Sheikh Yassin's funeral.

Fighters loyal to all of them - Islamic Jihad, the Al-Aqsa Martyrs' Brigades and the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine (PFLP) - put on a joint show of force, marching through the streets alongside the **Hamas** militiamen.

Ties between the groups have always been plagued by rivalry, as each battled for control over the armed Palestinian resistance.

Endemic corruption, big political egos, Israel's frequent assassination of their leaders, and massive infiltration of their ranks by Mossad spies all undermined attempts to create a united front.

They were also split along ideological lines.

While Islamic Jihad and **Hamas** squabbled over the finer points of their differing revolutionary Islamist beliefs, the Al-Aqsa Martyrs' Brigade and the PFLP each tried to gain the support of the left-wing, nationalist Palestinian constituency, led in the political mainstream by Mr Yasser Arafat's Fatah movement.

Hamas chief's killing may unify militants; It has brought rival groups closer together and hardened their resolve to wreak havoc in Israel

**Hamas** enjoys support among Palestinians mostly because of its extensive social welfare activities, such as running clinics and schools.

But the clinics, say critics, are used to treat wounded 'terrorists'.

And the 'schools' inculcate students in 'Jew-hatred' and train aspiring suicide-bombers.

The Al-Aqsa Martyrs' Brigades grew out of Fatah's need to be seen to be putting up some kind of resistance to Israeli raids into land that was meant to be under Palestinian Authority control.

Unlike **Hamas** and Islamic Jihad, it does not want an Islamic state, but uses Islam to inspire the struggle for an independent Palestine.

There have been occasions when differences between all the various groups were put aside.

Islamic Jihad's early attempts at suicide bombings, a joke among Palestinians for their ineffectiveness, were executed with devastating consequences after they got help in 2001 from the master bombmakers, **Hamas**.

And in June last year, gunmen from **Hamas**, Islamic Jihad and the Al-Aqsa Martyrs' Brigades joined forces to make clear their opposition to the peace process by attacking an Israeli army post, killing four and setting off yet another round of attacks and counter-attacks.

Now a leader of the Al-Aqsa Martyr's Brigades says the killing of Sheikh Yassin has brought rival factions closer than ever.

After his death, local leaders wasted no time in meeting to discuss tactics, the Brigades chief told Newsday.

Dr Gershon Baskin, director of the Israel-Palestine Centre for Research and Information, told The Straits Times: 'There has been a gradual process over the past year of greater coordination between the various Palestinian factions in Gaza.

'The last suicide bombings from both the West Bank and Gaza have been declared as joint operations of **Hamas**...(and) the Al-Aqsa Martyrs' Brigades.

'The assassination of Sheikh Yassin will certainly strengthen the coordination and cooperation between the organisations in the coming months.'

#### FOUR TERRORS

Al-Aqsa Martyrs' Brigade

FOUNDED: 2000

IDEOLOGY: Nationalist

MAIN GOALS: To cause as many casualties among the Israelis as possible while claiming not to directly target **women** and children. To give Yasser Arafat credibility among the Palestinians through vicarious association with armed resistance.

#### **Hamas**

FOUNDED: 1987

IDEOLOGY: Revolutionary Islam (inspired by the Muslim Brotherhood)

MAIN GOALS: To overthrow Yasser Arafat's Palestinian Authority, which is seen as a sell-out for proposing a two-state solution. To destroy Israel. To raise the flag of Allah over every part of historic Palestine.

Hamas chief's killing may unify militants; It has brought rival groups closer together and hardened their resolve to wreak havoc in Israel

Islamic Jihad

FOUNDED: 1979

IDEOLOGY: Revolutionary Islam (inspired by 1979 Iran Revolution, and Lebanese militant group Hizbollah)

MAIN GOALS: To carry out a relentless campaign of anti-Israel terrorism. To target US interests if the United States moves its embassy from Tel Aviv to Jerusalem.

Popular Front For The Liberation Of Palestine

FOUNDED: 1967

IDEOLOGY: Socialist

MAIN GOALS: To destroy Israel using all forms of armed resistance at its disposal. To establish a secular Palestinian state with a radical pan-Arab agenda.

**Load-Date:** March 25, 2004

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End of Document

## *Israeli forces kill three Hamas activists as tanks go into Ramallah*

The Guardian - Final Edition

December 2, 2003

Copyright 2003 Guardian Newspapers Limited

**Section:** Guardian Foreign Pages, Pg. 13

**Length:** 348 words

**Byline:** Conal Urquhart in Ramallah

### **Body**

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The new Geneva peace initiative was met with scepticism and violence on the ground yesterday, as Israeli forces raided Ramallah killing three activists and a nine-year-old boy, and Palestinians rallied to denounce the accord.

Dozens of Israeli armoured vehicles entered Ramallah early yesterday, rounding up dozens of Hamas operatives and killing at least three Hamas activists, according to a military spokesman.

At one point, the forces were confronted by scores of stone-throwing youths, and one, Mazen Hamdan, nine, was killed by a bullet to the head, the spokesman said, adding that bomb-making facilities were found during the raid.

In Gaza and elsewhere in the West Bank, meanwhile, thousands of Palestinians protested against the Geneva blueprint, calling it a "sell-out" and a "scandal".

There have been no suicide bombings in Israel for two months, the longest period in more than a year.

However, in Gaza and the West Bank last month, Israeli soldiers killed 29 Palestinians, more than half of whom were women, children or elderly.

Palestinian factions were due to meet in Egypt today to discuss a new truce that could be presented to Israel as a basis for re-starting peace talks.

But the Ramallah raid has jeopardised that, and the Cairo talks have now been delayed. An analyst said the raid was designed to destabilise the Geneva initiatives and provoke militants into restarting suicide attacks within the borders of Israel.

Khalil Shiqaqi, director of the Palestinian Policy Research Centre, said that the Israeli government's intention was to create an atmosphere of violence and that Palestinian militants would react

"The current Israeli government finds it easier to deal with violence than diplomacy," he said. "Both the Israeli government and the militants are opposed to the peace initiatives in principle."

\* Builders began work yesterday on a new Jewish settlement in East Jerusalem which contravenes the international community's road map for peace in the Middle East.

The settlement of Nof Zahav will include 550 houses and shops as well as other public buildings.



Israeli forces kill three Hamas activists as tanks go into Ramallah

**Load-Date:** December 2, 2003

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End of Document

**DEFIANT HAMAS SHOWS WORLD SUICIDE MUM WITH CHILDREN. Gaza Strip female suicide bomber Reem Raiyshi, with her son Obida, aged three, who is holding a mortar shell**

Birmingham Post

January 27, 2004, Tuesday

Copyright 2004 Midland Independent Newspapers plc

**Section:** ROP; Pg. 10

**Length:** 301 words

## **Body**

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**Hamas** has posted photos on its internet site of its first **female** suicide bomber posing with her two young children.

The move was in defiance of Palestinian critics who say the Islamic militant group was wrong to send 22-year-old Reem Raiyshi on a mission that left her toddlers without a mother.

The pictures show Raiyshi in camouflage dress holding an assault rifle in one hand while cradling her three-year-old son, Obedia, in the other arm.

The boy is clutching what appears to be a mortar shell, and both mother and child wear **Hamas** headbands. Another picture shows her in a bedroom, gazing at Obedia and her 18-month-old daughter, Doha.

Two weeks ago, Raiyshi left Obedia and Doha with her husband, and blew herself up at a border crossing between the Gaza Strip and Israel, killing four Israelis.

Over the past 39 months of Middle East violence, more than 400 Israelis have been killed in 108 Palestinian suicide attacks.

But the January 14 attacker was the first time **Hamas** had used a **female** suicide bomber. Although Islamic Jihad and the Al Aqsa Martyrs' Brigades have used **women**, none of them was married or a mother.

The attack prompted a rare debate in Palestinian society, not over the idea of bombing, but over the choice of bomber.

Commentators expressed fear that pregnant **women** and children might be used in future attacks. The latest photos added new fuel to that debate.

Senior Israelis claim she had been forced into the suicide attack after being unmasked as an adulteress.

**Hamas**, meanwhile, defended the photos.

'This picture shows the outrage the Palestinians have reached,' said Sheik Saed Seyam, a **Hamas** leader in Gaza.

'This scene should urge people all over the world to ask themselves what motivates **women**, who are known for their attachment to their children, to leave them forever.

DEFIANT HAMAS SHOWS WORLD SUICIDE MUM WITH CHILDREN. Gaza Strip female suicide bomber Reem Raiyshi, with her son Obida, aged three, who is holding a mortar shel....

**Load-Date:** January 27, 2004

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## *Israel bus bombings kill 16, injure 100: Hamas claims responsibility for suicide attacks*

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

September 1, 2004 Wednesday

National Edition

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**Section:** NEWS; Pg. A12

**Length:** 656 words

**Byline:** Patrick Bishop, The Daily Telegraph, with files from Reuters

**Dateline:** JERUSALEM

### **Body**

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JERUSALEM - A lull in the Israeli-Palestinian conflict was shattered yesterday when two suicide bombers blew themselves up on buses in the southern Israeli town of Beersheba.

The blasts, which came within seconds of each other, killed at least 16 people and injured nearly 100. They also brought panic, fear and anger to a place that has largely been spared the violence of the past four years.

The bombers boarded buses at the same stop near the central bus station and detonated hidden explosive belts when the vehicles were just a few dozen metres apart, gutting the vehicles and scattering bloody remains.

The attacks, for which the extremist Hamas organization claimed responsibility, were condemned by the Palestinian Authority. But there was little doubt Ariel Sharon, the Israeli Prime Minister, who vowed yesterday to continue the fight against terrorism "with full strength," would be swift to respond.

The bombings were the first suicide attacks inside Israel for five months. The explosions happened just before 3 p.m., a busy time of the day.

The first bomb went off in a single-decker bus as it neared a main intersection in the town centre. The driver of a following bus saw the explosion and immediately stopped, opened the doors and ordered his passengers off. Soon afterward the vehicle was rocked by a bomb blast. Passengers said the driver's actions saved many lives.

Dr. Julian Zelingher of the nearby Soroka Medical Centre, where the victims were taken, said men, women and children were among the dead and wounded. Of the injured, 10 were said to be in critical condition.

The normally placid city centre was plunged into chaos. Television pictures showed plumes of smoke and flame pouring from a hole in the roof of one of the buses as rescue services scrambled to retrieve the wounded.

The assumption that Palestinian suicide bombers were to blame appeared to be confirmed when Hamas issued a statement on leaflets circulated in the West Bank town of Hebron, 50 kilometres northeast of Beersheba.

It said the killings were in response to the assassination by helicopter strikes of Sheikh Ahmed Yassin, the Hamas leader, in March, and his successor, Abdel Aziz Rantisi, the following month.

## Israel bus bombings kill 16, injure 100: Hamas claims responsibility for suicide attacks

The leaflet warned Israelis: "Our religion orders us to respond in kind to aggression against us. You are the ones who choose your leaders and choose to be their shields. Therefore your shields will suffer more blows."

The last major attack by Palestinian terrorists inside Israel came on March 14, when suicide bombers from the Gaza Strip killed 11 in the port city of Ashdod.

Israeli authorities had attributed the decline in violence to the security barrier that it is being hastily erected to separate Israelis from Palestinians. The barrier -- part wall and part fence --has yet to be completed and has not yet reached Beersheba.

Gideon Meir, a senior Foreign Ministry official, said if the barrier had been finished, the attack would not have been possible.

The lull is also attributable to the success of an unceasing Israeli campaign to kill or capture terrorist leaders. The army attributed yesterday's killings to the military wing of Hamas in Hebron.

Soon after the attack, troops raided the home in the centre of the city of Ahmed al Kawasma, who is suspected of having planned the bombings.

Good intelligence is also playing a big role. Israeli officials claim that on some days up to 30 threats are detected. Earlier yesterday soldiers caught a young Palestinian carrying a belt packed with explosives as he tried to cross into Israel from the Gaza Strip.

The attacks came soon after Mr. Sharon met deputies from his Likud party to press the case for his plan to pull Israeli settlers and soldiers out of the Gaza Strip and outline a timetable for how it will be achieved.

He faces strong opposition from right-wingers as well as Likud members. Aides said the resumption of violence would have no effect on the evacuation plan.

## Graphic

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Black & White Photo: Uriel Sinai, Getty Images; Workers recover the remains of the dead following twin bus bombings in the Israeli town of Beersheba.

**Load-Date:** September 1, 2004

*Israel on threshold of the 'gates of hell';  
The opportunistic killing of Hamas's Sheikh Yassin has left Israel braced for  
total carnage*

Sunday Tribune

March 28, 2004

Copyright 2004 The Sunday Tribune plc

**Section:** Pg. 17

**Length:** 1276 words

**Byline:** Paul Kearns Jerusalem

## **Body**

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A WEEK after the assassination of the spiritual leader of Hamas, many observers are beginning to question the motivation and timing behind the killing of Sheikh Ahmed Yassin.

The assassination may well have been a simple act of revenge for the double suicide bombing in the Israeli port city of Ashdod two weeks ago. It's unlikely however that such the decision was taken in response to a single terror attack.

The Israeli government and military establishment may of course believe their own rhetoric that Yassin's death will deter future suicide attacks, decapitate the Hamas leadership and put the organisation on the defensive. Few in Israel or Gaza would agree; most concur with the Israeli interior minister, the lone government critic of the assassination, who said: "I fear that we have opened up a cycle here and that many will pay with their lives." It's possible that the timing of the assassination may have had more to do with luck than strategy. The opportunity arose to kill Yassin, and the Israeli Defense Forces (IDF) acted on it. In September, Yassin escaped an assassination attempt with minor damage to his hand. The killing cannot however be divorced from Israeli domestic politics.

Sharon, by flexing his hawkish credentials, will have deflected growing criticism from his right-wing backbenchers opposed to his proposal for a unilateral withdrawal from the Gaza strip.

The authority and reputation of the IDF was also on the line. In recent weeks it has been keen to put down its own marker in advance of any military withdrawal from Gaza.

The army does not plan to allow the political leadership in Jerusalem to present withdrawal as a military failure.

Brig Gen Gadi Shamni, outgoing commander of the IDF in Gaza, said "military pressure is an important element in our dealing with terror. This is not a question of the final effort before we leave; the pressure has to continue all the time." The government may also have wished to capitalise on the international revulsion to the Madrid terror atrocity. If there was ever a fortuitous time to assassinate the leader of Hamas, there was none better than the very day that EU foreign ministers were gathered to discuss actions against international - and in particular Islamic - terrorism.

Israel on threshold of the 'gates of hell'; The opportunistic killing of Hamas's Sheikh Yassin has left Israel braced for total carnage

The Israeli government has repeatedly tried to present itself as the foremost victim of militant Islam, and has recently spoken of the threat of "global pan-Islamic terror".

Immediately after the assassination, the Israeli foreign ministry launched a campaign to draw attention to the connections between Hamas and al-Qaeda. "The terror being waged in the name of religious fanaticism is the same throughout the world, an attempt to present Yassin as a moderate spiritual leader is the same as an attempt to present bin Laden as such." Whatever its motivation, it is inconceivable that the Israeli government could be unaware that the decision to assassinate the 'spiritual' leader of Hamas represented a deliberate religious provocation to Palestinians and that his killing would escalate not just political tension but could ignite the flame of a wider religious war.

What was an already difficult - but potentially resolvable - territorial dispute between two peoples is now in danger of descending into an irreconcilable clash of opposing religious ideologies. The consequences for Israelis and Palestinians are shocking.

Invoking the name of bin Laden is a deliberate strategic decision on the part of Israel to try to broaden and Islamise the conflict. The advantages for Sharon of such a religious conflagration, in the short term at least, are threefold.

It provides a convenient, and opportunist cover to attempt to transform the traditional language of the conflict from one that has always been unfavourable to Israel - that of a powerful Israeli state occupying an oppressed Palestinian people - to that of a conflict between a vulnerable Jewish minority in the midst of the viscerally hostile Islamic fundamentalist Middle East.

Secondly, by attempting to globalise the conflict, the government seeks to negate not only local Palestinian national identity and its grievances but to thwart Palestinian political aspirations.

Finally, by painting the Israeli-Palestinian conflict as a war between a little plucky democracy and pan-Islamic global terror, the government greatly reduces the pressure domestically to engage in rational dialogue with Palestinians.

The danger for all sides is that Sharon may well succeed in his attempt to infuse and inflame the religious dimension of the conflict. He has, after all, a willing ally in Hamas, an organisation which openly speaks about liberating all of "Muslim land".

Israelis need little reminder that Hamas has claimed direct responsibility for dozens of suicide terror attacks which have killed hundreds of Israelis in the past three years. Yassin's title, 'Spiritual leader', also rankles with many Israelis. An elderly, half-blind paraplegic he may have been, but in an opinion poll some 60% supported the assassination.

Hamas's popularity across Gaza and the West Bank is likely to have soared in the last week. The nominally secular Palestinian Authority can only look on aghast. The assassination of Yassin is likely to hasten the demise of an already demoralised and ineffectual PA; secular Palestinian clout may not be far behind.

Hamas vowed this week "to open the gates of hell and cut off the head of Sharon". The opportunity to assassinate the Israeli leadership, despite the Hamas rhetoric, is likely to remain slim. The country however, remains on high alert.

ministers need little reminder of the assassination of tourism minister Rechavam Ze'evi two years ago by the Popular Front of the Liberation of Palestine, the first - and to date only - assassination of an Israeli minister by Palestinian militants.

PALESTINIAN CHILD ASSASSINS FOILED

Israel on threshold of the 'gates of hell'; The opportunistic killing of Hamas's Sheikh Yassin has left Israel braced for total carnage

ISRAEL this weekend is on high security alert, as Israelis nervously await what many believe is the inevitable onslaught following the assassination of the **Hamas** spiritual leader in Gaza.

The Israeli Defence Forces (IDF) have already claimed to have intercepted three suicide attacks, but none can be more disturbing than the arrest of a 16-year-old Palestinian schoolboy on Wednesday, his body strapped with explosives, ready to blow himself up at a checkpoint in Nablus. The whole scene was captured live on camera and was repeatedly shown on Israeli television.

The youth - who initially claimed he was 14 - was reported to have said he was offered a payment of "100 shekels (E20) for his mother" to blow himself apart. The boy's mother bitterly condemned those who "exploited and manipulated" her son.

The boy's family told the Israeli Ha'aretz newspaper that he was mentally slow; his brother was quoted as saying, "he doesn't know anything, he has the brain of a 12-year old". The incident has provoked a furious reaction from Palestinian human rights organisations across the West Bank. Last week, the IDF apprehended another boy, this time a 12-year old with explosives in a bag in a cart he was pushing across a checkpoint. The boy claimed no knowledge of the explosives.

The Israeli public, a public that has grown long hardened to the horror of suicide terror attacks, is equally in a state of shock that school children are being sent to the streets of Israel to blow themselves up.

Last year, Islamic Jihad started to use **female** suicide bombers for the first time; **Hamas** quickly followed suit.

Despite the deaths of 700 Israelis and 2,500 Palestinians in a three-year intifada, few on either side would have predicted the conflict would plummet to such depths.

## Graphic

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Maher Walweel carries his seven-year-old son Khaled shortly after the boy was shot dead during clashes between Palestinians and Israeli troops in Nablus yesterday. According to the family, the boy had been standing at the window of his home and just turned his back when he was shot and killed. According to the Israeli army, Khaled was killed by random Palestinian fire aimed at an Israeli army jeep AP/MAJDI MOHAMMED Would-be 16-year-old suicide bomber Hussam Abdo

**Load-Date:** April 8, 2004



## ***Hamas uses mother of two as suicide bomber: Four Israeli security people killed***

The Gazette (Montreal, Quebec)

January 15, 2004 Thursday Final Edition

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**Section:** News; Pg. A16

**Length:** 687 words

**Byline:** GREG MYRE

**Dateline:** EREZ, Gaza Strip

### **Body**

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A young Palestinian mother, feigning a limp and requesting medical help, blew herself up yesterday at the entrance to a security inspection centre for Palestinian workers, killing four Israeli security personnel and wounding seven people.

The bomber, Reem al-Reyashi, 22, said in a video released after the attack, "It was always my wish to turn my body into deadly shrapnel against the Zionists and to knock on the doors of heaven with the skulls of Zionists." Reyashi left behind a 3-year-old son and a one-year-old daughter.

Her attack in an industrial zone at the northern edge of the Gaza Strip was the first Palestinian suicide bombing to kill Israelis since a Dec. 25 blast at a bus stop outside Tel Aviv, which also left four dead. Middle East violence has declined recently, but the blast increased tensions and dealt another blow to peace efforts that have been stalled for months.

New York Times

The suicide bombing marked two firsts: the first time the Islamic group ***Hamas*** sent a ***female*** bomber and the first time a mother was a suicide bomber.

Israel responded by immediately shutting down the industrial zone and sending home the roughly 4,000 Palestinian workers employed in its factories.

"Palestinian terrorists are not only committed to striking Israelis at every opportunity, they are also bent on destroying their own economy," said David Baker, an official in the office of Israel's prime minister, Ariel Sharon.

Palestinians have carried out more than 100 suicide bombings in the past three years of violence. But such attacks have been extremely rare in the fenced-in Gaza Strip, where Palestinian contact with Israelis is largely limited to security checks at such places as Erez.

Reyashi was able to carry out her bombing by momentarily deceiving the soldiers with her claim that she needed medical treatment inside Israel.

She joined the line where the Palestinians go through a security check each morning as they enter the industrial zone.

## Hamas uses mother of two as suicide bomber: Four israeli security people killed

As she approached the building's entrance, which has a metal detector at the doorway, she was limping, the Israeli military and Palestinian witnesses said. She told soldiers she had a recent leg operation, and a metal pin had been implanted that the detector would register.

She was allowed to pass, and when the alarm sounded, the soldiers told her to wait while they called a **female** soldier to search her, the military said.

Seconds later, Reyashi detonated her bomb, estimated at about 10 pounds and packed with ball bearings and screws to make it more lethal, the military said.

The blast tore apart the simple structure, sending part of the roof skyward and leaving behind dangling strips of metal. The floor was sticky with blood and littered with body parts, and blood stains speckled the walls.

Two soldiers, a border police officer and a civilian security guard were killed, and seven people were injured, including both Israeli security personnel and Palestinians heading to work.

Reyashi, who came from a middle-class family in Gaza City, appeared in her video wearing combat fatigues, with an automatic rifle in her hands and a rocket-propelled grenade launcher on the desk in front of her.

"God gave me the ability to be a mother of two children who I love so," she said. "But my wish to meet God in paradise is greater, so I decided to be a martyr for the sake of my people. I am convinced God will help and take care of my children."

After the bombing, her husband was seen crying outside the family home, and a relative said he had no knowledge of his wife's plans, the Reuters news agency reported.

**Hamas**, the Islamic movement, and the Al Aksa Martyrs Brigades, a faction loyal to the Palestinian leader Yasir Arafat, claimed joint responsibility for the attack, saying it was revenge for Israel's killing of Palestinians.

"This was a distinguished operation," the **Hamas** spiritual leader, Sheik Ahmed Yassin, told reporters at his home in Gaza City. He said it was the first time **Hamas** had dispatched a **female** bomber - though other groups have used them - and he also praised the co-operation with the Al Aksa Martyrs Brigades.

## Graphic

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Color Photo: TSAFRIR ABAYOV, REUTERS; An Israeli soldier stands in front of Palestinian workers yesterday as they wait to leave the industrial area where they work at the Erez crossing.

**Load-Date:** January 15, 2004

**Israel, Hamas vow fight to the death: Escalation of violence leaves 39 dead  
and U.S.-led peace plan in tatters**

Ottawa Citizen

June 13, 2003 Friday Final Edition

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**Section:** News; Pg. A1; News

**Length:** 756 words

**Byline:** Alan Philps

**Dateline:** JERUSALEM

## Body

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JERUSALEM -- Israel and **Hamas**, the Islamic terrorist organization, vowed to fight to the death yesterday as the hopes of last week's Middle East peace summit were buried by the growing wave of carnage.

Just hours after Israel promised to "wipe out" **Hamas**, air force helicopters fired rockets at a car, killing Yasser Taha, a senior member of the organization's military wing, as well as his wife and three-year-old daughter.

Four other Palestinians died in the strike in the Gaza Strip, including mourners returning from the mass funeral of 10 Palestinians killed by Israel the previous day.

Bystanders pulled the child's bottle and her shoe from the smoking ruins of the car and brandished them while promising revenge.

The Daily Telegraph; with files from CanWest News Service

**Hamas** official Mahmoud Zohar used the death of the little girl as an excuse for killing Israeli civilians.

"Our message to Israel is this: your daughters, your **women** and your families -- everyone is a target now," he said in Gaza.

The **Hamas** statement called on all foreigners to leave Israel to save themselves before the country was reduced to "blood and ruins."

"We call on all military cells to act immediately and act like an earthquake to blow up the Zionist entity and tear it to pieces," it said.

The violence continued hours later when gunmen shot dead an Israeli driver near the West Bank town of Jenin. The attack was claimed by the Al-Aqsa Martyrs Brigades, an offshoot of Yasser Arafat's Fatah faction.

Israeli Prime Minister Ariel Sharon told his cabinet that his iron-fist approach to **Hamas** is justified.

Mr. Sharon said the Palestinian leadership were "cry babies" and "whingers" who did not have the stomach to take on the armed Islamic opposition. The new Palestinian prime minister, Mahmoud Abbas, was a "chick who has not yet grown his feathers" and needed Israel's help to wipe out **Hamas**.

"Israel feels itself now to be in open warfare with **Hamas**," said Victor Nahmias, an Israeli expert on Arab affairs.

Israel , Hamas vow fight to the death: Escalation of violence leaves 39 dead and U.S. -led peace plan in tatters

Palestinians, in turn, accused Mr. Sharon of doing everything he can to sabotage the "road map" peace plan. "(Sharon's) aim is to discredit the Palestinian government and to assassinate his real enemy, which is the road map," said Palestinian Cabinet Minister Yasser Abed Rabbo.

In Ottawa, Prime Minister Jean Chretien expressed extreme disappointment at the recent escalation of violence in the Middle East and its implications for the peace process.

"We condemn the killing of so many people. Coming after a period of some optimism, the current violence indicates that there are those whose only goal is to destroy the process under way," Mr. Chretien said in a release.

"Acts of terror must end. We urge the parties to stay the course and commit themselves to implementing the road map."

The increasingly deadly confrontation -- with 39 killed and more than 130 wounded on both sides in two days -- left little hope U.S. President George W. Bush's Mideast peace initiative, launched just a week ago, will survive.

U.S. Secretary of State Colin Powell is trying to rescue the U.S.-backed "road map" to peace which was endorsed with great fanfare at Aqaba, Jordan.

The U.S. State Department said last night that the international diplomatic quartet behind the peace plan will meet on June 22 in Amman, Jordan, to salvage it. Mr. Powell, UN Secretary General Kofi Annan, Russian Foreign Minister Igor Ivanov and senior European Union representatives will take part.

But the Palestinian prime minister has been so weakened by the escalating tension that it would take little short of a miracle to save him now.

Some Palestinian officials say Mr. Abbas may soon have no choice but to resign. That could deal a knockout blow to Mr. Bush's Middle East peace plan, which was predicated on the emergence of a new, moderate Palestinian leadership committed to ending attacks against Israelis. For its part, Israel is supposed to refrain from actions that undermine trust.

A resignation by Mr. Abbas would seriously hamper the Bush administration, which has worked hard to position him as an alternative to Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat, whom Washington accuses of having links to terrorism.

Israel army spokeswoman Maj. Sharon Feingold expressed regret at the civilian casualties yesterday. "A result of a mistake, family members were also killed," she said. "They were not targets."

The car was attacked in the Sheik Radwan neighbourhood, just as mourners were leaving a nearby cemetery. Witnesses said one missile hit as Palestinians surrounded Mr. Taha's car.

**Load-Date:** June 13, 2003

**Authorities probe Kosovo shooter's ties to Hamas: Third American corrections officer dies of wounds**

Ottawa Citizen

April 25, 2004 Sunday Final Edition

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**Section:** News; Pg. A6; News

**Length:** 341 words

**Byline:** Anica Kirka

**Dateline:** PRISTINA, Serbia-Montenegro

## **Body**

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PRISTINA, Serbia-Montenegro - Authorities are investigating whether a Jordanian UN policeman who killed three American corrections officers in a gunbattle at a Kosovo prison had links to the Palestinian terrorist group **Hamas**, a senior NATO official said.

Eleven officers were wounded before the officers shot and killed Sgt. Maj. Ahmed Mustafa Ibrahim Ali, a Palestinian from Jordan.

No one is certain what prompted him to open fire, but a survivor said Mr. Ali was smiling while he was shooting, a UN source familiar with the investigation said.

The Associated press

The attack came three days after U.S. President George W. Bush endorsed a plan by Israeli Prime Minister Ariel Sharon to withdraw from the Gaza Strip and back the permanence of some Jewish settlements in the West Bank. The plan rules out resettling Palestinian refugees in Israel.

A senior NATO official, speaking on condition of anonymity, said that besides the investigation into any links with **Hamas**, authorities were examining a trip Mr. Ali took to Saudi Arabia only a month before he joined the mission in March to see if it might be connected to the attack.

Jordan's government said Mr. Ali, 30, was a distinguished member of his homeland's special police unit and had been decorated for helping to ward off an attack on the Israeli Embassy in the Jordanian capital, Amman.

The United Nations has refused to discuss details of the investigation. The world body moved into Kosovo after a 78-day NATO air war launched to stop former Yugoslav president Slobodan Milosevic's crackdown on independence-minded ethnic Albanians.

Like Mr. Ali, the corrections officers who were killed were new to Kosovo. They arrived just 10 days before the attack and were part of an effort to bring professional corrections expertise into the prisons. The attack began at the end of the officers' first day at work.

Two **women** died in the gunfight. Gary Weston was put on life support after he was shot in the head and sent back to the United States. The UN mission announced his death yesterday.

Authorities probe Kosovo shooter's ties to Hamas: Third American corrections officer dies of wounds

**Load-Date:** April 25, 2004

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End of Document

## **18 die as suicide bombs rock Israel; Death toll may rise, Hamas takes blame as buses blow up 15 seconds apart**

The Record (Kitchener-Waterloo, Ontario)

September 1, 2004 Wednesday Final Edition

Copyright 2004 Metroland Media Group Ltd

**Section:** FRONT; Pg. A9; NEWS

**Length:** 665 words

**Dateline:** BEERSHEBA, ISRAEL

### **Body**

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Palestinian suicide bombers blew up two buses almost simultaneously in this southern city yesterday, killing at least 16 passengers and wounding more than 80 in the first major attack inside Israel in nearly six months.

The explosions, for which the **Hamas** militant group claimed responsibility, ended a period of relative calm.

Israel has attributed the lull to its crackdown on Palestinian militants and continued construction of a separation barrier in the West Bank. Palestinian militants have acknowledged they have faced increasing difficulties carrying out attacks.

Associated Press

The two buses blew up 15 seconds apart, about 100 metres from a busy intersection in the centre of Beersheba.

"People were screaming and yelling. Everybody was running," said witness Tzika Schreter, 50.

Rescue workers scoured the scene, cleaning up body parts and scattered pieces of the wreckage as dozens of onlookers gathered nearby. A hand with a ring lay on a charred bus seat, and blood was splattered on the mangled walls.

The blasts came hours after Prime Minister Ariel Sharon presented his Likud party with the most detailed timetable yet for Israel's withdrawal from the Gaza Strip, and warned party rebels the plan "will be implemented, period." After the attacks, he met with security officials to plan a response. Israel has historically struck hard at militants after suicide bombings.

### **ISRAEL VOWS TO FIGHT TERROR**

"Israel will continue fighting terror with all its might," Sharon said, adding that he would push forward with the Gaza pullout. "This has no connection to disengagement," he said.

Police said the devastation at the scene was complicating the recovery of bodies and warned the death toll could rise. They said the 16 dead did not include the bombers.

Israel's Magen David Adom rescue service said 30 of the wounded were in serious or moderate condition.

18 die as suicide bombs rock Israel ; Death toll may rise, Hamas takes blame as buses blow up 15 seconds apart

Authorities stepped up security throughout Beersheba after the attacks, placing checkpoints on major roads and snarling traffic.

In Gaza, Muslim leaders praised the "heroic operation" over mosque loudspeakers. The attack was the deadliest since a female suicide bomber killed 21 people nearly a year ago in the northern city of Haifa.

Militants hadn't carried out a suicide bombing in Israel since March 14, when 11 people were killed in the port of Ashdod.

That attack prompted Israel to assassinate Sheik Ahmed Yassin, the spiritual leader of Hamas, and his successor, Abdel Aziz Rantisi. Hamas has repeatedly pledged to avenge their deaths, but had been unable to carry out a major attack inside Israel, despite many attempts.

In the West Bank, the Israeli army surrounded the homes of the two suspected bombers, Ahmed Qawasmeh and Nasim Mohammed Ali Jaabari, and questioned their relatives. Both men were from Hebron.

Hamas distributed a leaflet in Hebron claiming responsibility for the attack, but did not name the bombers.

"If you thought that the martyrdom of our leaders would weaken our missions and discourage us from Jihad, then you are dreaming," it read.

Hamas and other Palestinian militant groups have carried out more than 100 suicide bombings over the past four years, but the pace of attacks has slowed considerably this year.

Israel has attributed the slowdown to its success in fighting militants and the West Bank barrier, not a lack of effort by armed Palestinian groups.

Israel has arrested or killed dozens of militants in recent months. The country also maintains dozens of roadblocks in the West Bank and has placed security guards near busy bus stops in Israeli cities.

But yesterday, Israeli officials repeatedly cited the barrier, which has drawn international condemnation, as the No. 1 reason for the slowdown in attacks. The barrier, which is about one-quarter complete, has not yet reached the Hebron area. Gaza is fenced off from Israel, and militants have had trouble reaching Israel from there.

Palestinian leaders condemned the attack and called for an immediate ceasefire and resumption of peace talks.

## Graphic

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Photo: REUTERS; An injured man is carried away after bomb blasts in the southern Israeli city of Beersheba yesterday. Explosions tore through two commuter buses, killing at least 18 people and injuring dozens. The bombings broke a five-month lull in such violence.

**Load-Date:** September 1, 2004



*Three generals and a martyr;*  
*OPINION: URI AVNERY looks beyond the simplistic portrayal of Hamas and compares it to zionist terror groups in 1940s Palestine.*

Morning Star  
April 07, 2004

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**Section:** Pg. 8

**Length:** 1511 words

**Byline:** URI AVNERY

## **Body**

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FIVE hundred black and - white - bearded Hamas members were sitting opposite me. Venerable sheikhs and young people. At the side, some rows were occupied by women.

I was standing on the stage, talking in Hebrew, with the crossed flags of Israel and Palestine on my lapel.

As I have recounted already several times, it happened like this. At the end of 1992, the new Israeli prime minister Yitzhak Rabin expelled 415 Islamic activists - mostly Hamas members - to the Lebanese border area.

In protest, we put up tents opposite the Prime Minister's office in Jerusalem. There, we spent 45 days and nights - Israeli peace activists, who were later to found Gush Shalom, and Arab citizens of Israel, mostly members of the Islamic movement.

Most of the time, it was very cold and, some days, our tents were covered with snow.

There was a lot of debate in the tents, the Jews learning something about Islam and the Muslims something about Judaism.

The expelled militants themselves vegetated for a year in the hilly landscape between the Israeli and Lebanese armies.

The whole world followed their suffering. After a year, they were allowed back and the Hamas leaders in Gaza organised a homecoming reception for them in the biggest hall in town.

They invited those Israelis who had protested against the expulsion. I was asked to make a speech. I spoke about peace and, in the intermission, we were invited to have lunch with the hosts. I was impressed by the friendly attitude of the hundreds of people who were there.

Undoubtedly, Sheikh Ahmed Yassin and the spokesman of the expellees, Dr Abd-al-Aziz al-Rantissi - who became Sheikh Yassin's successor last week - would have been present too if they had not been kept in prison.

I recount this experience in order to point out that the picture of Hamas as an inveterate enemy of all peace and compromise is not accurate.

Three generals and a martyr; OPINION: URI AVNERY looks beyond the simplistic portrayal of Hamas and compares it to Zionist terror groups in 1940s Palestine .

Of course, 10 years of bloodshed, suicide bombings and targeted assassinations have passed since then. But, even now, the picture is much more complex than meets the eye.

There are different tendencies in Hamas. The ideological hard core does indeed refuse any peace or compromise with Israel.

They consider it a foreign implantation in Palestine which, in Islamic doctrine, is a Muslim "wakf" (religious grant).

But many Hamas sympathisers do not treat the organisation as an ideological centre but rather as an instrument for fighting Israel in pursuit of realistic objectives.

Sheikh Yassin himself announced some months ago in a German paper that the fight would be discontinued after the establishment of a Palestinian state within the 1967 borders. Recently, he offered a "hudna" (truce) for 30 years - which strongly reminds one of Ariel Sharon's suggestion that Israel would give up the Gaza Strip and retain large parts of the West Bank for an interim phase to last for 20 years.

Therefore, the murder of the sheikh did not serve any positive aim. It was an act of folly.

The three generals who actually direct the affairs of Israel - Prime Minister Sharon, Minister of Defence Shaul Mofaz and Chief of Staff Mosh Ya'alon - maintain that, "in the short term, " the assassination would indeed increase the attacks on Israeli citizens, but, "in the long run, " it would help to "root terrorism."

They are very careful not to spell out when the "short term" ends and the "long run" begins. Our generals do not believe in timetables.

I take the liberty to tell these three illustrious strategists nonsense in tomato juice, as you say in Hebrew slang. Or rather, nonsense in blood.

In the short term, this action endangers our personal security. In the long run, it represents an even greater danger to our national security.

In the short term, it has increased the motivation for Hamas to carry out deadly attacks. Every Israeli understands this and is taking extra precautions these days. But the less obvious results are much more threatening.

In the hearts of hundreds of thousands of children in the Palestinian territories and the Arab countries, this murder has raised a storm of rage and thirst for revenge, together with feelings of frustration and humiliation in view of the impotence of the Arab world.

This will produce not only thousands of new potential suicide bombers inside the country but also tens of thousands of volunteers for the radical Islamic organisations throughout the Arab world. I know because, at the age of 15, I joined the armed underground in similar circumstances.

There is no stronger weapon for a fighting organisation than a martyr.

Suffice it to mention Avraham Stern, alias Ya'ir, who was killed by the British police in Tel-Aviv in 1942.

His blood gave an impulse to the emergence of the Lehi underground - nicknamed "the Stern gang" - which, only four years later, was playing a major role in the expulsion of the British from Palestine.

But Ya'ir's standing was nothing compared to the standing of Sheikh Yassin. The man was practically born to fulfil the role of a sainted martyr - a religious personality, a paraplegic in a wheelchair, broken in body but not in spirit, a militant who spent years in prison, a leader who continued his fight after miraculously surviving an earlier assassination attempt, a hero cowardly murdered from the air while leaving the mosque after prayer.

Even a writer of genius could not have invented a figure more suited to the adoration of a billion Muslims in this and coming generations.

Three generals and a martyr; OPINION: URI AVNERY looks beyond the simplistic portrayal of Hamas and compares it to Zionist terror groups in 1940s Palestine .

The murder of Yassin will encourage co-operation among the Palestinian fighting organisations. Here, too, a parallel with the Hebrew underground presents itself.

In a certain phase of the fight against the British, there was much unrest among the members of the Hagana, the semi-official underground army of the Zionist leadership, comparable to Fatah today.

The Hagana, which included the elite Palmakh formation, was seen to be inactive, while the Irgun and Lehi appeared as heroes who carried out incredibly audacious actions.

The ferment inside the Hagana caused the emergence of a group called Fighting Nation which advocated close co-operation between the various organisations. A number of Hagana members simply went over to Lehi.

Now, it is happening among the Palestinians. The lines between the various groups are becoming more and more blurred.

Al-Aqsa Martyrs' Brigade members co-operate with Hamas and Jihad, contrary to the orders of their political leadership, saying: "Since we are killed together, let us fight together."

This phenomenon is bound to grow and make the attacks more effective.

Hamas popularity among the population is rising sky-high, together with its capability to carry out attacks. This does not mean that the Palestinian public accepts the aim of an Islamic state or that it has given up the idea of a Palestinian state alongside Israel.

Even among Hamas members, many embrace this idea. But the admiration of the masses for the attackers and their actions reflects the conviction that the Israelis understand only the language of force and that experience proves that, without extreme violence, the Palestinians will not achieve anything at all.

Unfortunately, there is no real evidence for the opposite. The truth is that the Palestinians have never achieved anything without resorting to violence.

Therefore, the petitions being signed these days by well-meaning Palestinian personalities calling for an end to the armed struggle will have no effect.

They cannot point to any other method that will sound convincing to their public. And our government always, without exception, presents such moves as a sign of weakness.

In the even longer run, the assassination of Yassin poses an existential danger. For five generations, the Israel-Palestinian conflict was essentially a national conflict - a clash between two great national movements, each of which claimed the country for itself.

A national conflict is basically rational. It can be solved by compromise. This may be difficult, but it is possible. Our nightmare has always been that the national struggle would turn into a religious one.

Since every religion claims to represent absolute truth, religious struggles do not allow for compromise.

The martyrdom of Sheikh Yassin pushes even further away the chance of Israel ever attaining peace and tranquility, normal relations with its neighbours, with a flourishing economy .

It increases the danger that future generations of Arabs and Muslims will view it as a foreign implantation, installed in this region by force, with every decent Muslim from Morocco to Indonesia duty-bound to strive for its uprooting.

Such insights are far from the capability of our three generals to absorb.

Sharon, Mofaz, Ya'alon and their ilk understand only brute force in the service of a narrow nationalism.

Three generals and a martyr; OPINION: URI AVNERY looks beyond the simplistic portrayal of Hamas and compares it to Zionist terror groups in 1940s Palestine .

Peace does not inspire them. For them, compromise is a dirty word. It is quite clear that they will feel much more comfortable if the Palestinian people is led by fanatical religious fighters than by a man prepared to compromise like Yasser Arafat.

ON THE INTERNET

[www.avnery-news.co.il](http://www.avnery-news.co.il)

## Graphic

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FALLOUT: A youngster wearing a **Hamas** headband. TARGET: **Hamas** founder Sheikh Ahmed Yassin.

**Load-Date:** April 13, 2004

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End of Document

## *Hamas's Canadian cheerleader*

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

October 22, 2004 Friday

National Edition

Copyright 2004 National Post All Rights Reserved

**Section:** EDITORIALS; Pg. A19

**Length:** 546 words

**Byline:** National Post

### **Body**

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According to its Web site, the Canadian Islamic Congress (CIC) is "committed to promote, advance, co-ordinate, facilitate, demonstrate and implement the teachings and practices of Islam."

Question: Are terrorist attacks against Israeli civilians consistent with "the teachings and practices of Islam"? **Hamas**, al-Qaeda and Islamic Jihad all say the answer is "yes." And apparently, so too does CIC national president Mohamed Elmasry.

On Oct. 19, Mr. Elmasry appeared on Michael Coren Live, a Toronto-area television talk show. As we have noted many times before, Mr. Elmasry takes a rather dim view of Israel and its Jewish inhabitants. So it was hardly surprising to hear him tell host Michael Coren that the Palestinian intifada should be seen as the modern day equivalent of the French resistance -- with Israel, of course, being cast in the Nazi role.

But then Mr. Elmasry went a step further. Not only were attacks against Israeli military targets acceptable, he said, but also those against civilians. The CIC president justified this on the basis that Israel has a military system that requires many young adults to periodically report for training or reserve duty. Speaking of the Jewish adults who are regularly blown to bits while they sit in buses and cafes, he declared: "They are not innocent [because] the total population of Israel is part of the army ... From 18 on, they are part of the soldiers, even if they have civilian clothes."

"What about women?" Mr. Coren asked.

"The same," said Mr. Elmasry.

"So everyone in Israel ... irrespective of gender, over the age of 18, is a valid target?" asked Mr. Coren.

"Yes," replied Mr. Elmasry.

We have noted the irony of Mr. Elmasry's extremism before. But in light of such odious pronouncements, it is worth pointing it out again. Here is a man who obsessively lectures Canadians about their preconceptions of Islam. He then walks into a television studio and whitewashes the terroristic slaughter of Jews -- single-handedly reinforcing for viewers the poisonous stereotype that would have all Muslims cast as apologists for terror.

## Hamas's Canadian cheerleader

And then, of course, there is the sheer absurdity of Mr. Elmasry's logic. As he says, Israel does have an extensive military reserve system. The reason for this is obvious: Since the time of the Jewish state's creation, its Arab neighbours have plotted to exterminate it. The only way Israel has been able to survive through numerous wars has been to mobilize a large reserve army in times of crisis. That Mr. Elmasry should then cite this fact to excuse Arab-on-Jew slaughter is perverse.

Certainly, Mr. Elmasry is entitled to his views on the Palestinian-Israeli conflict. But we wonder: Are there Canadian Muslims out there who are outraged that an extremist of Mr. Elmasry's ilk is purporting to speak on their behalf under the banner of an organization grandly named the "Canadian Islamic Congress"?

On the broader subject of Middle Eastern affairs, this editorial board harbours no illusions: We realize not all Canadians, let alone all Canadian Muslims, agree with our strong support for Israel. But even among Muslims who otherwise disagree, we hope and expect there are those who are embarrassed by Mr. Elmasry's views. And we would like to hear from them -- at [letters@nationalpost.com](mailto:letters@nationalpost.com).

## Graphic

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Black & White Photo: Mohamed Elmasry.

**Load-Date:** October 22, 2004

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End of Document

**Israel warns of retaliation against Syria up rhetoric over attack: Threatens to attack: Hamas leader is being harboured by Damascus**

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

September 3, 2004 Friday

National Edition

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**Section:** WORLD; Pg. A14

**Length:** 733 words

**Byline:** Jean-Luc Renaudie, Agence France-Presse, with files from Reuters

**Dateline:** JERUSALEM

## **Body**

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JERUSALEM - Israel threatened to launch a military attack on Syria yesterday, accusing Damascus of being directly implicated in a double suicide attack by **Hamas** that killed 16 people.

As Israel's top diplomats pressed their case that Damascus should pay the price for sheltering **Hamas** leaders, Zeev Boim, the deputy defence minister, dropped strong hints a strike by Israel on Syrian targets could be imminent.

Syria dismissed the threat as lacking in credibility and denied any involvement in the bombings.

Mr. Boim told public radio, "The rule that, 'Anyone who deals in terror against Israel is a target' is a rule that must be stated and one that we must stand behind."

But Israel would take care not to cause a "conflagration" on its northern border. "It is possible to launch operations, provided that the targets are well chosen and that the moment is right, in order to make the Syrians understand that there are red lines that cannot be crossed."

Sixteen people and the two bombers were killed Tuesday in a double suicide attack in the southern Israeli city of Beersheba.

The terrorist Islamist movement **Hamas** whose senior leader, Khaled Meshaal, is based in Damascus, claimed responsibility.

Raanan Gissin, the official spokesman for Israeli Prime Minister Ariel Sharon, said the order for the terrorist attacks "comes directly from Khaled Meshaal's bureau based in Damascus."

But Faruq al-Shara, the Syrian Foreign Minister, denied any link to the Beersheba attacks.

"The Israeli threats against Syria are not based on any evidence and are completely lacking in credibility," he said in comments carried by the official SANA news agency.

"[Such threats] raise tensions in the region."

Israel warns of retaliation against Syria up rhetoric over attack: Threatens to attack: Hamas leader is being harboured by Damascus

The attacks in Beersheba were the deadliest since a suicide bombing in the port city of Haifa last October that left 21 people and the female bomber dead, and they followed a period of relative calm.

Israel responded to that attack, carried out by the smaller Islamic Jihad organization, with an air strike on an alleged Palestinian terrorist training camp deep inside Syria.

Mr. Meshaal was the target of an failed assassination bid by Israeli agents in Jordan in 1997. He emerged as undisputed leader earlier this year after Hamas co-founder Sheikh Ahmed Yassin and his successor, Abdelaziz Rantissi, were both killed in Israeli air strikes.

In addition to threatening military action, Israeli diplomats are stepping up their efforts to convince other governments of Damascus' ties to Hamas.

Danny Ayalon, Israel's ambassador to the United States, is to present Bush administration officials with intelligence information on the links.

Silvan Shalom, the Israeli Foreign Minister, is also expected to press the same message at talks with his Dutch counterpart, Bernard Bot, whose country holds the rotating European Union presidency.

In the Gaza Strip, Israeli forces shot dead four Palestinians, including a 14-year-old, and wounded dozens more in a major raid into the area.

Israeli soldiers also blew up two apartment blocs in Gaza, leaving scores of Palestinians homeless.

The incursion into the Deir el-Balah refugee camp triggered the worst violence in Gaza in weeks.

Israeli helicopters fired warning shots and soldiers shot at Palestinians firing anti-tank rockets and hurling Molotov cocktails.

The clashes erupted after troops unearthed a tunnel near a Jewish settlement, a military source said.

Palestinian medics said four Palestinians were killed, including a 14-year-old, his 19-year-old brother and two other 19-year-olds. They said 41 people were wounded. The Israeli source said three Palestinians were shot, but did not give their condition.

In an overnight raid in nearby Khan Younis refugee camp, soldiers blew up twin five-storey buildings, which Israel said Palestinian militants were using to attack soldiers and Jewish settlers.

Six Palestinians and two Israeli soldiers were wounded in the raid.

The operation followed Israeli threats to step up strikes on militants after the Beersheba bombings.

Israeli troops surrounded 10 apartment buildings overlooking the Jewish settlement of Neve Dekalim and ordered all 150 families to evacuate. Many sought refuge at a local hospital carrying the few belongings they had time to grab.

Saeb Erekat, Palestinian cabinet minister, said the renewed violence in Gaza would escalate the bloodshed.

"We strongly condemn the Israeli aggression," he said.

**\*\*START-IO-STORY\*\***

**Load-Date:** September 3, 2004



Israel warns of retaliation against Syria up rhetoric over attack: Threatens to attack: Hamas leader is being  
harboured by Damascus

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End of Document

**Israel shaken by return of the suicide bombers: After months of failed attempts, Hamas penetrates security to kill 16 and injure 100 in attack on buses**

The Guardian (London) - Final Edition

September 1, 2004

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**Section:** Guardian Home Pages, Pg. 1

**Length:** 706 words

**Byline:** Conal Urquhart in Beersheba

## **Body**

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At least 16 people were killed and almost 100 injured after Israel's five-month period of relative peace was shattered yesterday with a double suicide bombing on two buses in the southern town of Beersheba.

The bombings, which came 15 seconds apart and killed a three-year-old boy, 10 **women** and five men, were claimed by **Hamas** as a revenge attack for Israel's assassination of its leaders Sheikh Ahmed Yassin and Abdel-Aziz al-Rantissi earlier this year.

Israel killed both men following the last suicide attack in Israel in March when two men escaped from Gaza and blew themselves up at the port of Ashdod, killing 11.

Ariel Sharon, the Israeli prime minister, held a meeting of his security cabinet last night immediately after the explosions. He said the attacks would not stand in the way of his plan to withdraw from Gaza settlements but did not rule out reprisals. "Israel will continue fighting terror with all its might. This has no connection to disengagement," he said.

Israeli troops moved into Hebron, the closest Palestinian city to Beersheba yesterday afternoon. They surrounded the homes of Ahmed Qawasmeh and Nasim Mohammed Ali Jaabari, the suspected bombers, and questioned their relatives.

**Hamas** issued a statement in Hebron claiming responsibility and warning of further attacks. "This is but one of a series of responses in which the Iz a Din al-Kassam Brigades (the **Hamas** military wing) have vowed to carry out in response to the martyrdom of the leaders of our movement, Sheikh Ahmed Yassin and Abdel-Aziz Rantissi," it said. "If you thought that the martyrdom of our leaders would weaken our missions and discourage us from jihad, then you are dreaming."

**Hamas** has been severely weakened by arrests and assassinations in the West Bank and Gaza but commentators have warned that the group would need to avenge its leaders to appease its supporters. Yesterday messages praising the "heroic operation" were broadcast from mosque loudspeakers in Gaza and thousands of **Hamas** supporters celebrated in the streets.

Israel shaken by return of the suicide bombers: After months of failed attempts, Hamas penetrates security to kill 16 and injure 100 in attack on buses

Beersheba is about 10 miles south of Hebron, in a part of the West Bank where the Israeli army has yet to construct its security barrier. The bombings immediately led to Israeli demands to accelerate the building programme, despite a ruling by the International Court of Justice in the Hague.

Beersheba's residents were stunned by yesterday's double attack. Rivka Edri, 77, said she owed her life to a whimsical decision to sit at the back of the bus. "I had just been shopping. I normally always sit around the middle close to the door. After about 100 metres, there was the explosion," she said after being released from hospital. "I am just relieved that I decided to leave my two daughters behind."

The Palestinian Authority condemned the attack and called for an immediate ceasefire and resumption of peace talks. "The Palestinian interest requires a stop to harming all civilians so as not to give Israel a pretext to continue its aggression against our people," Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat said in a statement.

The Palestinian prime minister, Ahmed Qureia, who was in Egypt, said: "Killing civilians, whether from the Palestinian side or the Israeli side, will achieve nothing except hatred and more enmity and therefore we condemn that strongly."

Israeli politicians called for renewed efforts to build the security barrier, which has been cited as the major reason for the slowdown of militant attacks within Israel, although it remains only one-quarter complete.

The US State Department brushed aside statements by Palestinian leaders condemning the bombings. Spokesman Richard Boucher said: "We see Hamas as a terrorist organisation. Terrorist organisations need to be put out of business."

The bombings were condemned by the foreign secretary, Jack Straw. "We have urged the Palestinian Authority to make greater efforts to take action against those planning such despicable attacks and fulfil their road map commitments on security," he said.

Earlier yesterday, Israeli soldiers at a Gaza checkpoint said they had detained a potential suicide bomber with explosives hidden in his underwear.

Israel bombings, page 4

Comment, page 20

Audio report from Conal Urquhart [guardian.co.uk/israel](http://guardian.co.uk/israel)

**Load-Date:** September 1, 2004

**Five-month lull ends with Israeli bus bombings: Hamas claims responsibility  
for 16 deaths in Beersheba**

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

September 1, 2004 Wednesday

All but Toronto Edition

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**Section:** NEWS; Pg. A10

**Length:** 655 words

**Byline:** Patrick Bishop, The Daily Telegraph, with files from Reuters

**Dateline:** JERUSALEM

## **Body**

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JERUSALEM - A lull in the Israeli-Palestinian conflict was shattered yesterday when two suicide bombers blew themselves up on buses in the southern Israeli town of Beersheba.

The blasts, which came within seconds of each other, killed at least 16 people and injured nearly 100. They also brought panic, fear and anger to a place that has largely been spared the violence of the past four years.

The bombers boarded buses at the same stop near the central bus station and detonated hidden explosive belts when the vehicles were just a few dozen metres apart, gutting the vehicles and scattering bloody remains.

The attacks, for which the extremist **Hamas** organization claimed responsibility, were condemned by the Palestinian Authority. But there was little doubt that Ariel Sharon, the Israeli Prime Minister, who vowed yesterday to continue the fight against terrorism "with full strength," would be swift to respond.

The bombings were the first suicide attacks inside Israel for five months. The explosions happened just before 3 p.m., a busy time of the day.

The first bomb went off in a single-decker bus as it neared a main intersection in the town centre. The driver of a following bus saw the explosion and immediately stopped, opened the doors and ordered his passengers off. Soon afterward the vehicle was rocked by a bomb blast. Passengers said the driver's actions saved many lives.

Dr. Julian Zelingher of the nearby Soroka Medical Centre, where the victims were taken, said men, **women** and children were among the dead and wounded. Of the injured, 10 were said to be in critical condition.

The normally placid city centre was plunged into chaos. Television pictures showed plumes of smoke and flame pouring from a hole in the roof of one of the buses as rescue services scrambled to retrieve the wounded.

The assumption that Palestinian suicide bombers were to blame appeared to be confirmed when **Hamas** issued a statement on leaflets circulating in the West Bank town of Hebron, 50 kilometres northeast of Beersheba.

It said the killings were in response to the assassination by helicopter strikes of Sheikh Ahmed Yassin, the **Hamas** leader, in March and his successor, Abdel Aziz Rantisi, the following month.

## Five-month lull ends with Israeli bus bombings: Hamas claims responsibility for 16 deaths in Beersheba

The leaflet warned Israelis: "Our religion orders us to respond in kind to aggression against us. You are the ones who choose your leaders and choose to be their shields. Therefore your shields will suffer more blows."

The last major attack by Palestinian terrorists inside Israel came on March 14 when suicide bombers from the Gaza Strip killed 11 in the port city of Ashdod.

The Israeli authorities have attributed the fall in violence to the security barrier that it is hastily erecting to separate Israelis from Palestinians. The barrier, part wall and part fence, has yet to be completed and has not yet reached Beersheba.

Gideon Meir, a senior Foreign Ministry official, said if the barrier had been finished the attack would not have been possible.

The lull is also attributable to the success of an unceasing Israeli campaign to kill or capture terrorist leaders. The army attributed yesterday's killings to the military wing of Hamas in Hebron.

Soon after the attack, troops raided the home in the centre of the city of Ahmed al Kawasma, who is suspected of having planned the bombings.

Good intelligence is also playing a big role. Israeli officials claim that on some days up to 30 threats are detected. Earlier yesterday soldiers caught a young Palestinian carrying a belt packed with explosives as he tried to cross into Israel from the Gaza Strip.

The attacks came soon after Mr. Sharon met deputies from his Likud party to press the case for his plan to pull Israeli settlers and soldiers out of the Gaza Strip and outline a timetable for how it will be achieved.

He faces strong opposition from right-wingers as well as Likud members. Aides said the resumption of violence would have no effect on the evacuation plan.

## Graphic

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Black & White Photo: Uriel Sinai, Getty Images; Israeli rescuers work at the scene of a Palestinian attack on two buses that killed 16 and injured nearly 100.

**Load-Date:** September 1, 2004

## **Hundreds Gather To Denounce Assassination of Hamas Leader**

New York Sun (Archive)

March 24, 2004 Wednesday

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**Section:** NEW YORK; Pg. 3

**Length:** 354 words

**Byline:** By YAEL KOHEN, Staff Reporter of the Sun

### **Body**

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Hailing Sheik Ahmed Yassin as a hero of the Palestinians, Arab New Yorkers gathered in Brooklyn last night to denounce Israel's assassination of the Hamas leader.

More than 400 men, women, and children, some visibly emotional, packed into an auditorium in Sunset Park, Brooklyn, decrying the death of Yassin, who Israel killed in a missile strike early Monday.

The Israeli government says Yassin was a ruthless terrorist at the head of a radical organization that has carried out suicide bombings on the streets of Jerusalem and Tel Aviv. But Palestinian Arabs, and those who showed up at the rally yesterday, spoke of him as a "spiritual leader."

The group that organized the rally, the Arab Muslim-American Federation, also staged a protest earlier in the day in front of the Israeli consulate on 42nd Street.

Arabs at the rally last night described Israelis as murderers. One woman sitting in the back of the room wailed as the ceremony began.

Members of Arab groups addressed the audience in Arabic and English, and began the event with a reading from the Koran.

"His brutal killing was uncalled for, and it's been carried out by American made airships, gunships, and American missiles," said Wael Mousfar, general secretary for the Arab-Muslim American Federation and an engineer for the city's Department of Housing.

As they gathered into the room, some people waved Palestinian flags. One woman brought to the ceremony a sign reading, "Nazi Israel Guilty Genocide," which depicted an Israeli flag with red handprints. A teenager wore a T-shirt that said: "It's the Jewish state in Palestine Stupid. That's the conflict."

Also at the rally were three chasidic Jews who oppose the state of Israel. One, David Weiss, a rabbi from a group called Orthodox Jews United Against Zionism, spoke at the rally. "Sheik Yassin clearly drew a distinction between true Judaism and Zionism," he said.

The national director of the Anti-Defamation League, Abraham Foxman, said the rallies against Israel make "it that much more difficult to find a common language with the Arab American and Muslim American community here in the United States."

## Hundreds Gather To Denounce Assassination of Hamas Leader

**Load-Date:** March 24, 2004

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End of Document

**2 suicide bombings break lull in Israel;  
One is reply to Nablus raid, Hamas says**

The International Herald Tribune

August 13, 2003 Wednesday

Copyright 2003 International Herald Tribune

**Section:** NEWS; Pg. 1

**Length:** 874 words

**Byline:** Ian Fisher

**Dateline:** ROSH HAAYIN, Israel:

## **Body**

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Two Palestinian teenagers died Tuesday in separate suicide bombings, killing two Israelis and inflicting the most serious blow yet to the fragile American-led plan to forge peace between Palestinians and Israelis.

The attacks, apparently coincidental though only minutes and kilometers apart, ended more than a month of relative calm. They outraged many Israelis as familiar images of blood, spattered glass and fire mixed once again with their doubts about the peace plan.

"I hope we'll have peace," said Judith Azar, 39, a cashier in the supermarket here where the first suicide bomber struck Tuesday morning, blasting her to the floor with the change she was about to give a customer still in her hand. "But I don't believe in it anymore."

The New York Times

Yet it was far from clear that the attacks signaled a sure unraveling for a peace plan that has, despite strong American pressure, moved ahead slowly and with very little trust.

By Tuesday night, the Israeli military had not retaliated against the groups, a common reaction after many attacks in nearly three years of renewed fighting here. Prime Minister Ariel Sharon spoke in angry but measured tones, repeating his contention that the Palestinian Authority must crack down on militants for the peace plan to move forward and for Palestinians to realize their goal of their own state. Palestinian leaders have hesitated, saying they fear civil war.

"In the end the Palestinians are liable not to get what they want, because Israel will not be able to continue with the process, despite her strong desire to do so, if terrorism does not stop completely," Sharon warned in a speech after the attacks.

**Hamas**, the Islamic militant group that has carried out the greatest number of suicide bombings, claimed responsibility for the second attack, at a bus stop near the entrance to Ariel, a large Jewish settlement in the West Bank, east of Tel Aviv.

But **Hamas** leaders claimed the attack did not mark an end to a three- month cease-fire agreed between militant groups and the Palestinian Authority on June 29 a cease-fire that Israel has not recognized even while acknowledging it as an essential condition for the peace plan to get off the ground.



## 2 suicide bombings break lull in Israel ; One is reply to Nablus raid, Hamas says

Rather, the Hamas leaders said, it was specific retaliation for the killing of two of its bomb makers in an Israeli raid in Nablus last week. Hamas's contention that Israel had been violating the terms of the peace plan with such raids was echoed by the Palestinian Authority, which condemned the attacks but nonetheless held Israel responsible, in a statement, for the "security deterioration in the region."

The suicide bombings were the first since July 7, and the first violation of the June 29 cease-fire carried out by Hamas, arguably the most disciplined of the militant groups.

The attacks prompted the Palestinian prime minister, Mahmoud Abbas, to discuss cutting short a diplomatic trip to visit other Arab leaders and for Shaul Mofaz, the Israeli defense minister, to return from a vacation in Europe.

In reaction to the bombings, Israel postponed releasing some 70 Palestinian prisoners who had been scheduled to be set free Tuesday.

The Israeli police said Tuesday that they had received warning of a possible suicide bombing that morning, and police officers were, in fact, near the small mall in Rosh Haayin, just east of Tel Aviv, when the first bomb exploded at 9:20 a.m. Omer Ozer, 21, who works in a small shop next to the supermarket, was hauling out refrigerators for cold drinks when, he said, "Suddenly, there was a huge explosion."

The windows of the supermarket were blasted out by the bomb, packed with steel bearings, shredding the metal blinds, blackening boxes of cereal and toppling towers of paper towels. Ozer said he ran inside to see two women lying on the floor covered with blood, and one of them calling for help. Doctors from a medical center on the second floor rushed to help the victims.

Killed in the attack was one of Ozer's customers, identified Tuesday night as Yehezkel Yakutieli, 43, a building contractor and father of two.

Responsibility for the attack was claimed by the Al Aksa Martyrs' Brigade, an armed offshoot of the Fatah political movement led by Yasser Arafat, the Palestinian president. The bomber, Khamis Ghazi Gerwan, 17, of Nablus, entered the store carrying the bomb, described by police as weighing nearly 4.5 kilograms, or 10 pounds, in a backpack and managed to get past a guard at the store's entrance.

The second attack was carried out about 40 minutes later and about 25 kilometers, or 15 miles, away, near the entrance to Ariel. A local official said that a Palestinian teenager, carrying two plants under his arms, aroused suspicion among the three people standing at bus stop but he exploded before they could do anything.

One of the Israelis at the stop, Erez HersHKovitz, 18, who had enlisted in the army two months earlier, was killed in the huge blast that hurled pieces of the bomber as far as 500 meters, or 1,600 feet, away. "It was the biggest noise I ever heard in my life," said an employee of a nearby gas station. It was the third suicide bombing near the entrance to Ariel in the last three years.

The bomber was identified as Islam Yousef Qteishat, 17, also from Nablus.

**Load-Date:** August 13, 2003

***Hamas attacks;  
Israel hits back  
An Israeli American died in the shelling of her Gaza  
Strip settlement. An Israeli missile killed a Palestinian.***

The Philadelphia Inquirer

SEPTEMBER 25, 2004 Saturday CITY-D EDITION

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**The Philadelphia Inquirer**

Found on Philly.com

**Section:** NATIONAL; Pg. A02

**Length:** 527 words

**Byline:** Ibrahim Barzak ASSOCIATED PRESS

**Dateline:** GAZA CITY, Gaza Strip

## **Body**

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

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

The Israelis returned fire, aiming at the nearby Palestinian town of Khan Younis. The Israeli fire wounded two Palestinians, including a 4-year-old boy, witnesses said.

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

Tanks and bulldozers

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

Later, about 70 tanks and army bulldozers drove toward the Khan Younis camp, setting off heavy exchanges of fire, as soldiers called on residents over loudspeakers to leave their homes, witnesses said.

Palestinians detonated a roadside bomb next to one bulldozer, setting the front of the vehicle on fire.

Hamas attacks; Israel hits back An Israeli American died in the shelling of her Gaza Strip settlement. An Israeli missile killed a Palestinian.

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

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

'Directly responsible'

Eli Moses, a resident of Neve Dekalim, said Sharon was to blame because he was going ahead with a plan to withdraw Israeli troops and settlers from Gaza.

"We want to emphasize that the prime minister is directly responsible for the death," Moses told Israel Radio. "Whoever fired the mortar is of course responsible, but there's a person above him, and unfortunately that's the prime minister."

The shelling came a day after Palestinians killed three Israeli soldiers in an attack on an army outpost protecting the nearby Morag settlement in southern Gaza. After a protracted gun battle, the three attackers were killed by the army.

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

Neve Dekalim is one of 21 Gaza settlements, with a total of 8,200 residents, that would be dismantled under Sharon's unilateral-disengagement plan. Sharon has said he believes Israel's presence in Gaza is untenable.

## Graphic

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PHOTO;

BRENNAN LINSLEY, Associated Press

At the funeral of Tiferet Tratner, who died in an attack on her Gaza Strip Jewish settlement, men embrace at Givat Shaul Cemetery in Jerusalem.

**Load-Date:** August 31, 2005

*A Ben-Gurion model and an Abbas reality;  
Hard-line tactic brought militant Jews to heel, but could it work with Hamas?*

The International Herald Tribune

August 13, 2003 Wednesday

Copyright 2003 International Herald Tribune

**Section:** NEWS; Pg. 8

**Length:** 1062 words

**Byline:** James Bennet

**Dateline:** JERUSALEM:

## **Body**

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The official offered his prisoners a deal: He might let them go if they agreed to halt their "terrorist activities" and use only political means to pursue their dream of statehood.

It was a proposal similar to the one Mahmoud Abbas, the Palestinian prime minister, is making now to Hamas and other Palestinian factions that advocate terrorism.

But this particular offer was made by a British officer to a group of Jews, at the time that the British uneasily governed Palestine, before the creation of the state of Israel in 1948.

Among those who heard the proposal out, and rejected it, was a young extremist who went by a nom de guerre, Michael. Michael later escaped and returned to the underground, to a campaign of assassination, bombing and arms smuggling, with bank robbery thrown in to finance the effort.

The New York Times

"Nothing would be permitted to stand in the way of Jewish independence in the Land of Israel," Michael wrote 50 years later in his autobiography. "Nothing and no one."

By then, Michael was himself testimony to Israel's success at integrating militants into mainstream society. His violent life in the pre-state period had become the stuff of romantic national narrative and broad political appeal, and under a different name, Yitzhak Shamir, he had been one of Israel's longest-serving prime ministers, one who cracked down on Jewish terrorism in the West Bank.

In the view of many historians, it was in no small part the leadership of one man, David Ben-Gurion, that transformed Zionist militants into Israeli politicians and even peacemakers.

"Ben-Gurion was a state-builder," said Shmuel Sandler, the Lerner Professor of Democracy and Civility at Bar Ilan University. "State-building means that at one point you understand there can't be any more violence or illegal operations in your camp."

Times, terrorist tactics and international realities change; historical comparisons between the Zionist and Palestinian national movements can be easily strained.

A Ben-Gurion model and an Abbas reality; Hard-line tactic brought militant Jews to heel, but could it work with Hamas?

Yet there are echoes in Abbas's oratory now of the message of Ben-Gurion, Israel's first prime minister. "On this land and for this people, there is only one authority, one law, and one democratic and national decision that applies to us all," Abbas said on assuming his post this spring. His meaning was that Hamas and other groups could no longer, in effect, conduct their own wars with Israel.

In 1944, a representative of Ben-Gurion delivered a similar message to a militant leader pursuing his own violent path: "There must be one Jewish military force in Eretz Israel," that is, in the land of Israel. The militant leader, Menachem Begin, recalled the episode in his account of those years, "The Revolt."

(It is interesting to note that "The Revolt," a kind of how-to for fighting occupation, was translated from Hebrew into Arabic in an Israeli prison by Jibril Rajoub, a Palestinian militant leader who later became a top official of the Palestinian security forces.)

Unlike Abbas, Hamas, which claimed responsibility for a suicide bombing Tuesday in the West Bank, officially rejects any two-state solution with Israel. Unlike the pragmatic Ben-Gurion, Begin in those days rejected any partition with the Arabs of what he considered Jews' Biblical homeland.

His printed declaration in 1944 of "war to the end" against the British appeared under a map of Palestine that extended to the border of Iraq, enclosing the image of a rifle by the words "Only Thus." Eventually, of course, Prime Minister Begin gave up the Sinai to achieve peace with Egypt.

Although Abbas has said Hamas must give up its illegal weapons, he has also repeatedly said he would not risk civil conflict to enforce his national vision. The governing Palestinian Authority has yet to take action against terrorists like those responsible for killing two Israelis in separate suicide bombings Tuesday.

It is something of an Israeli cliché that no Palestinian leader has ever had his "Altalena." The reference is to a fateful decision made by Ben-Gurion in June 1948, after Begin challenged his vision of a single military force by trying to import weapons and fighters from France aboard a ship, the Altalena.

Ben-Gurion called the effort "an attempt to destroy the army, an attempt to murder the state." He ordered the Altalena shelled in sight of Tel Aviv, with Begin aboard.

"Ben-Gurion exercised authority," said Gideon Shimoni, a historian of Zionism at Hebrew University's Institute of Contemporary Jewry. "He drew the line."

Begin swallowed his anger and integrated his forces with the Israeli Army. As Shimoni noted, Begin and others like him had never doubted that ultimately they would yield their arms and participate in an Israeli democracy. "They didn't have a concept that was nondemocratic in its essence," he said, drawing a possible distinction with Hamas.

Palestinian officials call the story of the Altalena a facile history lesson. They note that, at the time, Ben-Gurion already had at stake what no Palestinian leader has ever had: a state to defend against internal insurgency as well as external attack.

Further, unlike the groups of Shamir and Begin, Hamas does not operate only underground but also maintains schools, health clinics and a steady, even celebrity presence on satellite television. As a result, it is broadly popular far more popular than Abbas, though not Yasser Arafat.

But that analysis tends to slight the enormity of Ben-Gurion's efforts over many years to marginalize the extremists, whom he referred to as "Jewish Nazis." Begin, whom Ben-Gurion compared to Hitler, wrote with great bitterness of what he saw as Ben-Gurion's "collaboration" with the British, including the handover of hundreds of militants.

In April 1938, members of Etzel, the group Begin would later lead, opened fire on an Arab bus in stated retaliation for the killing days before of four Jews, including a child and two women, in a car. No one on the bus was wounded, but the British caught the three attackers and hanged one of them, Shlomo Ben-Yosef.

A Ben-Gurion model and an Abbas reality; Hard-line tactic brought militant Jews to heel, but could it work with Hamas?

In his history of life under British rule in Palestine, "One Palestine, Complete," Tom Segev wrote that Etzel supporters tried to "drag the Jewish community into a display of mourning" and to turn Ben-Yosef "into a martyr."

Ben-Gurion resisted. "I am not shocked that a Jew was hanged in Palestine," he said. "I am ashamed of the deed that led to the hanging."

**Load-Date:** August 13, 2003

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End of Document

**Palestinian mother kills 4 Israelis, self;  
Seven people, including four Arabs, were injured at the Gaza checkpoint. It  
was called Hamas' first use of a female bomber.**

The Philadelphia Inquirer

JANUARY 15, 2004 Thursday CITY-D EDITION

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**The Philadelphia Inquirer**

Found on Philly.com

**Section:** NATIONAL; Pg. A02

**Length:** 644 words

**Byline:** Soraya Sarhaddi Nelson INQUIRER FOREIGN STAFF

**Dateline:** EREZ CROSSING, Gaza Strip

## **Body**

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A Palestinian mother of two blew herself up yesterday at the main crossing between Israel and the Gaza Strip, killing four Israelis - three of them soldiers - and wounding seven people, including four Palestinians.

It was believed to be the first time Hamas had sent a female bomber. Reem Raiyshi, 22, left behind children ages 3 years and 18 months.

At a vigil for her in Gaza City, some Palestinian men defended the action and Palestinian women abhorred the idea that a woman would abandon two young children.

The attack occurred at 9:30 a.m. at this hub for thousands of Palestinian laborers, who pass through a network of barbed-wire fences, concrete barricades and security checks every day to go to highly coveted jobs in Israel. Most earn less than \$25 a day, but that is far more than they can make at home, said tailor Ashur Solha, 40, a father of eight.

There were few laborers yesterday in the vicinity of the one-story structure Raiyshi demolished with her TNT and nail-laden bomb belt. Most laborers already had crossed.

Brig. Gen. Gadi Shamni, who heads the Israeli military division in Gaza, said Raiyshi entered the checkpoint with about 20 other Palestinians. She said she had come to seek a permit to enter Israel, and lied to soldiers that she had a titanium implant in her leg that would set off the metal detector, he said.

After the detector sounded, she was ushered to a room for a more thorough security search. The room was a humanitarian gesture to ensure her privacy, Shamni said.

"This incident shows that terrorists will do anything to damage any kind of cooperation between Israelis and Palestinians," Shamni said.

Palestinian mother kills 4 Israelis, self; Seven people, including four Arabs, were injured at the Gaza checkpoint. It was called Hamas' first use of a female b....

Hours after the explosion, Israeli army medics wearing rubber gloves carefully sifted through broken ceiling tiles covering the floor, searching for human remains. Outside, a dozen soldiers guarded thousands of Palestinian workers on a muddy field awaiting bus transport back to Gaza. The men filed past with their shirts lifted to show they were not carrying bombs.

The military wing of **Hamas** and Al Aqsa Martyrs' Brigades, an armed group affiliated with Palestinian leader Yasir Arafat's Fatah political movement, claimed responsibility for the bombing, which they said was to avenge Palestinians killed by the Israeli military. They vowed to escalate their attacks.

"This is of course the first time that the [military wing of **Hamas**] has conducted an action with a **female** and not a male fighter," **Hamas**' spiritual leader, Sheikh Ahmed Yassin, said in an interview on Israeli television last night. "Of course we are talking about a new level, a new development, a new way to oppose the Israeli enemy."

Israeli security officials, meanwhile, discussed renewing their recently dormant campaign to assassinate Palestinians responsible for such attacks, Israeli television reported.

"Palestinian terrorists are not only intent on striking Israelis at every opportunity, but they are also bent on destroying the Palestinian economy," said David Baker, an official in Israeli Prime Minister Ariel Sharon's office.

"The Erez Crossing is designed for allowing Palestinians to work in Israel and put food on the table of Palestinian homes," he said.

In another development, Israeli President Moshe Katsav went on Arab television and pressed Syrian President Bashar al-Assad to accept Katsav's invitation to visit Israel and launch new peace talks between the longtime enemies.

In the interview with the Al-Jazeera satellite TV channel, Katsav also urged Assad to end support for Palestinian and Lebanese militants to show he was sincere in a recent comment that he was interested in resuming peace talks.

In Damascus, Syrian Prime Minister Mohammed Naji Otari dismissed Katsav's offer as an "advertising invitation."

Contact reporter Soraya Sarhaddi Nelson at [snelson@krwashington.com](mailto:snelson@krwashington.com).

This article contains information from the Associated Press.

**Load-Date:** August 21, 2005



## *Mideast erupts Crisis as Palestinian leader killed*

Hobart Mercury (Australia)

March 23, 2004 Tuesday

Copyright 2004 Nationwide News Pty Limited

**Length:** 565 words

### **Body**

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PALESTINIAN militants have vowed to unleash their fury on Israel and the US after **Hamas** founder Ahmed Yassin was murdered by the Israelis yesterday.

The wheelchair-bound spiritual leader was blown up in a helicopter missile strike outside a Gaza City mosque.

Yassin, in his 60s, was the most prominent Palestinian leader killed by Israel in more than three years of fighting, and his assassination was seen as a major escalation that drew condemnation from the Arab world.

#### Mourners

Tens of thousands of Palestinians carrying billowing green **Hamas** flags flooded the streets of Gaza City for the funeral procession.

Mourners jostled to touch Yassin's flag-draped coffin, and **women** ululated and threw flowers.

Israeli helicopters fired three missiles as Yassin, his bodyguards and dozens of others left a neighbourhood mosque in Gaza City.

Yassin and seven others were killed, including several bodyguards. Seventeen people were wounded, among them two of Yassin's sons.

**Hamas** promised a harsh response.

"Yassin is a man in a nation, and a nation in a man. And the retaliation of this nation will be of the size of this man," said Abdel Aziz Rantisi, a prominent **Hamas** leader in Gaza who himself escaped an Israeli assassination attempt last June.

For the first time, **Hamas** also threatened the US, saying its backing of Israel made the assassination possible.

"All the Muslims of the world will be honoured to join in on the retaliation for this crime," **Hamas** said.

In the past, **Hamas** leaders have insisted their struggle is against Israel and that they would not get involved in causes by militant Muslims in other parts of the world.

The militant groups Islamic Jihad and Al Aqsa Martyrs Brigades, sometimes at odds with **Hamas**, also promised revenge.

Israeli Defence Minister Shaul Mofaz pledged that "the battle against **Hamas** will continue", suggesting there would be more air strikes and raids aimed at the militant group.

## Mideast erupts Crisis as Palestinian leader killed

The US urged both sides to show restraint.

Egypt cancelled a trip by Egyptian legislators and other dignitaries to Israel which had been planned for later this month to mark the 25th anniversary of the signing of a peace treaty between the two countries.

Three more Palestinians were killed in Gaza later yesterday, one while handling explosives and two by Israeli army fire during a protest against the Yassin killing, Palestinian hospital officials said.

Yassin was held responsible for the deaths of hundreds of people.

Fearing reprisal attacks, Israel sealed off the West Bank and Gaza and confined many West Bank Palestinians to their communities.

Flags at Yasser Arafat's headquarters in the West Bank town of Ramallah were lowered to half-staff and the Palestinian Cabinet held an emergency session.

Yassin was Arafat's biggest political rival, but Arafat was always careful not to confront the **Hamas** leader openly.

Cabinet ministers stood as Arafat recited a Muslim prayer for Yassin.

Arafat then added: "May you join the martyrs and the prophets.

"To heaven, you martyr."

Thousands of demonstrators gathered outside Arafat's headquarters, screaming for revenge. Arafat remained inside, apparently fearing he, too, might be targeted by Israel.

Since its founding by Yassin in 1987, **Hamas** has carried out scores of attacks, killing hundreds of Israelis. **Hamas** opposes negotiations with Israel and wants to destroy the Jewish state, replacing it with an Islamic one.

**Load-Date:** March 22, 2004

**HANGING OUT WITH HAMAS;**  
**IT'S EASY TO SEE THE FOOT SOLDIERS OF THE PALESTINIAN STRUGGLE**  
**AS BIT**

The Independent (London)

August 12, 2003, Tuesday

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**Section:** FEATURES; Pg. 2,3

**Length:** 2020 words

**Byline:** JOHANN HARI

## **Body**

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We sip sweet tea in a tiny flat somewhere in Gaza City, my new friends Yousef, Hamid, Mujaheed and I, and talk about Cheers. Usually, they hate American television because it is, Hamid explains, "a tool the Jews use to break our resistance. They show pictures of naked **women** so that we will think about sex and depravity and not about fighting for Islam." But Cheers - that's a different matter. "It is very funny," Hamid says. "So very funny. But I think that since Shelley Long left and Kirsty Alley arrived it hasn't been so good. And Woody is nowhere near as funny as Coach. I guess the truth is that it isn't what it used to be." We all nod sombrely. And, of course, Mujaheed adds, they disapprove of the whole idea of a bar that serves alcohol.

Hamid opens the window. We are all sweating. "Is it true that in London it never stops raining ever? Do you travel in boats?" he asks. All three of the young men I am sitting with - chatting about the usual pop-cultural slurry that is the universal language of twentysomethings everywhere - are members of **Hamas**. The faces of **Hamas** that we see so often in the West are old men like Sheikh Yassin, a withered, tiny man with a long white beard who delivers statements from a hut. We are being fed a lie: **Hamas** is, overwhelmingly, a network of young people like this testosterone- soaked trio.

If you want to understand the organisation, I was told, don't go for the polished spokesmen with their middle-aged moustaches, go for the lads on the street. They overwhelmingly make up the ranks not just of **Hamas** but of the Palestinians, too. More than 50 per cent of the population of the Occupied Territories is under 16; a middle-aged Palestinian is in a tiny minority. So my contact arranges for us to meet in his friend's flat, but our chat doesn't start well. As I enter, I offer everyone a cigarette - a gesture I've never known fail to earn gratitude in the Arab world. Hamid, the oldest, at 28 and the most serious of the three, says with a blank expression, "No. Cigarettes are evil and un-Islamic." Ah, I say, nobody told me. He nods and goes to get some tea.

Hamid wears small, studious-looking black-rimmed glasses and has a face that is almost Botoxed in its inscrutability. Mujaheed is his exact opposite: only 19, and looking younger, he is excitable, prone to swaggering and totally transparent. He is the first to open up when I ask the group when they first remembered thinking about the conflict between Israel and Palestine. "I have always known they were there. They are like a black cloud," Mujaheed says. "They have been there since I was born. I grew up in Saudi Arabia and we didn't come to Palestine until I was 10, but I saw it on the television and I knew.

## HANGING OUT WITH HAMAS; IT'S EASY TO SEE THE FOOT SOLDIERS OF THE PALESTINIAN STRUGGLE AS BIT

"My father explained that these were the people who threw us out of our country and took it over. He told me they were still beating and killing the people who were left. My brothers - there are six of us - would beg our father to take us back so we could join the first Intifada, but we only came in 1992 when it was mostly over. But I was a fighter even in that Intifada: I threw stones at the soldiers!" We all laugh, and the power blinks off. The fan stops working; while we wait for the electricity to return, we quietly bake.

Hamid, as he returns with the drinks, explains that he remembers the first Intifada better, not least because he spent 1990 in prison for street-fighting against the occupying forces. He decided he had to fight, he says, "one day when I was 12 and the first Intifada was just starting. My mother came home and she was crying, and I didn't know why. She went into the bedroom and she was talking to my father, and then he made a phone call and her sisters came to the house with a first-aid kit. She didn't come out of her room for six hours, and when she did, her arm was in a sling. The soldiers broke her arm because she wouldn't let them look in her basket. She only had shopping and didn't see why she should let them look. She cried for days. I knew then I had to fight."

Yousef, on the other hand, has never been arrested. He is skinny, pale and geeky-looking. He has a habit of mumbling. He is 24; he was born two days before I was. Mujaheed has been trying to cut into the conversation ever since he stopped speaking, and now speaks over Yousef to explain, "The day I decided I really hated the Israelis and I would gladly die for my people was just after we came back to Palestine. I was about 10, and my parents took me and one of my brothers to visit my uncle in prison. When we arrived, they wouldn't let us in because we were so young, so my parents went in alone and left us sitting with the prison guards. There was barbed wire and just these Jewish soldiers and their dogs, who were snarling and sniffing at me. Sometimes when I am really angry I can still hear those dogs and remember how frightened I was that day."

These three men are part of a generation of Palestinians that is rapidly being lost to the cause of peaceful coexistence. They are the children of the first Intifada, who saw their parents try non-violent forms of resistance such as withholding taxes and ripping up their Israel-issued ID cards. They saw their parents being beaten and shot in return. Then they lived through the Oslo peace process, during which time the situation actually deteriorated for Palestinians. This was partly because of the corruption of the Palestinian Authority, but also because Israel introduced new restrictions and doubled the number of settlers in the Occupied Territories.

I ask if any of them would like to become suicide bombers. All three of them nod vigorously. "Of course," Mujaheed says, as though it is a stupid question. My contact had warned me that the number of people loudly claiming that they want to be suicide bombers is high; if they all actually did it, the whole of the Middle East would be blown off the map. But Mujaheed, in particular, seems sincerely enthusiastic. He says breathlessly, "The Israelis are a fighting people; they are all soldiers so they are all targets. It is legitimate to kill them all." But what about, say, Israeli children? "We never attack them," he says. Er, you do, I add, as politely as I can. Lots of times. "Not deliberately. And if you ask about suicide bombing, ask us too what we think of Israelis killing our children every day. Ask us that."

Many commentators in the West have argued recently that public opinion is being cluttered with myths about Hamas: that they are supporters of al Qa'ida, for example, or that they believe that suicide bombers end up in paradise with 72 virgins. I wanted these stories to be myths, too. So I ask, cautiously, what they reckon to Osama bin Laden.

Yousef's face lights up. "He is our love, he is our sheikh, he is a symbol for Muslims. He leads the nation to the shore of safety by implementing the law of God," he says, in the same tone of calm reasonableness with which he pronounced upon Kirsty Alley. Hamid, who is the most politically astute of the trio, chips in: "But this does not mean we support everything he does. We do not support the attacks on New York and Washington." The others shake their heads. "I support it," Yousef says. "They are the places that conspire against Muslims. They deserved it. Look at the world. The Americans support their government against Iraqis. The Russians support their government against the Chechens. Why shouldn't we support Bin Laden?"

## HANGING OUT WITH HAMAS; IT'S EASY TO SEE THE FOOT SOLDIERS OF THE PALESTINIAN STRUGGLE AS BIT

At this point, I want to go back to sitcom chat, but I know I can't avoid discussing such issues with these men. Their world-view is dominated by ideas in a way that's hard to explain to young Westerners: if you ask them practical questions about their everyday lives, they quickly bring the conversation back to their politico-religious beliefs. They don't live in a privatised mental world, where politics happens somewhere "out there". It determines their every action. "The moment I wake up," Yousef says, "I say, bless God for making me live after I was dead. Mohammed says this in the Koran; he considered sleep a form of death. God is in my thoughts every second of the day. Everything I do, I do for God."

Their mental landscape has a far wider scope than mine. They talk about the battle between the Persians and the Romans, or Mecca and Medina at the time of the Prophet, the way I might talk about a holiday I took last year. They see themselves as fitting into a vast picture organised and understood by God - and they have no doubt that God sees them as integral to that picture. "Bush is right. We are in a war of good against evil," Yousef says to laughter. "He just got the sides mixed up. There is an American writer Samuel Huntington who talks about the clash of civilisations. He is right. Civilisations rise and fall, and they fight." So is Islamic civilisation rising again? "Of this I have no doubt. I know it as surely as I know you are sitting in front of me."

I ask these lads what they would say to my friends back home, who drink and smoke and have premarital sex. "The Jews have destroyed your Christianity just like they are trying to destroy our Islam," Hamid says. "You should read the words of the Prophet. Join us. We do not just want to liberate Palestine. We want all countries to live under the Caliphate. The Islamic army once reached the walls of Vienna. It will happen again. We do not have time for girls and for alcohol. We think only about the cause." Do you have female friends? "No," he says, clearly appalled. "Women are very precious but they are not friends. They are women." What do you think about the fact that we tolerate, say, gay people? "This is depraved," he says as the others look away, disgusted even by the question. "Anybody who does this sin must be killed." He begins to explain the story of Sodom and Gomorrah, which have always sounded like pretty cool places to me. I nod as strongly as I can.

Their statements about Jews are contradictory. On the one hand, they claim that Jews could live perfectly safely under the Islamic Caliphate they want to create, because they are "people of the Book" and "sons of Abraham". On the other hand, Mujaheed says, "The Jews were made to live in ghettos in Europe. It is true, isn't it? They should live in isolation. They are the source of all evil and moral corruption. We will be engaged in a battle with them until the Day of Judgement." I ask if they have ever met any Jews. "No," Yousef says. "I have never left Gaza." Hamid is the same. Mujaheed starts talking about those Jewish prison guards again.

They all claim, however, that they would settle for a two-state solution. "If the two-state solution happens, we will live with it, but we will not recognise it. Hamas will never recognise Israel, but if we have our own state, we will not fire at them." I ask if the claims by right-wing Israeli politicians that Hamas is using the current hudna cease-fire to re-arm are true. "Of course," Hamid says. "Just like the Israelis will be getting new F16s from the Americans, we build up our little guns."

I try desperately to lighten the tone. So, what do you enjoy doing of an evening? You know - to relax? Yousef grins. "I am a juggler," he says. "Shall I show you?" I nod, and he takes an orange, a remote control and a hole-punch from the desk in the corner of the room. Juggling with Hamas: this is not how I expected my life to turn out.

It is not hard to see why people succumb to this madness, repulsive though it is, I thought, as my contact and I drove out of Gaza and back towards Jerusalem. From one viewpoint, you are the disenfranchised citizens of a displaced, tiny people who have been abused by the Israelis, abandoned by the Arabs and ignored by the world for 50 years. You will probably never have a decent job; you'll be lucky if you leave Gaza once in your life. You are nothing. But turn that around, and you are central to God's vision. You are part of the revival of a great and true civilisation. You are at the centre of the fight between good and evil, a fight that will lead to the gates of Vienna and beyond. You are everything.

HANGING OUT WITH HAMAS; IT'S EASY TO SEE THE FOOT SOLDIERS OF THE PALESTINIAN  
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## *A victory against terrorism*

The Gazette (Montreal, Quebec)

March 24, 2004 Wednesday Final Edition

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**Section:** Editorial / Op-ed; Pg. A22; Letter

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### **Body**

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Israel's targeted assassination of Sheik Ahmed Yassin is another great victory against terrorism. While European nations and the United Nations have been quick to condemn Israel's actions, they are overlooking the fact Yassin was a terrorist. The Gazette

**Hamas**, as well as other Palestinian Islamist groups, have claimed the lives of hundreds of Israelis and have indiscriminately targeted civilians, including **women** and children. As the spiritual leader of **Hamas**, Yassin did much to finance and sanction suicide bombings, and his death to Israel is as Osama bin Laden's would be to the United States.

The persistent double standard applied to Palestinian terrorist actions, and the legitimization of extremist groups (such as Hezbollah, **Hamas** and Islamic Jihad) by Western nations must end. Palestinian extremists such as **Hamas** should not be given any diplomatic recognition or immunity

As Israel plans to disengage from the Gaza Strip, Yassin's assassination was an essential part in the eradication of terrorist infrastructure that will remain after a withdrawal. **Hamas** does not support a two-state solution and vows to continue its jihad.

The time has come for all Western democracies struggling to contain radical Islamism to show solidarity with Israel.

Peter Subissati

LaSalle

### **Graphic**

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Photo: Palestinians carry casket of **Hamas** leader Sheik Ahmed Yassin.

**Load-Date:** March 24, 2004

## **Terrorist groups end ceasefire**

Western Morning News (Plymouth)

August 22, 2003

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**Section:** News; Other; Others; Pg. 28

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### **Body**

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The main Palestinian terror groups called off their eight-week-old ceasefire yesterday after a **Hamas** leader was killed in an Israeli missile attack. Palestinian Prime Minister Mahmoud Abbas warned that the assassination of Ismail Abu Shanab would make it even harder for him to crack down on the militants, as demanded by Washington's road map peace plan.

Yesterday's missile strike in Gaza City came in response to a suicide bombing on a Jerusalem bus on Tuesday that was carried out by a **Hamas** member and killed 20 people, including several children. Under pressure from the US and Israel, the Palestinian leadership had decided to crack down on the militant groups just hours before Abu Shanab was killed.

The latest escalation places President Bush's ambitious plan for peace in the Middle East in serious jeopardy.

Abu Shanab was driving in his white estate car with two bodyguards when five missiles fired by an Israeli helicopter crashed into it.

He was decapitated by the blasts, both bodyguards were killed, and 15 bystanders were wounded, including **women** and children, doctors said.

The burning wreck of the car was surrounded by throngs of **Hamas** supporters, some of whom smeared their fists with blood and soot and waved them in the air, vowing revenge and chanting "God is Great." Abu Shanab, who was in his early 50s, was widely regarded as a moderate in **Hamas**, and had served as a liaison with Abbas during the prime minister's efforts to persuade the militants to halt their attacks.

He was the third member of **Hamas**' political wing to be killed in targeted Israeli attacks in the last two years. Israel has routinely targeted members of **Hamas**' military wing, but has rarely gone after the political leaders.

The Israeli military confirmed it killed Abu Shanab, and said he was involved in the planning of attacks, along with other **Hamas** leaders.

"There is no question there is a direct link between the heads of **Hamas** and the terrorists on the ground," said Israeli Foreign Ministry official Gideon Meir.

**Hamas** and a smaller militant group, Islamic Jihad, formally called off a three-month unilateral ceasefire they declared on June 29.



## Terrorist groups end ceasefire

"We consider ourselves no longer bound by this ceasefire," said a **Hamas** leader, Ismail Hanieh, after identifying Abu Shanab's headless body.

The **Hamas** founder and spiritual leader, Sheik Ahmed Yassin, said his group would take revenge. "This crosses all red lines," Yassin said of the missile attack. Addressing the Israelis, he said: "You will pay the price for these crimes." The truce had been the fruit of negotiations between the militant groups and Abbas, who wanted to avoid a violent confrontation with them.

Israel had significantly scaled back its military operations in response to the ceasefire, limiting arrest raids and suspending targeted killings.

But several weeks into the truce, **Hamas** changed the terms, saying it would respond with attacks to any killing of an activist by Israeli troops, but then return to observing the ceasefire.

**Hamas** carried out two suicide bombings under the umbrella of the truce, including the Jerusalem bus attack on Tuesday. The Israeli security Cabinet decided late on Wednesday to renew the practice of targeted killings, in response to the Jerusalem bombing, the deadliest since the launch of the road map three months ago.

After the Jerusalem bombing, Abbas had ordered the arrest of all those directly involved in the attack, and then asked his Cabinet for proposals on a wider clampdown.

Palestinian commanders were handed "lists of names, places to raid, of institutions to shut down", said Elias Zananiri, a spokesman for Palestinian security chief Mohammed Dahlan.

"Now this has all been put on hold because the whole thing has changed after the stupid assassination."

**Load-Date:** August 23, 2003

**Words of Fatah, Hamas and Islamic Jihad: 'Just, Lasting and Comprehensive Peace'**

The New York Times  
June 30, 2003 Monday  
Late Edition - Final

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

**Length:** 822 words

## **Body**

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Following are statements yesterday by Yasir Arafat's Fatah movement in the West Bank and by Hamas and Islamic Jihad in Gaza City regarding a truce to halt attacks on Israelis, as distributed by The Associated Press:

### **Fatah**

Out of the desire of the Palestinian political factions on the higher national interests of the Palestinian people in this critical period of our national struggle and stressing the high importance of the national Palestinian unity in our ability to struggle, steadfast to our achieve our fair goals and not to give any chance to harm it on the basis of sticking to the national rights of our people, adopted by the national Palestinian councils of the P.L.O. and the Arab summits, U.N., nonallied and African summits and friends and honorable people in the world, and the full commitment for the continuous struggle to achieve it on top of it the right of our people to return and self-determination and establishing the independent Palestinian state with Jerusalem as a capital on all lands occupied in the year 1967 and in response to all the Arab efforts and the Quartet, we declare for all the countries and lovers of peace and freedom in the world our following initiative:

Cessation of all military operations in accordance with the Egyptian initiative.

At the same time we call upon all the states and peoples and governments worldwide and especially those interested in achieving peace, security and stability in the area to (urge) the Israeli side to implement the following:

First, the immediate stop of all acts of Israeli violence against our people, including stopping assassinations, arrests, deportation, massacres against our communities, cities, villages, refugee camps and to stop the incursions and destruction of the buildings, the economic infrastructure, the official and public institutions, destruction of agricultural lands and lands confiscation, and to stop the Judeaizing measures.

Second, to lift the closure from the Palestinian people and its legitimate elected leadership.

Third, to release all the prisoners and detainees from the Israeli prisons.

Fourth, not to harm the Islamic and Christian holy places, especially the Haram al Sharif, the Church of the Nativity and the Ibrahimi Mosque.

## Words of Fatah, Hamas and Islamic Jihad: 'Just, Lasting and Comprehensive Peace'

Fifth, immediate stop of confiscating of lands and building settlements and expansion in the existing settlements as an introduction to removing them and to remove the separation walls.

Sixth, begin the immediate withdrawal of the occupation forces to where they were before Sept. 28, 2000 and to implement the road map plan to quickly send the international monitors to supervise its implementation according to the international legitimate resolutions and to establish a just and lasting and comprehensive peace in the area.

**Hamas** and Islamic Jihad

Out of our desire for the unity of our Palestinian ranks at this dangerous phase which our people and our cause are going through, and in order to protect our national unity achieved by the intifada and the resistance and documented by the blood of the martyrs, and as the contribution from us to consolidating Palestinian national dialogue on the basis of adherence to the rights of our people, and in order to protect our internal front from the danger of schism and confrontation, and in order to block the enemy from having any excuse to wreck it, and in an assertion of the legitimate right to resist the occupation as a strategic choice until the end of the Zionist occupation of our land and until we achieve all our national rights, and in response to efforts by many in the Palestinian and Arab arena who care about the unity of the Palestinian national ranks, we declare the following initiative:

A. Suspension of the military operations against the Zionist enemy for three months, effective today, in return for the following conditions:

1. An immediate cessation of all forms of Zionist aggression against our Palestinian people including incursions, destruction, closures and sieges on cities, villages and refugee camps, including the siege imposed on President Yasir Arafat, house demolitions, leveling of agricultural land and assaults against land, property and Christian and Islamic holy sites, especially the holy Al Aksa Mosque. In addition, the immediate cessation of all individual assassination operations, massacres, collective measures, all arrests and deportations against our people, leaders, cadres and fighters.

2. The release of all prisoners and detainees, Palestinian and Arab, from occupation prisons without condition or restriction and the return to their homes first and foremost of those who have spent long periods and those with lengthy sentences, **women**, children, the sick and elderly.

B. In the event that the enemy does not act according to these conditions and commitments, or violates any of them, we see ourselves unencumbered by this initiative and we hold the enemy responsible for the consequences.

<http://www.nytimes.com>

**Load-Date:** June 30, 2003