

Date and Time: Thursday, May 2, 2024 6:17:00PM EEST

Job Number: 223358959

Documents (100)

1. [THERE'S DEADLY METHOD TO HAMAS' MADNESS](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language - Expanded Results

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2. [Revenge vow by Hamas](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language - Expanded Results

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3. [HAMAS THREATENS ISRAELI LEADERS AFTER KILLING OF FOUNDER](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language - Expanded Results

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4. [HAMAS WAITS DEFIANTLY AS ISRAEL PLOTS ITS REVENGE](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language - Expanded Results

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5. [More killings feared as Hamas abandons truce:](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language - Expanded Results

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Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Jan 01, 2002 to May 31, 2003

6. [CIVILIANS KILLED IN ISRAELI ASSASSINATION OF HAMAS MILITANT](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language - Expanded Results

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7. [Top Hamas Leader, Seven Others, Killed in Gaza Strike](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language - Expanded Results

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8. [Israeli Missiles Kill 7, Including a Hamas Leader, in Gaza City](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language - Expanded Results

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9. [BACKGROUNDER: ISRAEL 'S ADVERSARIES: Hamas: Back-seat driver to Arafat group; Palestinian -run movement opposes the peace process](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language - Expanded Results

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10. [Israelis target Hamas stronghold](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language - Expanded Results

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11. [TEN KILLED IN ISRAELI AIR STRIKE ON HOME OF HAMAS CHIEF](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language - Expanded Results

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Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Jan 01, 2002 to May 31, 2003

12. [Fear and Rage in Gaza, And Threats by Hamas](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language - Expanded Results

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Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Jan 01, 2002 to May 31, 2003

13. [ISRAEL DEFENDS DEADLY RAID 14 killed, scores hurt on Hamas turf](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language - Expanded Results

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14. [Israeli forces storm Hamas stronghold](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language - Expanded Results

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15. [ISRAELIS STRAFE GAZA HQ AFTER HAMAS ROCKET ATTACK](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language - Expanded Results

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Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Jan 01, 2002 to May 31, 2003

16. [Palestinian group vows revenge: Gaza camp attack. Hamas, militant groups targeted](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language - Expanded Results

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Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Jan 01, 2002 to May 31, 2003

17. [Hamas fires new rockets at Israel](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language - Expanded Results

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18. [WOMAN SUICIDE BOMBER REJECTED BY HAMAS](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language - Expanded Results

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19. [Middle East crisis: Refugee denies UK bomb threat: Student said he would blow up pub for Hamas, court told](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language - Expanded Results

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Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Jan 01, 2002 to May 31, 2003

20. [Israel launches air attack on Gaza City facilities; Hamas: Military responds to unprecedented Palestinian rocket fire](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language - Expanded Results

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21. [*Hamas promises revenge; Rebel commander three others killed by Israelis*](#)**Client/Matter:** -None-**Search Terms:** Hamas**Search Type:** Natural Language - Expanded Results**Narrowed by:****Content Type**
News**Narrowed by**
Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Jan 01, 2002 to May 31, 200322. [*Bomb kills seven at university: Three US citizens among dead after Hamas attack*](#)**Client/Matter:** -None-**Search Terms:** Hamas**Search Type:** Natural Language - Expanded Results**Narrowed by:****Content Type**
News**Narrowed by**
Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Jan 01, 2002 to May 31, 200323. [*Clamp on West Bank travel as Hamas leader caught*](#)**Client/Matter:** -None-**Search Terms:** Hamas**Search Type:** Natural Language - Expanded Results**Narrowed by:****Content Type**
News**Narrowed by**
Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Jan 01, 2002 to May 31, 200324. [*15 DEAD IN SUICIDE BLAST Hamas bus attack shatters Israel calm*](#)**Client/Matter:** -None-**Search Terms:** Hamas**Search Type:** Natural Language - Expanded Results**Narrowed by:****Content Type**
News**Narrowed by**
Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Jan 01, 2002 to May 31, 200325. [*Israeli troops kill 4 in raid; Hamas calls 'all-out war'*](#)**Client/Matter:** -None-**Search Terms:** Hamas**Search Type:** Natural Language - Expanded Results**Narrowed by:****Content Type**
News**Narrowed by**
Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Jan 01, 2002 to May 31, 2003

26. [*Hamas vows revenge after 14 die in Israeli 'massacre': Operation targeted extremist groups, not civilians: Israel*](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language - Expanded Results

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Narrowed by
Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Jan 01, 2002 to May 31, 2003

27. [*Israel retaliates for attacks; Helicopters destroy alleged Hamas weapons factory after university attack and bus bombing*](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language - Expanded Results

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Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Jan 01, 2002 to May 31, 2003

28. [*Palestinian group vows 'all-out war'; Hamas made the pledge after losing four members. Israel issued its own threat after deadly shootings.*](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language - Expanded Results

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Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Jan 01, 2002 to May 31, 2003

29. [*PALESTINIANS WANT REVENGE; MOURNERS PROTEST ISRAELI BOMB ATTACK THAT KILLED HAMAS LEADER, CIVILIANS*](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language - Expanded Results

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News

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Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Jan 01, 2002 to May 31, 2003

30. [*Arafat: 'I'm helpless'; With Hamas vowing 'all-out war' on Israel , Arafat says he's helpless to keep the peace*](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language - Expanded Results

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May 31, 2003

31. [*Israeli missiles kill 7, wound 48: Victims range in age from 4 to 75. Senior Hamas commander among those wiped out by huge explosion in Gaza City*](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language - Expanded Results

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Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Jan 01, 2002 to May 31, 2003

32. [*Children killed in suicide attack on bus: Hamas claims responsibility for Jerusalem blast that leaves eight dead while dealing stunning blow to peace camp*](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language - Expanded Results

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Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Jan 01, 2002 to May 31, 2003

33. [*Israel strikes back for attack on kibbutz: In Cairo, Hamas considers one-year end to suicide bombings*](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language - Expanded Results

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News

Narrowed by
Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Jan 01, 2002 to May 31, 2003

34. [*Calls for vengeance as Israeli missile kills nine children; Britain joins condemnation after attack on Hamas chief*](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language - Expanded Results

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News

Narrowed by
Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Jan 01, 2002 to May 31, 2003

35. [*Israelis closing in on suicide bomb Briton; Secret service agents raid houses for hiding place as Hamas connection is revealed*](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language - Expanded Results

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Narrowed by
Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Jan 01, 2002 to May 31, 2003

36. [Israel : Faulty data led to attack; It said it had not known women and children were with the Hamas leader killed last month.](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language - Expanded Results

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Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Jan 01, 2002 to May 31, 2003

37. [Hamas declares 'all-out war' on Israel : Palestinian gunman killed after wounding 15 in attack on civilians at crowded bus stop](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language - Expanded Results

Narrowed by:

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News

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Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Jan 01, 2002 to May 31, 2003

38. [Nativity siege duo are Hamas bomb terrorists](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language - Expanded Results

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Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Jan 01, 2002 to May 31, 2003

39. ['PASSOVER MASSACRE' KILLS 19: HAMAS CLAIMS RESPONSIBILITY FOR SUICIDE BOMBING](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language - Expanded Results

Narrowed by:

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News

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Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Jan 01, 2002 to May 31, 2003

40. [14 wounded in Tel Aviv suicide raid](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language - Expanded Results

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News

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Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Jan 01, 2002 to May 31, 2003

41. [Israel bombs rebel's home, at least 11 die](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language - Expanded Results

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News

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Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Jan 01, 2002 to May 31, 2003

42. [Arafat condemns bombing: Stage set for Powell's meeting with Arafat; Hamas vows to continue campaign of violence](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language - Expanded Results

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43. [Israeli air strike kills 11 in Gaza](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language - Expanded Results

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44. [Ending bomb campaign is the first step to peace; It may be up to Arab countries to leash Hamas, Hezbollah and Islamic Jihad.](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language - Expanded Results

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Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Jan 01, 2002 to May 31, 2003

45. [Missile hits Israel after raid kills 11 Palestinians](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language - Expanded Results

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News

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Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Jan 01, 2002 to May 31, 2003

46. [ISRAEL WIPES OUT HAMAS FAMILY IN DAY OF REVENGE](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language - Expanded Results

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Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Jan 01, 2002 to May 31, 2003

47. [9 die in clashes; West Bank: Israelis and Palestinians prepare for peace talks amid violence](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language - Expanded Results

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Narrowed by
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48. [SUICIDE BOMBER KILLS 19 ISRAELIS AT BEGINNING OF PASSOVER MEAL ; EXPLOSION AT HOTEL INJURES MORE THAN 120; HAMAS CLAIMS RESPONSIBILITY](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language - Expanded Results

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49. [MIDDLE EAST: 'FOR US, THE PREFERRED WAY OF ENDING OUR LIVES WOULD BE MARTYRDOM'](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language - Expanded Results

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50. [Suicide bomber kills 15; Hamas claims responsibility for attack in Tel Aviv suburb](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language - Expanded Results

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May 31, 2003

51. [PALESTINIANS, ISRAEL VOW RETALIATION AFTER KILLINGS](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language - Expanded Results

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52. [PALESTINIAN AUTHORITY SAYS IT CAN'T ENFORCE A CEASE-FIRE](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language - Expanded Results

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53. [Revenge pledged after four killed](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language - Expanded Results

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54. [Israel closes 2 Palestinian universities](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language - Expanded Results

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55. [Female bomber vowed revenge](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language - Expanded Results

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56. [Condemn Palestinians and United Nations , but not Israel](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language - Expanded Results

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Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Jan 01, 2002 to May 31, 2003

57. [Explosion in a Gaza House Kills 2 Teenagers; Cause Is Disputed](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language - Expanded Results

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58. [10 KILLED AND 95 INJURED IN ISRAELI MISSILE ATTACK](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language - Expanded Results

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59. [11 KILLED AND 100 INJURED IN ISRAELI MISSILE ATTACK](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language - Expanded Results

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60. [IRAN & SYRIA UP THE ANTE IN ARAFAT'S WAR ON ISRAEL](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language - Expanded Results

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61. [In Gaza, they're still sure that resistance is only way](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language - Expanded Results

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Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Jan 01, 2002 to May 31, 2003

62. [*Gloves off again as Israelis demolish homes*](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language - Expanded Results

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Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Jan 01, 2002 to May 31, 2003

63. [*Israeli Army demolishes Palestinian homes*](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language - Expanded Results

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64. [*Israel kills 12 in Gaza; INNOCENTS ATTACKED*](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language - Expanded Results

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65. [*Hamas bomber 'told girl to get off doomed bus'*](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language - Expanded Results

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Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Jan 01, 2002 to May 31, 2003

66. [*Gaza celebrates cafeteria bombing*](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language - Expanded Results

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67. [*Suicide bombing in Israel hailed as 'a gift' to Iraq*](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language - Expanded Results

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68. [*New deaths dash last hopes for ceasefire*](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language - Expanded Results

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69. [*Israeli gunship kills 14; U.S. 'deeply troubled' by escalating violence*](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language - Expanded Results

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Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Jan 01, 2002 to May 31, 2003

70. [*U.S. joins criticism of Israel for strike*](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language - Expanded Results

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71. [*'Would the British attack like this to kill Adams?'*](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language - Expanded Results

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72. [Tanks head to Gaza; Israeli incursion includes bulldozers, helicopters](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language - Expanded Results

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73. [Four Israeli troops die as truce is broken](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language - Expanded Results

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74. [Israel bombing 'gift' to Iraqi people, group says March 31, 2003, Monday](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language - Expanded Results

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75. [Israeli tanks flatten Palestinian post](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language - Expanded Results

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Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Jan 01, 2002 to May 31, 2003

76. [Cycle of violence continues despite diplomatic activity; Islamic militants' verdict on historic Sharon-Mazen talks resulted in death tally of 21 last week](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language - Expanded Results

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Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Jan 01, 2002 to May 31, 2003

77. [*Butchers need dead babies*](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language - Expanded Results

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Narrowed by
Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Jan 01, 2002 to May 31, 2003

78. [*CHILDREN AMONG 12 DEAD IN ISRAELI AIR STRIKE*](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language - Expanded Results

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Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Jan 01, 2002 to May 31, 2003

79. [*Palestinian gunmen fire upon two cars, killing 4; Violence: The attacks occur after Israeli tanks flatten an intelligence post*](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language - Expanded Results

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Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Jan 01, 2002 to May 31, 2003

80. [*Response to Massacre Prepared*](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language - Expanded Results

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Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Jan 01, 2002 to May 31, 2003

81. [*Terrorist mobs flag a warning*](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language - Expanded Results

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Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Jan 01, 2002 to May 31, 2003

82. [Shooting in Jerusalem: Militant Palestinians abandon informal truce, await retaliation](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language - Expanded Results

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83. [Special report: Friends and martyrs: Social pressures to kill](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language - Expanded Results

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Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Jan 01, 2002 to May 31, 2003

84. [Suicide bomb injures 30 in Israel](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language - Expanded Results

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85. [A day of carnage in Mideast: 18 die in five separate terrorist attacks; Suicide bomber kills nine, Hamas claims responsibility](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language - Expanded Results

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86. [Wages of War](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language - Expanded Results

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87. [Arafat's cabinet supports Israeli cease-fire plan](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language - Expanded Results

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88. [Sharon hails 'successful' Gaza attacks: Israeli leader says more strikes coming; regrets civilian deaths](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language - Expanded Results

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89. [DRAFT FATAH STATEMENT URGES END TO ATTACKS ON CIVILIANS; ISRAELIS DISMISS DECLARATION, PALESTINIANS OPPOSE IT](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language - Expanded Results

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News

Narrowed by
Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Jan 01, 2002 to May 31, 2003

90. [Gaza airstrike that killed 14 criticized](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language - Expanded Results

Narrowed by:

Content Type
News

Narrowed by
Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Jan 01, 2002 to May 31, 2003

91. [Israeli troops hit three towns in revenge for rocket attacks](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language - Expanded Results

Narrowed by:

Content Type
News

Narrowed by
Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Jan 01, 2002 to May 31, 2003

92. [Hidden bomb rocks Hebrew University](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language - Expanded Results

Narrowed by:

Content Type
News

Narrowed by
Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Jan 01, 2002 to May 31, 2003

93. [*Palestinians add next-generation rockets to their arsenal*](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language - Expanded Results

Narrowed by:

Content Type
News

Narrowed by
Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Jan 01, 2002 to May 31, 2003

94. [*FOURTEEN DIE AFTER ISRAELIS LAUNCH MISSILE INTO CROWD*](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language - Expanded Results

Narrowed by:

Content Type
News

Narrowed by
Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Jan 01, 2002 to May 31, 2003

95. [*Stalemate in Mideast After Deadly Bombing*](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language - Expanded Results

Narrowed by:

Content Type
News

Narrowed by
Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Jan 01, 2002 to May 31, 2003

96. [*Israeli troops attack, kill 12 Palestinians*](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language - Expanded Results

Narrowed by:

Content Type
News

Narrowed by
Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Jan 01, 2002 to May 31, 2003

97. [*Most Killed in Gaza Strip Attack Were Armed Gunmen, Israel Says*](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language - Expanded Results

Narrowed by:

Content Type
News

Narrowed by

Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Jan 01, 2002 to May 31, 2003

98. ['Rivers of blood will be stanching': Palestinian militants to renew plan to end 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: Jan 01, 2002 to May 31, 2003

99. [4 Israeli soldiers killed in raid by 2 Palestinians](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language - Expanded Results

Narrowed by:

Content Type
News

Narrowed by

Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Jan 01, 2002 to May 31, 2003

100. [Israel also entitled to avenge acts of terrorism](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language - Expanded Results

Narrowed by:

Content Type
News

Narrowed by

Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Jan 01, 2002 to May 31, 2003

THERE'S DEADLY METHOD TO HAMAS' MADNESS

Daily News (New York)

May 9, 2002, Thursday

SPORTS FINAL EDITION

Copyright 2002 Daily News, L.P.

Section: EDITORIAL;; COLUMN,OPINION

Length: 484 words

Byline: BY STANLEY CROUCH

Body

What we are seeing from **Hamas**, the Palestinian terrorist organization, is not irrational, spontaneous outbursts of violence, but a masterful long-range strategy. Those who would deal with **Hamas** had better figure this one out and stop being manipulated.

At this point, **Hamas** still holds the Palestinian victim's mask in place. It has learned that if you can cast yourself as the victim, all your actions are then traced back to some evil deed committed by your opponent, no matter how many civilians you are killing - men, **women** and children.

The rationale is that if they had not done such and such, these terrible things could have been avoided. When pushed to the wall, this position often includes the political insanity defense, in which you claim to have been driven mad by the weight of oppression. So it's still their fault.

In short, **Hamas** wants the absolute freedom to do anything that it chooses and still be able to blame it all on Israel.

Prime Minister Ariel Sharon is essential to this strategy. That is why 15 months ago, when the Israelis were holding an election for prime minister, **Hamas** stepped up its suicide bombing campaign. It figured, correctly, that Israelis would turn to strongman Sharon, who can always be counted on to meet force with force.

Hamas does not want negotiations of any sort. It wants chaos and constant pressure put not only on Israel, but on the United States. Its terror campaign and Sharon's military response guarantee that.

Sharon is being played like an Arabian drum. He comes to Washington to meet with President Bush and discuss his plan for Israeli security. But **Hamas** sends in another suicide bomber, this one into a crowded pool hall where 15 victims are killed, calculating that Sharon will go into a rage and essentially tell the world that neither Bush nor anyone else will hold him back from plucking out eyes and snuffing out lives in revenge for those lost in Israel.

Hamas also wants to undercut any kind of authority that Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat might have while pretending that its actions are not part of a strategy but are the will of the people, something that no one can control because a great cause always transcends politics.

But of course it is all about politics. **Hamas** is less interested in an independent Palestinian state than it is in destroying Israel. Not from the outside, but by creating a situation in which Israel eventually will have to accept the right of return of Palestinian refugees or face losing support of the United States. "Right of return" is, of course, code for "overwhelm and destroy Israel."

THERE'S DEADLY METHOD TO HAMAS' MADNESS

Israel must grasp the importance of staying its course and negotiating its difficult way through, even though **Hamas** will do everything it can to stop such negotiations.

Only then might that beleaguered nation expose the ruthless but shrewd **Hamas** leadership for what it truly is.

E-mail: scrouch@edit.nydailynews.com

Load-Date: May 9, 2002

End of Document

Revenge vow by Hamas

Hobart Mercury (Australia)

January 26, 2002, Saturday

Copyright 2002 Nationwide News Pty Limited

Section: WORLD; Pg. 23

Length: 263 words

Body

ISRAEL faced likely Palestinian revenge attacks after the killings of a Hamas militant and two men accused of trying to attack a Jewish settlement.

The latest violence in the Gaza Strip played out a familiar drama of death and retribution that has eclipsed hopes to end a 16-month-old conflict that has claimed more than 1000 lives.

REUTERS

The US, meanwhile, said it "understood" Israel's decision to confine Yasser Arafat to his West Bank headquarters, a move Palestinians say is aimed at toppling him.

Israeli Prime Minister Ariel Sharon announced he had accepted an invitation by US President George W. Bush to meet in Washington on February 7.

It will be the right-wing prime minister's second visit with Bush in just over two months. Arafat has yet to meet Bush.

Adding to Middle East tensions, a car bomb exploded in Beirut yesterday, killing Lebanese warlord Elie Hobeika, whose pro-Israeli Christian militia massacred hundreds of Palestinians in refugee camps in 1982.

Continuing a cycle of tit-for-tat attacks, Israel launched its harshest reprisal since a Palestinian gunman killed two women in Jerusalem's shopping district on Tuesday.

Helicopter gunships killed a senior militant from the Islamic group Hamas and seriously wounded two other Palestinians in a missile strike on a car in the southern Gaza Strip.

Mahmoud al-Zahar, a Hamas leader, vowed a "painful" response.

Just hours later, an Israel tank opened fire on what the army described as a "terrorist squad" trying to infiltrate a nearby Jewish settlement in the Gush Katif bloc. Two Palestinians were killed.

Load-Date: January 25, 2002

HAMAS THREATENS ISRAELI LEADERS AFTER KILLING OF FOUNDER

Independent on Sunday (London)

March 9, 2003, Sunday

Copyright 2003 Independent Print Ltd

Section: FEATURES; Pg. 23

Length: 702 words

Byline: JUSTIN HUGGLER IN JERUSALEM A Palestinian policeman guards the wreck of the car containing **Hamas** leader Ibrahim Maqadmeh, after it was attacked by Israeli helicopters yesterday KAREL PRINSLOO

Body

The Israeli military yesterday assassinated one of the founders of **Hamas**, the most powerful Palestinian militant group. Israeli helicopters fired several rockets at Ibrahim Maqadmeh's car as he travelled through a residential area of the Gaza Strip, cutting him and three bodyguards to pieces.

Hamas responded yesterday by openly threatening for the first time to target directly Israeli government ministers and members of parliament. The violence is spinning out of control here once again, even as the world waits for a probable American attack on Iraq.

The Mitsubishi in which Maqadmeh was driving, near the Gaza Strip's Sheikh Ridwan cemetery, was a mangled wreck yesterday. A witness who gave his name as Abu Shadan said: "When I got to the road I saw burnt bodies, with all their limbs cut off. It was difficult to recognise them but we found the ID card of one of the bodyguards." The three dead bodyguards were all **Hamas** militants. Several bystanders were injured, according to the Palestinian police.

The attack came at the end of a bloody week, in which at least 36 people have died on both sides. Fifteen people - 14 Israelis and one American - were killed by a Palestinian suicide bomber on an Israeli bus packed with students. A heavily pregnant Palestinian woman was crushed to death in her home during an Israeli incursion into the Gaza Strip, and a Palestinian fireman was killed, apparently by an Israeli tank shell, as he tried to put out a burning building after another incursion.

Abd al-Aziz Rantisi, one of the leaders of **Hamas**' political wing, who acts as a spokesman for the organisation, described the death of Maqadmeh as "a big loss for **Hamas**". Trained as a dentist, Maqadmeh quickly became involved in Islamist militant groups. He was arrested and imprisoned, twice by the Israelis, once by the Palestinian Authority, and co-founded **Hamas** from inside an Israeli prison cell.

Maqadmeh once led the armed wing of an earlier militant group, but at the time of his death he was acting as a recruiter for **Hamas** - and presumably for its armed wing, the Izz al-Din al-Qassam Brigades. The Israelis accused him of involvement in many militant attacks.

The Izz al-Din al-Qassam Brigades yesterday released a statement saying it had "informed all its cells that all military options are open" and to target Israel's "political leaders". Although it is probable that **Hamas** has targeted Israeli government ministers before, this is the first time it has publicly declared it will do so. Dr Rantisi said Israeli MPs would also be targets.

HAMAS THREATENS ISRAELI LEADERS AFTER KILLING OF FOUNDER

The assassination comes after **Hamas** claimed responsibility for the suicide bombing on the bus full of students in Haifa on Wednesday and for an attack on the Jewish settlement of Kiryat Araba, next to Hebron, on Friday night. Two Palestinian militants got into the settlement disguised as Jewish religious students and opened fire, killing a husband and wife.

In one incursion after another into the Gaza Strip by the Israeli army in recent weeks, Palestinian civilians have been killed. On Monday, Nuha Maqadmeh, nine months pregnant, was crushed to death after Israeli soldiers failed to evacuate her from her home when they dynamited the house next door. Instead the family were ordered to stay inside.

On Thursday, Naji abu Jalili, a Palestinian fireman, was killed as he tried to put out a fire. Television footage appeared to show that an Israeli tank fired a shell at Jalili and a large crowd of civilians watching him. Seven others died, among them at least one child.

The Israeli incursions have targeted **Hamas**. On Monday, the Israeli army said it had captured a **Hamas** political leader and a senior member of the armed wing. But the movement's reaction yesterday showed that the latest action was considerably more significant.

As the violence raged, the PLO central council met yesterday to talk about the appointment of a Palestinian prime minister - and Yasser Arafat recited a poem he had written in honour of international **women's** day. Mahmoud Abbas, the candidate nominated by Mr Arafat, has said he will not accept unless he is granted real power. There will be no decision before tomorrow, when the Palestinian parliament is expected to meet.

Load-Date: March 9, 2003

End of Document

HAMAS WAITS DEFIANTLY AS ISRAEL PLOTS ITS REVENGE

The Independent (London)

June 25, 2002, Tuesday

Copyright 2002 Independent Print Ltd

Section: FOREIGN NEWS; Pg. 11

Length: 957 words

Byline: Phil Reeves In Gaza City Sheikh Ahmed Yassin, the ailing founder of **Hamas**; Palestinians around a car hit by Israeli helicopter missiles that killed **Hamas** fighters in Gaza yesterday Abid Katib

Body

IF ISMAIL Abu Shanab is a man who frets and suffers fear, it was not evident. Only a few hours earlier, an Israeli combat helicopter had hovered over the same blighted Middle East landscape on which we were standing, and blasted two missiles into its midst.

Four of his fellow **Hamas** activists and two apparently uninvolved Palestinian men were killed in one of the bloodiest Israeli assassinations of the intifada. It was a foretaste of what Israel's Prime Minister, Ariel Sharon, yesterday described as a "massive action" against the Islamic-nationalist movement in the Gaza Strip.

A few yards away, looking exhausted, **Hamas** "spiritual leader", Sheikh Ahmed Yassin, was spread on a bed, having been placed under house arrest by another septuagenarian Palestinian, Yasser Arafat, whose West Bank headquarters were surrounded anew by Israeli tanks and troops.

And yet nothing seemed to faze Ismail Abu Shanab, a **Hamas** spokesman in the Gaza Strip. Not repeated questions from us, the journalists, trying to get him to explain how the 3.3 million Palestinians in the occupied territories could possibly benefit from the murder of Israeli men, **women** and children by **Hamas** suicide bombers, the 19 Israelis, for instance, who were blown up as they were going to work on a bus in Jerusalem last week.

And not the news that, not for the first time, **Hamas** was in the crosshairs of both the -Israel army and the hapless and shattered Palestinian Authority security forces, whom Mr Arafat has mobilised again in a move he hopes will convince the outside world that he is cracking down on militancy.

To the annoyance of the Palestinian leadership, Mr Arafat's efforts yesterday did not deter the Israeli government from sending in its forces into the occupied territories to renew its siege of his Ramallah compound, slapping on yet another mass curfew on the population, and declaring six of the eight main Palestinian West Bank towns to be "closed military areas".

This drew angry Palestinian charges that Israel's reoccupation of the area was almost complete, and Ariel Sharon is trying to spike all chances of diplomatic progress.

We were standing, surrounded by a throng of men, several armed, in a sand -carpeted lane outside Sheikh Yassin's ramshackle house in a rundown backstreet south of Gaza City.

Here, in the early hours yesterday, the Palestinian security forces, led by the police, arrived to place the old cleric under house arrest for the second time in the 21-month intifada.

HAMAS WAITS DEFIANTLY AS ISRAEL PLOTS ITS REVENGE

As the Mediterranean sun rose over the wretched 28-mile long strip, there were early-morning clashes between the police and a throng of young Hamas supporters who arrived to protest, leaving two suffering from light bullet wounds.

These are the militants that Mr Arafat has been under persistent pressure from the international community to rein in, a precondition Mr Sharon has made for any diplomatic advancement.

Although Mr Abu Shanab says he is part of Hamas' political and social structure, rather than its military arm, all of Hamas is defined by Israel as the "terrorist infrastructure" that Mr Sharon claims to be trying to root out, so far without success. In Gaza, the movement is supported by an estimated 40 per cent of the 1.2 million Arab population, drawing its support from the strip's poor, conservative and religious people.

By yesterday afternoon, the word "house arrest" not longer accurately described the sheikh's position. The nearest Palestinian police were 100 yards away. No one stopped us when we walked inside his house, to find the sheikh, who is usually in a wheelchair, on a purple woollen blanket spread across a bed, his long yellow -tinged beard sprayed out on his chest.

He was, said Mr Abu Shanab, too weary to talk to us. But Mr Abu Shanab was quite willing to hold forth at length, calming reeling off arguments that sought to justify Hamas' tactics.

He spoke of an organisation that does not care of what the western world thinks about its deeds, because it has convinced itself that that the western world is incapable of being fair to the Palestinians.

It was different in 1996, when hundreds of Hamas activists were jailed by Yasser Arafat; Hamas, he said, agreed to co-operate because there was a political horizon, the prospect that the Oslo negotiations would lead to a Palestinian state.

Not so today. "Things have changed," Mr Abu Shanab said. "At that time (1996) Arafat came with a political perspective, but now, with Arafat under siege from Israeli tanks, where is the political horizon?"

Hamas appears to be banking on the Palestinians - despite curfews and closures and losses - simply outlasting the Israelis in this conflict.

He believes the latter will eventually be unable to tolerate their losses, and will react by changing its leadership and strategy. "We are willing to pay the price so that we reach the point where fatigue in Israeli society will eventually too great."

He saw no prospect of any change emerging from President George Bush's delayed speech on the Middle East. "We have no confidence in Bush and don't trust any of his cabinet," he said and displayed no remorse over the wave of suicide bombings.

"We have told Israelis that if they kill our civilians, we will kill their civilians. They have set the rules for this game. It is a tooth for a tooth, an eye for an eye. That's the equation."

The prospect of Mr Sharon's declared "massive action" against Hamas - which has reportedly been preparing for a military invasion of Gaza for months - drew a particularly belligerent reaction from the Hamas man.

"Sharon is not going to scare us. We will continue to resist the occupation. The Palestinians are determined to fight to defend Gaza. We are taking precautions." It sounds ominous.

Load-Date: June 25, 2002

More killings feared as Hamas abandons truce;

Irish News

January 10, 2002

Copyright 2002 The Irish News Limited

Section: Pg. 15

Length: 544 words

Body

PALESTINIANS were last night braced for reprisal attacks after Hamas abandoned its truce and stormed an Israeli army post on the Gaza border, killing four soldiers.

It was the first Palestinian attack on Israelis in nearly a month and hard-line prime minister Ariel Sharon told his emergency cabinet he would stick to the government policy of vengeance attacks.

The attack, claimed by the Islamic militant Hamas group, dealt a severe blow to US truce efforts. Earlier this week, a US mediator had left the region on a hopeful note, saying both sides were working toward a truce after a lull of several weeks.

The four soldiers killed yesterday were members of the Israeli army's Desert Reconnaissance battalion, made up almost entirely of Bedouins Arabs.

Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat said he was sticking to the truce, and the Palestinian Authority issued a statement condemning the attack.

However, Israeli army chief Lieutenant General Shaul Mofaz held Mr Arafat's government responsible, saying the incident proved "beyond any doubt that the Palestinian Authority is not fighting against the infrastructure of terrorism".

Israel's security cabinet met for three hours yesterday where Mr Sharon told ministers that Israel would stick to the principle of retaliating for every attack.

Hassan Yousef, a Hamas leader in the West Bank, said the group resumed attacks - despite a public pledge last month to observe a truce - because of what he said was continued Israeli aggression against Palestinians.

The attack began before dawn when raiders cut through the fence between Israel and the Gaza Strip, near the Israeli farming village of Kerem Shalom.

They stormed an army outpost, throwing grenades and firing assault rifles. One assailant fired at two soldiers in a jeep, while the second charged a nearby observation post, seriously wounding the sentry, said Major General Doron Almog, head of the army's southern command.

After the initial attack, an army patrol rushed to the scene, but also drew fire. A major, two sergeants and a fourth soldier were killed in the attack. Two soldiers were wounded, one of them seriously.

More killings feared as Hamas abandons truce;

The two assailants, both dressed in Palestinian police uniforms, were killed.

They were identified as Mohammed Abu Jamous and Emad Rizzek, residents of the Rafah refugee camp. Abu Jamous was a member of the Palestinian naval police.

Clutching a photograph of her husband of only three months, Andalib Abu Jamous (20), said her husband did not return home the night before the attack.

"He said he was going to spend the night praying at the mosque, " she said, tears streaming down her face. She was sitting on cushions in between female relatives who held green Hamas flags in their hands.

Both men were well-known Hamas supporters, camp residents said.

The last Palestinian attack on Israelis was on December 12 when a Hamas member opened fire on an Israeli bus, killing 10 passengers and wounding 30.

Four days later, acting under growing international pressure, Mr Arafat declared a halt to all attacks.

Since then, there has been a sharp drop in Palestinian violence. Mortar fire stopped, and there were only sporadic shootings. The Palestinian security forces also rounded up dozens of members of Hamas and the Islamic Jihad group.

Graphic

'STICKING TO TRUCE': Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat at a celebration to mark the implementation of the Palestinian Labor Law at the Ministry of Labor in the West Bank town of Ramallah yesterday

Load-Date: January 10, 2002

CIVILIANS KILLED IN ISRAELI ASSASSINATION OF HAMAS MILITANT

The Independent (London)

April 9, 2003, Wednesday

Copyright 2003 Independent Print Ltd

Section: FOREIGN NEWS; Pg. 12

Length: 596 words

Byline: JUSTIN HUGGLER IN JERUSALEM

Body

AT LEAST five people were killed in an Israeli missile attack on Gaza City yesterday. The target of the attack was a senior figure in the Hamas militant movement, but two of the dead were thought to have been civilians.

Women and children were among almost 50 injured people who turned up at Gaza's al-Shifa hospital.

Eyewitnesses said the Israeli aircraft that attacked Saad al-Arabeed, an aide to the leader of Hamas's armed wing, fired a second time into a crowd of civilians who had rushed to the scene where Arabeed's wrecked Subaru car was still smouldering.

Doctors at al-Shifa said three of the dead came from the remains of the Subaru. They were identified as Hamas militants. But the other two were from among the crowd of civilians around the car, doctors said. Their mangled bodies had not been identified last night.

Arabeed was an aide to Israel's most wanted man, Mohammed Deif, the so-called Hamas chief bomb maker. Mr Deif is the military commander of the Izz al-Din al-Qassan Brigades, Hamas's armed wing, and is said to be responsible for the deaths of scores of people in suicide bombings and other militant attacks.

The Israeli army has attempted to assassinate him on more than one occasion, but has so far failed. Yesterday they assassinated one of his aides.

Arabeed was travelling in the Subaru with two other Hamas men, Ashraf al-Halabi and Omar Nasser, believed to be his bodyguards, through the Askoula neighbourhood in the south of Gaza City. The car was attacked near Imam al-Shafai mosque.

Ghalem Shehaiber, a 16-year-old with shrapnel in his back from the attack, told reporters in al-Shifa hospital how he was standing near by, at the Askoula circle, a landmark. "I heard two missiles fired. I rushed to the scene."

What Mr Shehaiber claims happened next is disturbing. A large crowd had gathered around the wrecked car. "After a short time, maybe two minutes, two more missiles were fired at the crowd." Mr Shehaiber and another witness, who declined to give his name, claimed that it was at this time that most of the wounded were hit.

The Israeli army has an openly stated policy of assassinating senior Palestinian militants, and it has repeatedly fired into crowded civilian areas during its assassinations. Last July, nine Palestinian children were killed when the Israeli air force dropped a one-tonne bomb into a packed area of slum housing in Gaza City in the middle of the night on a mission to assassinate Saleh Shehadeh, a leading Hamas militant.

CIVILIANS KILLED IN ISRAELI ASSASSINATION OF HAMAS MILITANT

The assassination of Arabeed is the first since the American and British armies invaded Iraq. It brought to an end three weeks of relative calm in the Gaza Strip. In the weeks leading up to the Iraq war, Israeli tanks were making almost daily incursions into the Gaza Strip.

Before the Iraq war began, there were widespread fears that the Israeli army would take advantage of a time when international attention was elsewhere and step up its campaign in the occupied territories.

But, apparently under pressure from the United States to keep the situation in the occupied territories calm for the duration of the Iraq war, it did the opposite and reined in activities. After yesterday's assassination, those original fears will be revived.

Last week more than 1,000 Palestinian men and boys were rounded up and trucked out of the Tulkarem refugee camp in the West Bank at gunpoint. The Israeli army said they were only forced out to allow soldiers to search their homes, and all the men and boys were allowed to return home after three days. But the experience unnerved many Palestinians.

Load-Date: April 9, 2003

End of Document

Top Hamas Leader, Seven Others, Killed in Gaza Strike

New York Sun (Archive)

April 9, 2003 Wednesday

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Section: FOREIGN; Pg. 5

Length: 600 words

Byline: By IBRAHIM B ARZAK

Dateline: GAZA CITY, Gaza Strip

Body

An Israeli warplane fired a missile at a car in Gaza City after sundown last night, killing at least eight people - including two Palestinian Arab terrorists - in the first Israeli air strike in Palestinian territory since the war in Iraq began.

At least 47 people also were wounded - eight of them critically - by the missile strike, doctors said. The wounded were civilians ranging in age from 6 to 75, doctors said.

Witnesses reported a huge explosion in the Zeitoun neighborhood in Gaza City, known as a stronghold of the militant group **Hamas**, which is responsible for dozens of attacks that have killed hundreds of Israelis in 30 months of fighting.

One of the dead was identified as Saed Arabeed, 38, a senior **Hamas** commander. According to the Jerusalem Post, Mr. Arabeed was one of the top commanders of **Hamas**' military wing in Gaza, Izzadin al Kassam.

Citing military sources, the Post said Mr. Arabid led the military operations of **Hamas**, together with Mohammed Deif, since the early 1990s.

The two men were responsible for the planning and execution of scores of attacks against Israelis.

Among those the Jerusalem Post cited:

Mr. Arabid was believed directly involved in the attack that led to the death of an Israeli soldier in 1993, and in the bombing of a bus on Tel Aviv's Dizengoff Street in October 1994 in which 21 Israelis were killed and dozens were injured.

Mr. Arabid was also reported to be involved in the kidnap and murder of Corporal Nachshon Waxman. Kidnapped by **Hamas** terrorists on October 9, 1994, he was eventually located in a house at the West Bank town of Bir Naballa.

An elite army force stormed the house, but the raid failed: The force's commander, Nir Poraz, was killed in the firefight, and the terrorists managed to kill Waxman before they were shot dead.

Mr. Arabid was arrested by the Palestinian Authority in May 1999, but was released at the start of the intifadah.

Top Hamas Leader, Seven Others, Killed in Gaza Strike

The other **Hamas** terrorist that the Jerusalem Post reported killed in yesterday's action was Ashraf Halabi, 28, of the Shati refugee camp in Gaza. Mr. Halabi allegedly worked closely with Mr. Arabid in **Hamas**' military wing.

Those injured by yesterday's strike were taken to Shifa Hospital in Gaza City. The casualties included **women** and children.

The Israeli military refused to comment. Since the war in Iraq began March 20, Israel had scaled back its incursions and military operations in the West Bank and Gaza, but Israeli forces have arrested dozens of suspects in nightly sweeps and raids in the West Bank.

Residents said two Israeli F-16 fighter planes circled low over Gaza City, breaking the sound barrier, in the minutes before attacking a Subaru car on a Gaza street.

Yussef Touth, 24, said the white car was approaching an intersection when he saw the planes, then "a big flame in the sky" followed by the missile hitting the car. He was wounded in both legs.

"I saw bodies torn to pieces," he said.

The car was a twisted mass of charred metal after the attack.

Israel has carried out many similar attacks targeting suspected Palestinian Arab terrorists. Palestinian Arab and human rights groups have condemned the practice.

In recent months, Israel frequently has sent forces into Gaza, destroying buildings and arresting suspected militants. Israeli officials say they are targeting the infrastructure of **Hamas** to try to prevent further attacks, including the firing of homemade rockets at Jewish settlements in Gaza and Israeli villages and towns just outside the fence.

Since violence broke out in September 2000, 2,243 people have been killed on the Palestinian Arab side and 753 on the Israeli side.

Load-Date: April 21, 2004

Israeli Missiles Kill 7, Including a Hamas Leader, in Gaza City

The New York Times
April 9, 2003 Wednesday
Late Edition - Final

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Section: Section A; Column 1; Foreign Desk; Pg. 9

Length: 507 words

Byline: By JAMES BENNET

Dateline: JERUSALEM, April 8

Body

Israeli aircraft fired five missiles into a Gaza City neighborhood tonight, killing at least 7 people, including a leader of **Hamas** and a 14-year-old bystander, and wounding 47 others, witnesses and Palestinian hospital officials said.

Witnesses described an initial salvo of two missiles fired from a jet fighter and aimed at a Subaru car in the southern neighborhood of Zeitun. They said that minutes later, as bystanders and rescue workers rushed into the street, helicopters swept overhead and fired two more missiles.

The Israeli Army declined to comment.

Hamas vowed to retaliate for the attack, which came as the Bush administration was weighing how to proceed here with a new international peace plan, known as the road map.

The **Hamas** leader was identified as Said Aldin al-Arabid. Israeli security officials, acknowledging the attack, called Mr. Arabid a top official of **Hamas** in Gaza and accused him of directing dozens of attacks that killed many Israelis. He was jailed for a time by the governing Palestinian Authority but released at the start of the current uprising more than two years ago.

A bodyguard died with him, along with a member of **Hamas** who was not active in its violent wing, Palestinian authorities said.

Hundreds of people gathered tonight at Shifa hospital, where **women** searched screaming through the halls for their children. The wounded included children, **women** and the elderly.

Abdullal Daloul, 14, said he had just left a nearby mosque when the car was struck. "We ran to the car to collect the body parts," he said. "Then, while we were gathered around the car, they hit us."

The blue shirt of his school uniform was spotted with blood. Doctors hovered over him, checking for wounds.

The airstrike came after a period of relative calm for Israelis. No Israelis have been killed in political violence since the United States began its war in Iraq, an outcome Israel attributes to its army's work. But as Israel pressed its offensive during that period, more than two dozen Palestinians have been killed.

Israeli Missiles Kill 7, Including a Hamas Leader, in Gaza City

Palestinians call attacks like the one tonight assassinations and provocations to further violence. Israel says that killings of known Palestinian militants are important for its security.

Ismail Haniya, a leader of Hamas in Gaza, said, "This is a massacre, which is now extended from Baghdad to Palestine, that's committed by Americans and Zionists." He added, "This will only motivate Hamas and the Palestinians to be more persistent in keeping the jihad."

Israel previously tried to kill Mr. Arabid, 33, with a missile strike in August 2001, Palestinian officials said. His son was killed in that attack, they said.

A month ago, Israel used missiles fired from a helicopter in Gaza to kill a founder of Hamas, Ibrahim al-Makadmah.

North of the West Bank city of Nablus, Israeli forces demolished the family home today of a Palestinian gunman who killed 6 Israelis and wounded 26 others in a suicidal shooting attack. That attack, on a banquet hall in the Israeli city of Hadera, was on Jan. 17, 2002.

<http://www.nytimes.com>

Load-Date: April 9, 2003

End of Document

**BACKGROUND: ISRAEL'S ADVERSARIES: Hamas: Back-seat driver to
Arafat group;
Palestinian-run movement opposes the peace process**

The Atlanta Journal-Constitution

January 24, 2002 Thursday,

Home Edition

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**The Atlanta
Journal-Constitution**

Section: News;

Length: 1210 words

Byline: LARRY KAPLOW

Body

Ramallah, West Bank --- His group a day earlier declared a "ferocious war" against Israel, so **Hamas** official Hasan Yosef was keeping an eye on the television Wednesday. He liked what he saw.

Tens of thousands of Palestinians were shown marching through the West Bank city of Nablus in the funeral procession for three of the four **Hamas** fighters killed by Israeli troops the day before.

Palestinians call the men "martyrs," and their deaths spurred a new call to arms. Though Yosef did not say so, he knew that in the angry crowds were probably a few budding suicide bombers prepared to prosecute **Hamas**' latest declaration of war.

Cox Washington Bureau

"If I come to your house and attack you, what would you do to me?" he asked rhetorically. "The support for **Hamas** is clearly increasing."

The breakdown of the peace process and 16 months of intense fighting has caused a surge in popularity for **Hamas**' violent methods.

Hamas, the Palestinian-run Islamic Resistance Movement (whose acronym also means "zeal" in Arabic), has long opposed the peace process and sought the destruction of Israel.

The group's slick Internet Web site contains a chilling "Glory Record" of attacks on Israelis (www.palestine-info.com). **Hamas** has taken credit in the last year for attacks on restaurants, discos, city buses and shopping malls. The dead probably total more than 100 and include children and the elderly.

As Yasser Arafat built his secular Palestinian National Authority upon the foundation of the Oslo Accords, the 1993 agreements with Israel, **Hamas** played the role of the pessimistic back-seat driver.

BACKGROUNDER: ISRAEL 'S ADVERSARIES: Hamas: Back-seat driver to Arafat group; Palestinian -run movement opposes the peace process

Hamas leaders used their religious credentials and a network of schools, health clinics and welfare offices to woo the hearts and minds of Palestinians --- and to try to prove that they are purer than the Mercedes-riding officials under Arafat.

Hamas operatives have carried out bombings against Israeli soldiers and civilians to try to derail a peace process they say is a sham. In the past 16 months, more than 1,100 people have died in Palestinian attacks and Israeli counterattacks, the vast majority of them Palestinians.

A poll taken in mid-December by the Palestine Center for Policy Survey Research showed 58 percent of Palestinians support attacks on Israeli civilians. And 62 percent said attacks on civilians are more effective than negotiations with the Israelis.

Still, though it may win the sympathies of many, **Hamas** has trouble winning over more than a small minority of Palestinians to its ranks.

Tens of thousands might turn out to **Hamas** funerals, but polls rarely show more than one-fifth of Palestinians who support **Hamas** as their political party.

Hamas was founded in an earlier period of great upheaval. In 1987, the Palestinians were beginning their first uprising, or intifada, against their Israeli military occupiers, who had controlled the West Bank and Gaza Strip since capturing them in 1967.

With ties to the Egyptian Muslim Brotherhood and other Islamist groups, Sheikh Ahmed Yassin helped create **Hamas** and remains its leader. Yassin, 63, a quadriplegic as the result of a childhood accident, has served eight years in Israeli jails.

Another key **Hamas** figure was Sheikh Abdullah Azzam, a mentor to Osama bin Laden who heavily influenced today's international Islamic "jihad."

Much of **Hamas**' support rose from the squalid and densely populated refugee camps of the Gaza Strip. They are the kind of places where religion eases hopelessness and frustration is easily converted to violence.

Money for the group's activities --- Israeli experts say it tops at least \$20 million a year --- has come from foreign donors. Iran reportedly made a \$30 million contribution in the early 1990s, but most has come from private donors in the Arab world. And much has come from the United States. The Bush administration in December froze the assets of the Texas-based Holy Land Foundation for Relief and Development, saying it supported **Hamas**. The group's officials deny funding terrorism.

A good chunk of **Hamas**' funds goes to charitable agencies. Like the Lebanon-based Hezbollah, **Hamas** provides kindergartens, cash assistance, health programs and thousands of meals during holidays.

"There are people associated with these organizations like **Hamas** who are struggling against authoritarianism and repression," said Robert Pastor, formerly of the Carter Center and now a political science professor at Emory University. "We should never support acts of terrorism on their part, but people in the Middle East who see **Hamas** in a very different light."

Along with the fight against Israel, **Hamas** has fought other Palestinians to enforce its strict Islamic code. **Hamas** activists were responsible in the 1987-93 uprising for dozens, if not hundreds, of killings of alleged collaborators --- Palestinians working with the Israeli authorities. Human rights groups charge that many of **Hamas**' victims were **women** simply accused of immoral behavior or prostitution.

At the start of the current uprising in 2000, **Hamas** activists were accused of leading mobs that tried to burn down Gaza restaurants that served alcohol. But **Hamas**, once an open rival to Arafat's authority, has sought to unify with it --- at least publicly.

BACKGROUNDER: ISRAEL 'S ADVERSARIES: Hamas: Back-seat driver to Arafat group; Palestinian -run movement opposes the peace process

Hamas officials never say they would consider accepting Israel's existence. But if other Palestinian factions want them to, they might offer a truce. That would only come after Israel withdraws all its troops and settlers from occupied areas, cedes Jerusalem to Palestinian control and allows refugees to return to their land in Israel --- a package Israelis flatly reject.

Already, though, the public bond between **Hamas** and Arafat is fraying. After a particularly lethal series of bombings in early December, killing about 40 Israeli civilians, Arafat called for an end to suicide attacks.

Under intense international pressure, he arrested **Hamas** members and put Yassin under house arrest. There was almost a month of relative quiet until the fighting started again --- punctuated by a **Hamas** attack that killed four soldiers earlier this month.

Tuesday, the bloodshed continued. The Israeli pre-dawn commando raid on a **Hamas** apartment in Nablus killed three **Hamas** activists. The **Hamas** leaflet declaring war on Israel came out by the afternoon.

On Wednesday, in an office in Ramallah, Yosef spoke about **Hamas** and the war with Israel. The conversation took sharp turns. He wanted to know why Americans look at him as a terrorist.

Yosef said he follows the Quran, which teaches that all life is sacred. The stocky 47-year-old has a professorial demeanor for a man on **Hamas**' national and Islamic forces committee that meets regularly to plan the fighting.

On the topic of killing of civilians: "If the Israelis would stop killing civilians, we in **Hamas** would stop killing civilians," he said.

"Most of our attacks are against Israeli soldiers and settlers," he said, referring to the latter as Israelis who have moved into the West Bank and Gaza Strip. "But this is a war, and sometimes civilians are hurt."

Finally, his voice rising, he said: "Do you want us to just be slaughtered without any response? Like sheep?"

"The Israeli occupiers are conducting a comprehensive war against the Palestinians," he said. "The victim has the right to use all its means to defend itself."

Graphic

Photo:

ISRAEL AND CAPTURED PALESTINIAN TERRITORIES (map shows location of Palestinian territories with area of detail) Photo:

Palestinians carry posters of three **Hamas** members in their funeral procession Wednesday. They were killed in an Israeli raid. / NASSER ISHTAYEH / Associated Press

Load-Date: January 24, 2002

Israelis target Hamas stronghold

The Star Phoenix (Saskatoon, Saskatchewan)

May 2, 2003 Friday Final Edition

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Section: World; Pg. D7; News

Length: 549 words

Dateline: GAZA CITY, Gaza Strip

Body

GAZA CITY, Gaza Strip (AP) -- Israeli troops stormed a **Hamas** stronghold on Thursday, setting off the most intense gunbattle in the Gaza Strip in 2 1/2 years of fighting, just a day after mediators presented a Mideast peace plan. Twelve Palestinians were killed, including two children and a top bombmaker.

Palestinian officials and Israeli opposition leaders accused Prime Minister Ariel Sharon of using the raid to undercut the new Palestinian prime minister, Mahmoud Abbas, before he has a chance to fulfil a promise to disarm militias. Associated Press

However, a Sharon adviser said Israel would not halt its anti-terror campaign and would not give Abbas, sworn in Wednesday, a grace period.

The Israeli incursion pitched more than 200 Palestinian gunmen with anti-tank missiles, grenades and homemade explosives against Israeli soldiers who fired machine-guns and tank shells. Sixty-five Palestinians were wounded, 15 of them critically.

The violence came just a day after international mediators presented a new peace plan, the so-called "road map" to Palestinian statehood within three years.

The Palestinians have accepted the plan, while Israel has expressed major reservations.

The road map starts with a Palestinian crackdown on terror groups and an Israeli freeze on Jewish settlements in the West Bank and Gaza Strip, combined with a gradual Israeli pullout from the autonomous Palestinian zones its troops have reoccupied during 31 months of fighting.

In Madrid, U.S. Secretary of State Colin Powell urged both sides to take steps toward implementing the plan. "We need to see the end to terror -- and actions on the Israeli side as well," Powell said at the start of a trip through Europe and the Middle East. Powell was expected to meet with Sharon and Abbas next week.

Foreign Affairs Minister Bill Graham said Canada supports the road map and is ready to assist in any way it can.

"Even in the shadow of continuing violence and terrorism, the prospects for peace in the region will be bolstered by the release of the road map," Graham said in a statement. "We now call on all parties to take the steps necessary for its implementation."

Israelis target Hamas stronghold

The Gaza City incursion came a day after Hamas carried out a suicide bombing in a Tel Aviv pub that killed a waitress and two musicians. However, Israeli military officials did not link the raid to the bombing, saying they were after three top Hamas fugitives in Gaza -- brothers Yousef, Mahmoud and Ayman Abu Hein.

At about 2 a.m. Thursday, tanks and jeeps drove into Gaza City's Shijaiyah neighbourhood. Troops surrounded a four-storey apartment building that was home to 60 members of the Abu Hein family.

Dr. Fadel Abu Hein, a prominent child psychologist and a brother of the wanted men, said the apartment building came under intense fire.

"We are sitting in full darkness. Children are screaming. We are trying to calm them down, but bullets are coming from all directions," he said.

The Israeli commander of the operation, Brig. Gen. Gadi Shami, said the three wanted men tried to keep their relatives in the building as a buffer and that soldiers broke in to rescue the civilians.

However, members of the Abu Hein clan said soldiers used several civilians, including women, as human shields in their search of the building.

Graphic

Photo: Associated Press; A man walks in front of the debris of a house destroyed Thursday by Israeli troops in Gaza

Load-Date: May 2, 2003

TEN KILLED IN ISRAELI AIR STRIKE ON HOME OF HAMAS CHIEF

The Independent (London)

July 23, 2002, Tuesday

Copyright 2002 Independent Print Ltd

Section: FOREIGN NEWS; Pg. 9

Length: 636 words

Byline: Justin Huggler In Jerusalem An infant's body is removed from a house damaged in the Israeli air strike last night Ahmed Jadallah

Body

AT LEAST ten people were killed and more than 90 wounded last night in an Israeli air strike on the Gaza Strip. Among the dead were three children and four women, according to Palestinian officials. The Israeli military said the target of the attack was the head of the military wing of the Islamist militant group Hamas, Sheikh Saleh Shehada, but it was not clear last night whether he had been killed.

Initial reports said Mr Shehada was among the dead but mosques in the Gaza Strip began to announce he had survived but was wounded. Among those who did die, according to a Hamas spokesman, were Mr Shehada's wife and their three children.

There were frantic scenes as locals hoisted the blood-spattered wounded over their shoulders and bundled them into waiting cars. Jamal Halaby, a local police officer, said he saw the missile cross the sky, then heard the sound of a large explosion. "I fell out of my bed and I found myself a minute later covered in dust and stones, and the sounds of my children screaming and crying," he said.

The Israeli military confirmed that Mr Shahada was the target and said he was hit. It accused Mr Shehada of being behind hundreds of attacks on Israeli soldiers and civilians in the past two years. Hamas has been claimed responsible for suicide bombings and other attacks that claimed scores of Israeli lives.

It was not clear whether the other dead and wounded last night were connected to Mr Shehada or Hamas. Witnesses in Gaza City said several houses collapsed after being hit by a single missile, trapping many people under rubble.

The air strike dimmed a faint glimmer of new hope after a day of renewed optimism. It came only hours after Hamas' spiritual leader, Sheikh Ahmad Yassin, said the organisation would consider stopping attacks on Israelis if the Israeli army withdrew from West Bank towns it has reoccupied.

That was after the Israeli Foreign Minister, Shimon Peres, said the Israeli army was prepared to pull out of two of the West Bank towns it has reoccupied, Bethlehem and Hebron, if Palestinian security forces could take over there and prevent attacks against Israelis - remarks that were greeted with scepticism by more hardline members of the Israeli government.

Last night all talk of ending Hamas attacks was off. Ismail Haniyeh, a spokesman for Hamas, said: "Not only will Hamas take revenge for the martyrs, all the Palestinian people will unify to revenge for the blood of the martyrs."

TEN KILLED IN ISRAELI AIR STRIKE ON HOME OF HAMAS CHIEF

He was talking to reporters at Shifa hospital, where the wounded were being treated. The large number of casualties will cause fury among many Palestinians.

Israeli security sources, quoted by the Israeli media, said among the attacks Mr Shehada was responsible for were a militant attack on a training course at a Jewish settlement for students about to enter the army in which five people were killed, and an attack on a military outpost in which four Israeli soldiers died.

The Israeli army has not reoccupied Gaza, as it did with Palestinian towns in the West Bank, but there are frequent Israeli air strikes against targets in Gaza. In recent days, jets have struck twice at metal workshops where the Israelis said Palestinian militants were making bombs and mortars to use against them.

Earlier yesterday, two Palestinians were killed in a gun battle outside a Jewish settlement in the south of the Gaza Strip. The Israeli army said the Palestinians were planning to attack a military outpost at Tel Katifa.

In another development earlier yesterday, the Israeli government said it had released some \$ 20m (pounds 13m) of \$ 600m of Palestinian tax revenues it has been withholding since the beginning of the current intifada.

The West Bank and Gaza Strip are still deep in economic crisis - an effect of many months of Israeli blockades and 24-hour curfews.

Load-Date: July 23, 2002

End of Document

Fear and Rage in Gaza, And Threats by Hamas

The New York Times
May 20, 2002 Monday
Late Edition - Final

Copyright 2002 The New York Times Company

Section: Section A; Column 5; Foreign Desk; Pg. 8

Length: 893 words

Byline: By TIM GOLDEN

Dateline: GAZA CITY, May 19

Body

As graphic scenes of the latest suicide bombing flashed across his television screen, a top political leader of the militant Palestinian group **Hamas** hunched forward on his living room couch today, speaking to the broadcast over his cellphone.

"Sharon and his government have been assassinating our people, our **women** and our children!" the leader, Abdel Aziz al-Rantisi, told the viewers of an Arab news network, who saw his picture in a box beneath the gore. "They must pay a price for every crime they commit."

Dr. Rantisi said he had no idea whether the military arm of **Hamas** was responsible for today's attack, as an anonymous caller told one news agency office in Jerusalem. Another militant group, the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine, issued a statement saying it had carried out the bombing.

But in an interview as he took calls from television and radio stations around the world, Dr. Rantisi waved away any notion that the bombing might have ended a lull in the violence between Israelis and Palestinians.

"This hasn't been a quiet week," he said. "Every day, the Israelis were killing Palestinians -- in Rafah, in Tulkarm. So we have to attack them -- in Tel Aviv or Jerusalem or anywhere else in Israel."

If the Palestinian leadership around Yasir Arafat was quick to condemn the killing of Israeli civilians today, Dr. Rantisi, a 54-year-old pediatrician, was just as quick to justify it. "Martyrdom operations," he said, would continue unabated so long as the Palestinians had no better way to fight the Israeli occupation of their territories.

Despite the bullet holes still visible in his garage door from a failed attempt by Mr. Arafat's police to arrest him last December, Dr. Rantisi added that he was unperturbed by the prospect that the Palestinian authorities might again crack down on **Hamas** and other Islamic militants.

Of at least 17 men said to be **Hamas** militants who were arrested by the Palestinian authorities after the last suicide bombing inside Israel on May 7, he said, none were actual members of the group and most of them had already been freed.

"Mr. Arafat is under two sets of pressures," he said. "One is from the Israelis, the Americans and the Europeans. But the other pressure is from his own people, and nearly all the Palestinians support martyrdom operations."

Fear and Rage in Gaza, And Threats by Hamas

Along the sandy, unpaved streets surrounding Dr. Rantisi's home here, old men sat chatting on plastic chairs and scruffy children ran around playing before dinner. A chorus of distant television sets blared the same news.

Once again, the talk turned to the possibility that after the Israeli Army's offensive against Palestinian cities and towns in the West Bank, Gaza could be next.

"People are very worried," said Ahmed Dahsan, the owner of a hardware store in downtown Gaza City. "It's been more than a month now that they have been preparing for this. But if they come into Gaza, it will be worse than in the West Bank. It is very crowded here, and the people are very angry."

Israeli officials concurred with the notion that the recent lull in violence was more apparent than real, citing a series of Palestinian attacks against Israeli soldiers and settlers. Last week, a senior Israeli military official told reporters in Washington that one more suicide bombing might be enough to activate the offensive into Gaza that commanders prepared and then put off two weeks ago.

But after long weeks of waiting in which they laid in stores of food and supplies, people in Gaza also seemed to have more concrete problems in mind.

Im Maher Karmout, an elderly woman in a head scarf, complained that Israeli troops had demolished her home last month to make room for a military post, leaving her with only paltry compensation from the Palestinian housing ministry and the United Nations.

Abdel Karim, a 40-year-old marine engineer, said he had not been able to find work for months. Khalil Abu Warda chimed in that nobody had been finding any work -- not in a place where the labor force is blocked from travel into Israel and more than two-thirds of workers are unemployed.

"People here have nothing to do but pray," Mr. Karim said. "Not for money or for a new car, but for something to eat."

Such grievances have left rich political terrain for Hamas, which opposes any peace talks and hopes to replace Israel with an Islamic state. Opinion polls indicate that Palestinian support for the group, which also operates a network of social charities, has doubled to about 25 percent since the current uprising began in September 2000.

That popularity has coincided with new political maneuvering by Hamas, including suggestions by the group's leaders that it might participate in a transitional coalition government or even in new elections -- in the unlikely event that they were free of any constraints by the Israeli government.

"We need elections," another Hamas leader, Ismail Abu Shanab, said in a separate interview. "But what is an election under Israeli occupation? An election is about freedom -- freedom of travel, of association, of speech -- and we do not have any of those freedoms."

Another Hamas leader, Mahmoud al-Zahar, said the group saw no reason to change its tactics now.

"Give me one reason why the Palestinians should give up armed struggle" demanded Dr. Zahar, a surgeon. "The peaceful methods, democracy and negotiation, have failed."

<http://www.nytimes.com>

Graphic

Fear and Rage in Gaza, And Threats by Hamas

Photo: Abdel Aziz al-Rantisi, a political leader of the Palestinian group **Hamas**, in Gaza City recently. (Agence France-Presse)

Load-Date: May 20, 2002

End of Document

ISRAEL DEFENDS DEADLY RAID 14 killed, scores hurt on Hamas turf

Daily News (New York)

October 8, 2002, Tuesday

SPORTS FINAL EDITION

Copyright 2002 Daily News, L.P.

Section: NEWS;

Length: 514 words

Byline: By KEN LEE in Khan Younis, Gaza Strip and CORKY SIEMASZKO in New York DAILY NEWS WRITERS

Body

The Israelis made no apologies yesterday for firing a missile into a crowd of Palestinians and attacking a Gaza hospital during an assault on Hamas terrorists.

Fourteen Palestinians were killed and scores more wounded during a four-hour battle in the city of Khan Younis, on the militant group's home turf.

"The most militant of Hamas men are located there," Deputy Defense Minister Weizman Shiri said. "And if damage was caused to innocent civilians, we can be sorry, but what can you do - this is war."

Shiri said the Israelis attacked only armed men and fired on Nasser Hospital after gunmen - using the facility as cover - shot at soldiers.

Hamouda Shaath, the deputy director of the hospital, said dozens of civilians were caught in the crossfire.

"This wasn't an attack, it was a massacre," Shaath said. "All the injured, all of them, were wearing civilian clothing."

As Hamas vowed revenge, Javier Solana, the European Union's foreign policy chief, said he was shocked by the number of civilian casualties.

"Such actions have no legal or moral justification," UN Secretary General Kofi Annan said, calling on both sides to "halt all violent and provocative acts."

The State Department said it was "deeply troubled" by the civilian deaths and called on Israel's military to investigate.

It was the highest civilian toll in Gaza since July 23, when a bomb dropped by an Israeli plane killed nine children, six adults and its intended target, Hamas military commander Salah Shehade. Late-night attack Yesterday's raid began just after midnight, when Israeli soldiers and tanks rolled into a neighborhood west of Khan Younis' refugee camp to hammer Hamas, which has orchestrated dozens of deadly suicide bomb attacks against Jewish civilians.

"The moment that the army went in there, they were fired on from every window and every opening, so our soldiers had to do the job," Shiri said.

One of the first Palestinians to die was Rahima Hassan Ali Salah, 50. When she peeked out of her door, soldiers opened fire, hitting her abdomen and leg.

ISRAEL DEFENDS DEADLY RAID 14 killed, scores hurt on Hamas turf

"My wife was killed," said Salah's weeping husband, Salama, 52. "Perhaps tonight my children will be shot. Maybe tomorrow I'll be dead."

The two sides clashed for several hours before the Israelis began pulling back about 4 a.m. But as the Palestinians emerged from their hiding places, an Israeli chopper swooped down and fired a missile into a crowd.

Brig. Gen. Yisrael Ziv said Israeli forces were aiming at a Hamas "nest of terror." He said some armed men who fired on his soldiers were hiding in the crowd.

Walid Sabah, whose 17-year-old son, Abdullah, was killed in the missile attack, conceded there were gunmen in the crowd. "But still the Israelis should not attack civilians," he said.

Abedi Ashour, 24, said he was leaving his apartment when he heard the explosion.

"People were bleeding, many of them lying on the ground," he said. "Women were screaming, and blood covered the ground."

Nasser Hospital officials said about 110 Palestinians were wounded in the raid, including 25 who were in critical condition. The dead ranged in age from 14 to 52.

Graphic

REUTERS DEAFENING BLAST Palestinian women hold their ears as Israeli tank opens fire in the West Bank city of Nablus yesterday.

Load-Date: October 8, 2002

Israeli forces storm Hamas stronghold

Prince George Citizen (British Columbia)

May 2, 2003 Friday

Final Edition

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Section: WORLD; Pg. 16

Length: 766 words

Byline: Associated Press

Dateline: GAZA CITY, Gaza Strip

Body

GAZA CITY, Gaza Strip (AP) -- Israeli troops stormed a **Hamas** stronghold on Thursday, setting off the most intense gunbattle in the Gaza Strip in 2 1/2 years of fighting, just a day after mediators presented a Mideast peace plan. Twelve Palestinians were killed, including two children and a top bombmaker.

Also Thursday, a Palestinian opened fire on a guard post outside a Jewish settlement in the West Bank, and soldiers killed the attacker, the military said.

Palestinian officials and Israeli opposition leaders accused Prime Minister Ariel Sharon of using the raid to undercut the new Palestinian prime minister, Mahmoud Abbas, before he has a chance to fulfil a promise to disarm militias.

However, a Sharon adviser said Israel would not halt its anti-terror campaign and would not give Abbas, sworn in Wednesday, a grace period.

The Israeli incursion pitched more than 200 Palestinian gunmen with anti-tank missiles, grenades and homemade explosives against Israeli soldiers who fired machine-guns and tank shells. Sixty-five Palestinians were wounded, 15 of them critically.

The violence came just a day after international mediators presented a new peace plan, the so-called "road map" to Palestinian statehood within three years. The Palestinians have accepted the plan, while Israel has expressed major reservations.

The road map starts with a Palestinian crackdown on terror groups and an Israeli freeze on Jewish settlements in the West Bank and Gaza Strip, combined with a gradual Israeli pullout from the autonomous Palestinian zones its troops have reoccupied during 31 months of fighting.

In Madrid, U.S. Secretary of State Colin Powell urged both sides to take steps toward implementing the plan. "We need to see the end to terror -- and actions on the Israeli side as well," Powell said at the start of a trip through Europe and the Middle East. Powell was expected to meet with Sharon and Abbas next week.

Foreign Affairs Minister Bill Graham said Canada supports the road map and is ready to assist in any way it can.

Israeli forces storm Hamas stronghold

"Even in the shadow of continuing violence and terrorism, the prospects for peace in the region will be bolstered by the release of the road map," Graham said in a statement. "We now call on all parties to take the steps necessary for its implementation."

The Gaza City incursion came a day after Hamas carried out a suicide bombing in a Tel Aviv pub that killed a waitress and two musicians. However, Israeli military officials did not link the raid to the bombing, saying they were after three top Hamas fugitives in Gaza -- brothers Yousef, Mahmoud and Ayman Abu Hein.

At about 2 a.m. Thursday, tanks and jeeps drove into Gaza City's Shijaiyah neighbourhood. Troops surrounded a four-storey apartment building that was home to 60 members of the Abu Hein family.

Dr. Fadel Abu Hein, a prominent child psychologist and a brother of the wanted men, said the apartment building came under intense fire.

"We are sitting in full darkness. Children are screaming. We are trying to calm them down, but bullets are coming from all directions," he said.

The Israeli commander of the operation, Brig. Gen. Gadi Shami, said the three wanted men tried to keep their relatives in the building as a buffer and that soldiers broke in to rescue the civilians.

However, members of the Abu Hein clan said soldiers used several civilians, including women, as human shields in their search of the building.

Once the three fugitives were the only ones left in the building, troops blew it up. Doctors said the three brothers were already dead by the time of the explosion, noting their bodies were riddled with bullets. Yousef Abu Hein was a top Hamas bombmaker who had been imprisoned both by Israel and the Palestinian Authority.

The blast was so powerful that more than a dozen adjacent homes were damaged, some severely.

In addition to the Abu Hein brothers, five other gunmen were killed. The other dead were two adult civilians, including a mentally handicapped man, and two boys, aged two and 13.

The two-year-old, Amer Ayad, was hit by a bullet to the head while he was near a window in his home, said his father, Ahmed Ayad. "Is this the new peace President (George W.) Bush promised?" Ayad said. "They wrote the answer using the blood of my son."

An Associated Press reporter saw two boys, ages 12 and 14, hit by Israeli fire as they tried to run away from a burst of shooting. The 14-year-old was struck by a bullet in the neck, and doctors later said he was paralysed from the neck down.

Eight Israeli soldiers were wounded, including one who was in serious condition, the military said.

Load-Date: February 17, 2006

ISRAELIS STRAFE GAZA HQ AFTER HAMAS ROCKET ATTACK

Pittsburgh Post-Gazette (Pennsylvania)

February 12, 2002 Tuesday

SOONER EDITION

Copyright 2002 P.G. Publishing Co.

Section: WORLD,

Length: 601 words

Byline: JAMES BENNET, THE NEW YORK TIMES

Dateline: JERUSALEM

Body

A wave of Israeli F-16 warplanes struck a Palestinian security compound in Gaza City yesterday, after a Palestinian rocket attack Sunday that Israeli officials called an escalation in the conflict.

Two rockets were launched by the radical group Hamas across the Gaza Strip boundary toward communities in southern Israel. The rockets landed in fields, and no one was injured.

Israel had repeatedly promised a harsh response if the Hamas rockets, said to be dangerously inaccurate and to have a range of four to seven miles, were ever used against Israeli targets. Israeli officials hinted that the air attack yesterday was only a first response.

Palestinian hospital officials reported that 37 people were wounded in the Israeli air raids.

Israel also struck Gaza targets Sunday night. Those air raids followed an attack earlier Sunday by Palestinian gunmen in the southern city of Beersheba. Two Israeli soldiers, both women, were killed in the shooting.

After the Israeli bombings yesterday, a number of Palestinian militants went free from prison. Many of the security compounds that Israel has attacked in recent months, including the one in Gaza yesterday, hold jails. Palestinian demonstrators have regularly demanded after such attacks, or in anticipation of them, that prisoners be freed for their own protection.

In Gaza, Palestinian security officers moved prisoners from the compound under bombardment to a separate, less secure building. When demonstrators began flinging stones at the Palestinian security forces, the officers fired into the air to disperse them but then let some prisoners go, witnesses said.

Last night, an estimated 300 Palestinians stormed a prison in the West Bank city of Hebron, which was not under Israeli attack. Palestinian security officials in Hebron said officers on duty decided not to fire on the crowd and permitted them to free 16 prisoners. Palestinians in Hebron said they feared an Israeli raid on the security compound there because the two gunmen who carried out the attack in Beersheba were from a nearby town. Both men were shot dead at the scene in Beersheba.

Israeli Defense Minister Benjamin Ben-Eliezer called the Hamas rockets, known as Qassam-2, "a new level of threat." Israeli officials said they feared that the rockets would reach Israeli cities from the West Bank or Gaza.

ISRAELIS STRAFE GAZA HQ AFTER HAMAS ROCKET ATTACK

But some Israeli politicians wondered why the government was treating the rockets as any more lethal than other forms of attack. "I can't draw a distinction between Qassam-2 rockets and these terrible ticking suicide bombs coming into Israel," said Yossi Sarid, leader of the left-wing opposition in the Israeli parliament. "I don't believe that Qassam is more harmful or more damaging than those people. So I don't understand the distinction."

In Gaza yesterday, Terje Roed-Larsen, the U.N. special coordinator for the Middle East, toured U.N. offices that were damaged in Sunday night's attack. Israel apologized for the damage.

Roed-Larsen took the unusual step of meeting with representatives of several Palestinian factions, including **Hamas**.

"I think at this point in time it's incredibly important to have a dialogue with all factions in the Palestinian society, based on the principle of zero tolerance for terrorism and on the principle of using peaceful means in order to reach an agreement," Roed-Larsen said. "Bombs don't produce peace. They strengthen extremism."

In four attacks since Wednesday night, Palestinian militants have killed six **female** Israelis -- one of them a 79-year-old woman and another an 11-year old girl -- and one man, an army reservist.

Graphic

PHOTO: Eitan Hess-Ashkenazi/Associated Press: Idit Roteshtein comforts her mother, Aviva, during the funeral of Idit's twin sister, Keren Roteshtein in the southern city of Ashkelon, Israel, yesterday. Keren Roteshtein was one of two soldiers killed Sunday as Palestinian gunmen opened fire outside an Israeli military base in Beersheba.

Load-Date: February 12, 2002

Palestinian group vows revenge: Gaza camp attack. Hamas, militant groups targeted

The Gazette (Montreal, Quebec)

October 8, 2002 Tuesday Final Edition

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Section: News; Pg. A17

Length: 562 words

Byline: MATTHEW KALMAN

Dateline: JERUSALEM

Body

The **Hamas** terror group has vowed revenge for an Israeli army attack on targets in the Gaza Strip that left at least 14 people dead and scores wounded, including unarmed civilians.

Thousands of supporters attended funerals of those killed when Israeli troops stormed several buildings in Khan Younis in the Gaza Strip in the early hours yesterday morning. At least 70 people were reported injured. Intermittent firefights continued during the day.

Southam News

Most of the casualties in Khan Younis apparently occurred as the Israeli troops were withdrawing from the town shortly before dawn. A group of armed Palestinians fired on the soldiers, and an Israeli helicopter responded by firing a missile at the armed men. A woman and a young boy were among the dead. Eye-witnesses said many innocent bystanders were caught in the blast, but the Israeli army said most of those hit were gunmen.

The raid was the first time the Israeli army had entered Khan Younis in more than two years of fighting. A large force of tanks, troops and armoured personnel carriers moved in about 2 a.m. to a neighbourhood used by **Hamas** to fire mortars and rockets at nearby Israeli settlements almost daily.

"The moment that the army went in there, they were fired on from every window and every opening, so our soldiers had to do the job," said Deputy Defence Minister Weizman Shiri. "The most militant of **Hamas** men are located there, and if damage was caused to innocent civilians, we can be sorry, but what can you do - this is war."

Hamas spokesman Abdul Aziz Rantissi said Israel was trying to "annihilate the Palestinian people."

"This massacre proves beyond any doubt that the entire Palestinian people are targeted whether they are armed or unarmed. Let us all rise to defend our existence, our children our **women** and defeat this enemy and liberate our homeland.

"The Jews are all murderers and they understand only one language," he said.

"When we are attacked in Khan Younis, there should be no security in Tel Aviv. I call upon the resistance to attack all Jews, those who came from America and those who came from Russia, to usurp our land. There are no innocent Jews."

Palestinian group vows revenge: Gaza camp attack. Hamas, militant groups targeted

General Yisrael Ziv, commander of Israeli forces in Gaza, said the operation was targeted at Hamas and other extremist groups.

"I was up close to the operation during the entire time," he said. "For the most part, our firing was against those who were armed, against anyone who resisted and for the return of fire and hand grenades thrown at us. Many other explosive devices were activated, and there was rocket-propelled grenade fire against our forces."

While the Israeli army said it was determined to stamp out centres of Palestinian terrorism, diplomats in the region reacted with dismay to the high number of casualties and the effect on efforts to achieve a ceasefire after more than two years of fighting.

European Union security chief Javier Solana, who is visiting the region, said he was "shocked" by the fighting, but said he would "continue working for a political solution."

The EU condemned the Israeli raid in unusually strong terms.

But Danish Foreign Minister Per Stig Moeller, who chairs the EU foreign ministers' council, urged the Palestinians to rein in calls for retaliation.

"I ask now the Palestinians to control their forces of terrorism so that they do not retaliate," he said.

Graphic

Color Photo: KHALIL HAMRA, AP; Palestinians carry an elderly woman and a child wounded by shrapnel to a treatment room at Nasser hospital in Khan Younis yesterday.

Load-Date: October 8, 2002

Hamas fires new rockets at Israel

The Gazette (Montreal, Quebec)

February 11, 2002 Monday

Final EDITION

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Section: NEWS,

Length: 813 words

Byline: TIM JOHNSON

Dateline: SAAD, Israel

Body

Palestinian militants in the Gaza Strip fired what appeared to be two next-generation rockets into Israel yesterday, marking a strategic shift in warfare that is likely to heighten fears in Israeli border cities.

The rockets, which might have carried up to 10 kilograms of explosives, landed harmlessly and were overshadowed by violence in the Negev Desert city of Beersheba, where gunmen linked to the militant Hamas organization killed two Israelis and wounded four others.

Israeli F-16 jets responded to the deadly attack by firing missiles at several targets in the Gaza Strip, including a base used by Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat's private security detail.

But the launches might prove significant in a region where tensions are already the highest in decades. Knight Ridder Newspapers; The Washington Post and AP, contributed to this report

Israeli military sources said Palestinian militants in the West Bank and Gaza Strip now have the Kassam-II rockets in their arsenals, exposing tens of thousands of Israeli civilians to attack.

Israeli officials have warned of a ferocious Israeli military response - "like something you've never seen before," said a senior army officer - if the rockets were fired into an Israeli city.

The homemade rockets lack a guidance system and are much less powerful than those used by Iraq during the Gulf War, but they travel three times as far as their first-generation cousins and are "precise enough to hit a metropolitan target," according to an army statement.

"Israel has warned the Palestinian Authority on more than one occasion that if the Kassam-II is fired into Israeli territory, into Israeli towns, this will be considered a new game with new rules," Israel Radio's military correspondent, Alan Ben Ami, told listeners last night.

A senior Israeli security official, speaking on condition of anonymity, said Hamas leaders boast they can load the rockets "with non-conventional warheads," meaning chemical payloads.

Israeli soldiers captured eight of the rockets at a roadblock between Nablus and Jenin in the West Bank last week, signaling that Hamas militants are attempting to distribute them to key border points.

Hamas fires new rockets at Israel

"They can produce a lot. The explosives they need for propulsion are very simple to produce, as well," the senior security official said.

One of the rockets landed near a communal village, or kibbutz, 6.5 kilometres from the Gaza border in Saad. Another fell at a nearby co-operative farm, nearly 8 kilometres from the border.

Witnesses near the Saad Kibbutz said they heard three launches around 11 a.m. but found only one 2-metre-wide crater, where a rocket slammed down near a tractor. Israeli soldiers later found three launchers in the Gaza Strip.

"It was large-diameter and fired from a long range," said Uri Ya'ari, security officer at the kibbutz, one of the communal villages that dot Israel.

Hours after the launches, Palestinian officials said their security agents had arrested Adnan al-Ghoul, considered **Hamas**'s top engineer. They said al-Ghoul helped develop the Kassam rockets.

The senior security official said the government of Prime Minister Ariel Sharon believes Palestinian militants are trying to escalate conflict with Israel, hoping to increase international pressure on the Sharon government to come to the peace table.

In the separate attack in Beersheba, the Palestinian gunmen opened fire with assault rifles near an army base, killing two **female** soldiers and wounding four others. Security forces quickly killed the two gunmen. "The two men got out of the car and started firing in all directions," said army Capt. Guy Shaham, who hit one of the gunmen.

Early today. Israeli tanks entered the West Bank city of Nablus, witnesses said, surrounding Joseph's Tomb, a Jewish religious site abandoned early in the current round of fighting.

Palestinians said the Israeli invaders encountered heavy resistance and gunfire. The Israeli military had no immediate comment.

Rocket and missile attacks are not new to Israelis. The nation came under sustained missile attack during the Gulf War in 1991 when Iraqi leader Saddam Hussein fired at least 38 Scud missiles at Tel Aviv and Haifa.

The attacks damaged hundreds of buildings and prompted Israelis to don gas masks and hustle into bomb shelters for fear that the Scuds might carry chemical weapons. None did. But at least 13 Israelis died and 200 were wounded.

Later in the 1990s, Israeli villages along the northern border with Lebanon came under frequent attack from Katyusha rockets fired by Iranian-backed Hezbollah forces.

Israeli troops withdrew from southern Lebanon in May 2000, and the attacks largely ended.

Both Katyushas, which have a 19-kilometre range, and long-range Scuds are more powerful and sophisticated than the Kassam-IIs. But the smaller Kassam-IIs carry enough explosives to "cause terrible damage," the senior security official said.

Load-Date: February 11, 2002

WOMAN SUICIDE BOMBER REJECTED BY HAMAS

The Independent (London)

March 1, 2002, Friday

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Section: FOREIGN NEWS; Pg. 18

Length: 207 words

Byline: Mohammed Daraghmech In Nablus Dareen Abu Aisheh: Set off bomb at Israeli checkpoint

Body

TURNED DOWN as a potential suicide bomber by an Islamic militant group because she was a woman, 21-year-old Dareen Abu Aisheh turned to a militia linked to Yasser Arafat's Fatah to get the explosives she needed.

On Wednesday night, the English literature student from Nablus blew herself to pieces at an Israeli checkpoint, wounding three policemen.

Abu Aisheh, a devout Muslim from a poor family, was stopped about 20 miles north-west of Jerusalem as she tried to enter Israel from the West Bank. Challenged by police and soldiers to get out of the car in which she was travelling, she detonated an explosive charge on her body. She was the second woman to blow herself up since the fighting began in September 2000.

"Dareen was always talking about suicide attacks," said Shireen Abu Aisheh, one of her six sisters. She said that her sister had gone to Jamal Mansour, a local leader of the militant **Hamas** movement, and asked why it didn't use **women** for suicide bombings as well as men.

"When we run out of men we shall start using **women**," was Mansour's reply, Shireen said, adding that her sister's response was, "Well, then we'll have to go to Fatah." Fatah's Al Aqsa Brigades, a secular militia, claimed responsibility for Abu Aisheh's attack.

Load-Date: April 9, 2002

Middle East crisis: Refugee denies UK bomb threat: Student said he would blow up pub for Hamas, court told

The Guardian (London)

May 10, 2002

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Section: Guardian Home Pages, Pg. 4

Length: 572 words

Byline: Martin Wainwright

Body

A young Palestinian refugee bragged that he would blow up a British pub in support of Osama bin Laden, a court heard yesterday.

Adnan Abdelah, 22, made extravagant claims about being an intelligence officer for the banned military wing of the **Hamas** group and drew pictures of suicide 'bomb-belts' for Northumbria police.

Mr Abdelah, who gave three increasingly complicated life stories to detectives, denies both being a member of **Hamas** and professing membership, an offence under anti-terror legislation even if untrue.

He also denies that a bizarre letter he wrote from Durham jail to a drama lecturer who reported his outbursts was an attempt to intimidate a key witness.

The first day of his trial at Newcastle crown court heard that Mr Abdelah had been arrested in April last year, after being found wandering around the car exit lanes at the Tyneside terminal for ferries from Norway.

He was given temporary leave to stay in Britain while his claim for political asylum as a refugee from Palestine was considered.

But five months later he was openly exulting about the September 11 attack on New York to flatmates at a refugees' hostel, said Toby Hedworth QC, prosecuting.

"He said he would kill Israelis wherever he saw them in England and he showed great delight in the bombing of the twin towers," said Mr Hedworth.

"He expressed support for Bin Laden and told another resident in the house in Newcastle that he would be prepared to take a bomb to a public place in England, such as a pub, and blow it up if he was asked to do so by **Hamas**."

"He added 'this was jihad' and said 'I swear to God I will do this'. He also spoke comfortably about explosives, about killing people and wrapping bombs around his waist."

"He said it did not matter if whatever he did was in the UK or abroad and that if he had a bomb he would do exactly the same as had been done in America. He told his fellow refugee that he was in **Hamas** and if he could help Osama bin Laden he would do so."

Middle East crisis: Refugee denies UK bomb threat: Student said he would blow up pub for Hamas, court told

Mr Abdelah was re-arrested after he repeated some of his claims at a drama class at North Tyneside college, to the derision of other refugees from the Middle East, who were among his classmates. After he had claimed that his family name was 'Bin Laden', the teasing angered him and he said that he was a **Hamas** member who knew where to get guns and how to use them.

The jury of seven men and five **women** heard that Mr Abdelah denied the allegations to police and said that he had given up his **Hamas** membership after the group killed innocent civilians. Although he claimed to be was codenamed 'Lithe' by the group, after a powerful animal like a tiger, which never looks backwards, he said that superior officers had branded him a traitor because of his doubts.

Mr Abdelah told detectives that he had fled Palestine to escape **Hamas** revenge, and he accused the refugees who told of his inflammatory remarks of lying because "they were Israeli sympathisers". He also denied that he had meant to threaten drama lecturer Patrick Williams in a letter sent from his remand cell in Durham jail last Christmas.

In the letter Mr Abdelah is said to have told Mr Williams that he was "capable of getting revenge on you and of killing you in two minutes' times". But it went on to say "I am not threatening you, no, no, no," and to wish the lecturer "a happy New Year for all your years." Mr Abdelah also enclosed a cartoon of a suffering Arab as "a gift".

The case continues

Load-Date: May 12, 2002

End of Document

Israel launches air attack on Gaza City facilities; Hamas: Military responds to unprecedented Palestinian rocket fire

Telegraph Herald (Dubuque, IA)

February 12, 2002 Tuesday

Copyright 2002 Woodward Communications, Inc.

Section: Pg. b5

Length: 869 words

Byline: ASSOCIATED PRESS

Dateline: GAZA CITY, Gaza Strip

Body

Israeli warplanes and helicopter gunships attacked the Palestinian security headquarters in Gaza City on Monday, in retaliation for unprecedented Palestinian rocket fire and a shooting attack on Israeli civilians.

More than 30 people were injured by shrapnel in the second air strike in Gaza City in two days. The Israeli military warned that it "will not tolerate the continued firing of rockets" at Israel and at Jewish settlements.

The Islamic militant group **Hamas** claimed responsibility for firing a homemade Qassam-2 rocket toward an Israeli communal farm on Sunday. The Qassam-2 has a range of five to eight kilometers (three to five miles), enough to hit Israeli towns from the West Bank and Gaza Strip. In the past, **Hamas** has fired several shorter-range Qassam-1 rockets that caused no damage.

In Monday's airstrike, six missiles hit the large walled Saraya compound in downtown Gaza City, setting buildings ablaze and sending black smoke into the sky.

Doctors said the injured included three Palestinian journalists and news photographer George Kochaniec, a photographer for Denver's Rocky Mountain News. Kochaniec was treated for a hand injury.

The attack came at a time of changeover between morning and afternoon shifts at nearby schools, and streets were crowded with youngsters who ran away from the explosions, some screaming in panic.

Electricity in Gaza City was cut after the air strike.

The missiles were fired several minutes apart, and one hit the compound while firefighters were in the area trying to douse the flames.

Hundreds of Palestinians ran to the compound demanding that suspected Islamic militants held there be released immediately. Some threw stones at officers who fired in the air to keep back the crowd. Palestinian police said all prisoners were moved from the compound shortly after the Israeli attack.

Israeli Prime Minister Ariel Sharon convened senior Cabinet ministers and security officials late Sunday at his farm in southern Israel to decide on a response to the firing of the Qassam-2 rockets, which fell in an open field and

Israel launches air attack on Gaza City facilities; Hamas: Military responds to unprecedented Palestinian rocket fire

caused no damage. "This constitutes a very serious escalation," government spokesman Avi Pazner said of the rocket fire.

Israeli media reports said Sharon and his advisers decided on a new type of retaliation, but did not specify. Commentators suggested Israel might reoccupy Palestinian areas close to Israel for an extended period to push rockets out of range.

"Sharon must take into consideration the clear American interest in preventing a total conflagration between Israel and the Palestinians, at a time when Washington is constructing its campaign against Iraq," wrote Hemi Shalev in the Maariv daily.

Hamas said it was not intimidated by Israel's warnings. "**Hamas** will not change its strategy and we will go ahead ... until the final liberation of our Holy Land," a **Hamas** leader, Abdel Aziz Rantisi, said Monday.

Arafat aide Ahmed Abdel Rahman accused Israel of exaggerating the threat posed by the rockets in order to escalate strikes against the Palestinians.

Hamas identified the two Beersheba attackers as Mohammed Battat, 23, and Khalid al-Till, 23, from the village of Dahariyah, near the southern edge of the West Bank, about 15 miles from Beersheba. **Hamas** released the names Monday in a note on its Web site, saying they were known as **Hamas** supporters.

In the Sunday attack, two Palestinians sprayed automatic fire at Israelis sitting in a cafe and a nearby restaurant outside a military base, killing two **women** soldiers and seriously wounding five people before being shot dead by troops.

"Suddenly someone from outside opened the blinds and began to spray the restaurant with gunfire," Liza Cohen, 65, one of the diners at the "End of the Road" restaurant, told the Yediot Ahronot daily.

"We all panicked. People lay on top of each other. It was horrible," said another customer, Morris Levy.

In response, Israeli F-16 warplanes fired bombs and missiles at a Gaza City security compound Sunday night. The explosions shattered windows in a nearby U.N. compound and the Palestinian Planning Ministry, and 37 people were injured, most lightly.

Israeli military commanders later apologized to Terje Roed-Larsen, the U.N. envoy to the Middle East.

"I fully accept that, but on the other hand, it's totally unacceptable to use that kind of weaponry which puts civilian lives and U.N. personnel at peril," Roed-Larsen told Israel Army Radio. "Several of my colleagues were there (in the building) and some of them were simply knocked over."

Israeli helicopter gunships also fired missiles at a metal workshop in the nearby Jebaliya refugee camp where the military said mortar shells and rockets were being made. Sunday night's attack shattered windows and brought down the roof at a nearby kindergarten.

In Israel, Sharon was coming under pressure from his political camp to topple Arafat and the Palestinian Authority. Former Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu, seen as a strong challenger to Sharon and a fellow member of the Likud Party, demanded that Arafat be removed.

"There can only be a military solution," Netanyahu said on Israel TV's Channel Two. "If you get rid of this (Arafat's) regime, you are telling the person who comes next, 'watch out.'"

Load-Date: February 12, 2002

Israel launches air attack on Gaza City facilities; Hamas: Military responds to unprecedented Palestinian rocket fire

End of Document

Hamas promises revenge; Rebel commander three others killed by Israelis

Hamilton Spectator (Ontario, Canada)

January 24, 2002 Thursday Final Edition

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Section: CANADA & WORLD; Pg. B02; News

Length: 684 words

Dateline: JERUSALEM

Body

Islamic rebels threatened "all-out war" yesterday to avenge the killing of a **Hamas** commander in the West Bank, and Yasser Arafat's Palestinian Authority said it can no longer be expected to enforce a truce with Israel.

With tensions and violence rising, the U.S. ambassador to Israel called on Israelis and Palestinians to urge their governments to work for peace.

Palestinian rebels and mainstream activists marched together in a funeral procession in Nablus, burying the dead from Israel's raid on a bomb factory a day earlier. Four **Hamas** activists were killed, including West Bank rebel leader Yousef Soragji, 42, mastermind of several suicide bombings.

The Associated Press

The Israeli army commander in the West Bank said it was the biggest bomb factory ever uncovered, and the military displayed the range of explosives and timing devices found in the Nablus apartment.

More than 15,000 people marched in the funeral, led by activists from **Hamas** and the Al Aqsa Brigades, a militia linked to Arafat's Fatah movement.

Hamas pledged an "all-out war" against Israel in retaliation, and Palestinian cabinet secretary Ahmed Abdel Rahman said the Palestinian Authority could not enforce a ceasefire under the circumstances.

"The Israeli guns are being pointed to our heads," he told The Associated Press. "We are not able to implement any of our commitments."

On Tuesday, a Palestinian linked to Arafat's Fatah movement opened fire in downtown Jerusalem, killing two **women** and wounding 14 other people. Abdel Rahman said the Palestinian Authority opposes attacks on civilians, but charged that Israel was responsible for the deterioration.

A lull of several weeks in the 16 months of violence ended after last week's killing -- widely attributed to Israel -- of militia leader Raed Karmi in the West Bank town of Tulkarem. Palestinians have carried out a string of retaliatory attacks against Israeli civilians, bringing on more countermeasures.

Yesterday, Israeli tanks remained parked about 65 metres from Arafat's West Bank headquarters in the town of Ramallah, the most visible of the measures Israel has taken.

Hamis promises revenge; Rebel commander three others killed by Israelis

Meanwhile, Israeli bulldozers demolished two Palestinian houses on the outskirts of Jerusalem. Israeli officials said they were built without permits.

In a public appeal, U.S. Ambassador Daniel Kurtzer called on Israelis and Palestinians to press their governments to work for peace.

"They need to hear from you that you want peace, that you want reconciliation, that you want reasonable compromise," Kurtzer said at Givat Haviva, an Israeli institution that sponsors Jewish-Arab programs.

Kurtzer recalled that his generation stormed U.S. university offices to force change. "I don't recommend that," he said, but added that Israelis and Palestinians should take actions that "will be persuasive to the two governments involved that the people have had enough and they want to move forward."

The resumption of violence appears to have caused the cancellation of a third trip to the region by U.S. envoy Anthony Zinni, who had been expected last week.

In a phone call yesterday, Arafat asked U.S. Secretary of State Colin Powell to send Zinni. But U.S. State Department spokesman Richard Boucher said there are no such plans. Palestinian officials said it was the first such phone call in 15 days.

In Paris, another effort to restore calm got under way as Israeli parliament Speaker Avraham Burg met with his Palestinian counterpart, Ahmed Qureia, and pledged to travel to Ramallah to address the legislature there at an undetermined date.

Addressing the French parliament, the two raised their clasped hands and earned a standing ovation.

Burg, who is from the moderate Labour Party, charged that Sharon's aim is the "destruction of the Palestinian Authority and reoccupation of the cities of the West Bank," which were handed to the Palestinian Authority in the 1990s.

Sharon has cut off political contacts with Palestinian officials because of the violence, and his government several weeks ago torpedoed an initiative in which Israeli President Moshe Katsav would have addressed the Palestinian legislature.

Graphic

Photo: Nasser Nasser, the Associated Press; A boy is carried to an ambulance in Ramallah. He was hurt by a rubber bullet during clashes after a funeral yesterday.

Load-Date: January 24, 2002

Bomb kills seven at university: Three US citizens among dead after Hamas attack

The Guardian (London)

August 1, 2002

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Section: Guardian Home Pages, Pg. 2

Length: 742 words

Byline: Suzanne Goldenberg in Jerusalem

Body

The bombers of **Hamas** struck at the heart of student life yesterday, killing at least seven people and injuring more than 80 in a lunchtime attack on a crowded university cafeteria.

In the maelstrom of the intifada, the Mount Scopus campus of Hebrew University had remained a rare preserve of co-existence between Arab and Jew, and attracted scores of foreign exchange students during the summer months.

Yesterday, the forecourt of the Frank Sinatra international students' centre was splattered with blood, food, smashed trays and shards from huge plate glass windows blown out by a powerful bomb apparently left inside.

Hamas said the bombing was the first act of retaliation for Israel's decision to drop a one-tonne bomb in Gaza City, killing the **Hamas** commander Salah Shehada, who it had targeted for assassination, and 14 other Palestinians.

Sharon Avital, 26, an MBA student, had just put down her tray at a table by the windows when an explosion rocked the heavy concrete pavilion.

"First of all there was silence, and then the screaming started," she said, after being treated for minor head cuts. "There were screams, people lying on the floor, blood, and darkness. I felt a blow to the back of my head, and then I looked down and my hands were covered in blood."

The US state department said last night that three of the dead and four of the wounded were American citizens.

Officials at Jerusalem hospitals said an Italian, and three students from South Korea were also hurt and at least 10 Arab students were injured.

Most of the wounded were aged 18-30, and were hit by shrapnel or metal rods when the ceiling collapsed.

Students ripped up their T-shirts for tourniquets and carried the wounded to ambulances. The corpses were laid out under black plastic sheeting against the nearby law faculty building.

"I saw a girl my age covered up with a blanket because she was dead," said Daniel Farahan, a 20-year-old from Indiana with long dreadlocks under his kippa (skullcap). "You see it on TV all the time, but this was nothing like TV."

Bomb kills seven at university: Three US citizens among dead after Hamas attack

The bombing marked a departure from Hamas's usual methods - primarily suicide bombings. "The bomb was in a bag which had been planted on a table in the centre of the restaurant," said the police spokeswoman Sigal Toledo.

Within minutes of the attack, police began rounding up young Palestinian men in Arab areas near the campus.

Until now, educational institutions were seen as off-limits to attackers - particularly Hebrew University, where a high proportion of students are Arabs, Palestinians and Israeli citizens from the Arab towns of the Galilee.

"How do you justify walking into a university and blowing up children who are studying?" asked Alistair Goldrein, from Liverpool, who has been studying at the university for a month. "These were students. A lot of people are heavy leftwingers who want to get out of the territories right away."

In an implicit claim of responsibility, the spiritual leader of Hamas, Sheikh Ahmed Yassin, said the attack was the natural consequence of events in Gaza.

"When Israel bombs a civilian building full of women and children, and kills 15 people, this is the response they should expect," he said. It was the second bombing in Jerusalem in 24 hours.

In Gaza City last night, thousands of Palestinians celebrated by clapping, singing and distributing sweets. Many demanded more attacks as revenge.

"We give this gift (attack) to the soul of Sheikh Salah Shehadeh and we say to the al-Qassam brigades we are waiting for more," a voice shouted through a loudspeaker.

Although Yasser Arafat's Palestinian Authority was swift to say it "absolutely condemns the attack", it also laid the blame at the feet of the prime minister, Ariel Sharon, for his policies.

Just hours before the attack, Mr Sharon's security cabinet ordered the first expulsion of a relative of a Palestinian militant since Israel occupied the West Bank and Gaza in 1967.

Although plans to deport the families of wanted Palestinians have been condemned abroad, the public security minister, Uzi Landau, told Israel Radio yesterday that it was "enough for a relative of a relative of a suicide bomber to set up a mourning tent or visit a mourning tent for him" in order to be selected for exile.

It said the first candidate for deportation - a relative of a militant who ambushed a bus of Jewish settlers two weeks ago - would be allowed to appeal. However, he was expected to be deported yesterday.

Load-Date: August 1, 2002

Clamp on West Bank travel as Hamas leader caught

The Advertiser

August 6, 2002, Tuesday

Copyright 2002 Nationwide News Pty Limited

Section: FOREIGN; Pg. 24

Length: 438 words

Body

JERUSALEM: A total ban has been imposed on Palestinian travel in much of the West Bank and a chunk of the Gaza Strip has been sealed off by Israeli tanks in response to Palestinian attacks that killed 13 people over 24 hours.

Defence Minister Binyamin Ben-Eliezer said restrictions on Palestinian movement would be tightened further, and that troops were planning operations to "maintain a much bigger closure than what we are doing now." The new travel restrictions were imposed after a bloody 24-hour period in which a Palestinian suicide bomber blew up an Israeli bus and gunmen carried out shooting attacks in Jerusalem and the West Bank.

Thirteen people were killed in these attacks, including 11 Israelis, both Jews and Arabs, and two women from the Philippines. Three assailants also died.

The Israeli army said yesterday it had arrested the head of the radical Islamic movement Hamas for the northern West Bank region around Jenin.

Security sources claim Mazen Fukha, arrested overnight in Tubas, about 15km southeast of Jenin, was responsible for planning the bus bombing the day before.

Under the new ban, Palestinians will not be able to drive in the northern half of the West Bank, between the towns of Nablus, Jenin, Qalqiliya, Tulkarem and Ramallah, the army said. Some movement will be permitted in the southern West Bank, including the towns of Hebron, Bethlehem and Jericho.

"We are in a situation of total closure in the area of Samaria," Mr Ben-Eliezer said, using the biblical name for the northern West Bank. "Nobody enters and nobody leaves. There is no movement between the towns and villages."

Stringent restrictions on Palestinian travel have been in place since the outbreak of fighting in September 2000, with Palestinians confined to their communities for extended periods as Israeli troops try to prevent terror attacks.

Palestinian attacks on Israelis have killed 27 people since an Israeli airstrike on July 22 killed leading Hamas militant Salah Shehadeh and 14 Palestinians, many of them children, in Gaza. About 4000 people celebrated the bus bombing in Gaza City last night, passing out sweets and praying near Shehadeh's destroyed house, where militants shouting over loudspeakers vowed to "avenge every drop of his blood".

The Israeli Government said Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat, who turned 73 yesterday, bore ultimate responsibility for not reining in militants during the 22 months of Mideast fighting.

Clamp on West Bank travel as Hamas leader caught

The Palestinian leadership condemned the bombing but also accused Sharon of "war crimes" for the Israeli army's mass detentions, home demolitions and curfews imposed on Palestinians.

Load-Date: August 5, 2002

End of Document

15 DEAD IN SUICIDE BLAST Hamas bus attack shatters Israel calm

Daily News (New York)

March 6, 2003, Thursday

CITY FINAL EDITION

Copyright 2003 Daily News, L.P.

Section: NEWS;

Length: 485 words

Byline: By DEBORAH BLACHOR in Jerusalem and CORKY SIEMASZKO in New York DAILY NEWS WRITERS

Body

Terror returned to Israel on the No. 37 bus yesterday when a Palestinian suicide bomber detonated his deadly payload and killed at least 15 passengers - including several teenagers.

The blast reduced the Haifa bus to a charred wreck, scattering bodies and body parts - and sending shock waves through a country that had gone two months without a suicide attack.

"It's happening again," a bloodied survivor cried, clutching his shoes. "It's happening again!"

Cops identified the bomber as Mahmoud Hamdan Kawasme, 20, from the West Bank city of Hebron. They said he was carrying a letter praising the Sept. 11 attacks and belonged to the Hamas militant group.

Israeli Prime Minister Ariel Sharon vowed to punish Hamas and launched a lightning raid last night on the outskirts of Gaza City, where the group is based.

It was a little after 2 p.m., and the bus was crowded with students heading to Haifa University and other youngsters heading home. Driver Marwan Dimoni, an Arab Israeli and a Christian, said he routinely checks for suspicious-looking riders but saw nobody unusual.

"I stopped at the station on Moriah, opened the doors and suddenly there was an explosion," he said from his hospital bed. "I couldn't feel myself at all." When he opened his eyes, "everything was destroyed." Roof blown off. The explosion ripped the roof off and spat burning bodies out onto the streets of Israel's third-largest city. The blast was so powerful it shattered the windows of nearby businesses and even blew out street lights.

Ovadia Saar, who was driving a bus just behind the one that was attacked, said he saw "the back of the bus fly into the air, and the windows blew out and a great cloud of dust covered the bus."

Drivers stopped their cars and ran over with gallons of water to douse the flames consuming the bus - and the victims.

"People were on fire," one witness said.

But there was little anybody could do for those who perished so quickly that their bodies melted into the seats - or those who died trying to escape through the windows and were left dangling from the wreckage.

"There was the smell of death in the street," one witness said.

15 DEAD IN SUICIDE BLAST Hamas bus attack shatters Israel calm

Local police commander Yakov Borovsky said the bomber embedded nails in the explosives to do maximum damage.

"Apparently, he had a huge explosives belt on his body," Borovsky said. "The damage was huge."

As of last night, 12 victims had been identified - eight male and four **female**. The youngest was 13. Three others remained unidentified.

It was the first suicide attack since Sharon's new rightist government took office last week - and the first since Jan. 5, when 23 people were killed in Tel Aviv.

"The Palestinian Authority has been doing absolutely nothing to stop this horrendous blood trail of killing and carnage," a spokesman said.

Palestinian Authority cabinet minister Saeb Erekat said they don't control **Hamas**. "We reject the Israel government finger-pointing," he said.

Graphic

REUTERS BLOODBATH Injured Israelis get help after bomb rips through bus in Haifa yesterday. It was the first Palestinian suicide bombing in two months. Below, burned wreckage of bus sits in street. REUTERS AP Woman wounded in suicide bombing awaits treatment.

Load-Date: March 6, 2003

Israeli troops kill 4 in raid; Hamas calls 'all-out war'

Deseret News (Salt Lake City)

January 22, 2002, Tuesday

Copyright 2002 The Deseret News Publishing Co.

Section: WIRE;

Length: 719 words

Byline: By Mohammed Daraghmeh Associated Press writer

Body

NABLUS, West Bank -- Israeli commandos killed four Hamas members in a raid Tuesday on their West Bank hideout and explosives lab, prompting the Islamic militant group to call an "all-out war" against Israeli soldiers and settlers. Hours later, a gunman attacked Israelis in downtown Jerusalem.

The shooter opened fire on people at a bus stop near one of the busiest intersections in downtown Jerusalem, wounding at least 20 people before he was shot dead by police. Police said the gunman was Palestinian but had no details on his identity. There was no immediate claim of responsibility for the attack.

Witness Akiva Harari, 21, said the attacker, wearing a heavy coat and carrying an assault rifle, emerged from a parking lot onto Jaffa Street, downtown Jerusalem's main artery. "I saw him shoot two women and they fell," he said. Hospital officials said one of the wounded was seriously hurt.

Pedestrians dived for cover. Some Israeli civilians who were armed drew their weapons but did not fire. Sporadic gunfire lasted for about 10 minutes, according to an Associated Press reporter present when the shooting started.

The gunman ran, and after a short chase police shot and killed him, said Jerusalem police chief Mickey Levy.

Early Tuesday, Israeli commandos entered the al-Majeen neighborhood in the West Bank town of Nablus. In a nine-story residential building, the soldiers stormed a ground-floor apartment where Hamas fugitives were hiding, Palestinian witnesses said.

The army said a gunbattle erupted and four Palestinians were killed.

The Palestinian intelligence chief in Nablus, Talak Dweikat, said it appeared the four were killed while they were sleeping. Palestinian medics found three bodies lying on a floor covered with mattresses and the fourth in the shower, in a sitting position. The man in the shower was stripped to his underwear, and the shower tiles were smeared with blood. The army said four soldiers were slightly injured, suggesting there was resistance from the Hamas men.

Soldiers found large amounts of explosives in the apartment, and Ben-Eliezer said the group had been engaged in bombing and shooting attacks on Israelis. Nine suspects were arrested in the raid, the army said.

"We woke up from the sound of explosions in the apartment next door," Lily Kalbounneh said. "The soldiers shot on the door of the apartment (next door), and called on people to get out. With my two girls, I stayed under the bed to hide from the shooting."

Israeli troops kill 4 in raid; Hamas calls 'all-out war'

Palestinian officials identified the dead as members of the Hamas military wing Izzedine al-Qassam, including the Nablus leader of the group, Yousef Soragji. Two of the four had been among the several dozen militants Israel asked the Palestinian Authority to arrest.

The army said all four had been released by the Palestinian Authority at the start of the current round of Israeli-Palestinian fighting.

Leaders of Arafat's Fatah movement -- responding to the Tulkarem incursion and last week's killing of a Tulkarem militia leader, Raed Karmi, in an operation widely attributed to Israel -- also said they were renewing attacks on Israelis.

"I can't stand in front of the friends of Raed Karmi and tell them not to avenge his blood," Hussein al-Sheik, Fatah leader in the West Bank, told Israel radio. "We made a decision to fight against the occupation, to defend our land, the Palestinian nation."

Last week, Fatah gunmen carried out a series of attacks in retaliation for the killing of Karmi, including a shooting attack on a banquet hall in the Israeli town of Hadera, in which six Israelis were killed. Israel has said the Hadera gunman was sent by Karmi's militia in Tulkarem.

In Tulkarem, tanks and soldiers started pulling out of the northern sections of the city at dawn Tuesday, about 30 hours after they had entered.

Israel has raided Palestinian-ruled areas many times since fighting broke out in September 2000, but the takeover of Tulkarem marked the first time the army had taken control of an entire Palestinian-controlled town. The West Bank cities were handed to Palestinian control in the 1990s, as part of interim peace agreements.

Just before the Israeli pullback, there were sporadic gunbattles early Tuesday. Palestinian militants hiding in alleys and in homes fired on soldiers, who shot back with sniper rifles and heavy machine guns.

Load-Date: January 22, 2002

End of Document

Hamas vows revenge after 14 die in Israeli 'massacre': Operation targeted extremist groups, not civilians: Israel

Ottawa Citizen

October 8, 2002 Tuesday EARLY Edition

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Section: News; Pg. A9; News

Length: 722 words

Byline: Matthew Kalman

Dateline: JERUSALEM

Body

JERUSALEM -- The **Hamas** terror group has vowed revenge for an Israeli army attack on targets in the Gaza Strip that left at least 14 people dead and wounded dozens more, including unarmed civilians.

Thousands of supporters attended funerals of those killed when Israeli troops stormed several buildings in Khan Younis in the Gaza Strip early yesterday morning. At least 80 people were reported injured. Intermittent firefights continued during the day.

The Ottawa Citizen

Most of the casualties in Khan Younis occurred as the Israeli troops were withdrawing from the town shortly before dawn. A group of armed Palestinians fired on the soldiers, and an Israeli helicopter responded by firing a missile at the armed men. A woman and a young boy were among the dead. Eyewitnesses said many innocent bystanders were caught in the blast, but the Israeli army said most of those hit were gunmen.

The raid marked the first time the Israeli army had entered Khan Younis in more than two years of fighting. About 2 a.m., a large force of tanks, troops and armoured personnel carriers moved in to a neighbourhood used by **Hamas** to fire mortars and rockets at nearby Israeli settlements almost daily.

"The moment that the army went in there, they were fired on from every window and every opening, so our soldiers had to do the job," said Israeli Deputy Defence Minister Weizman Shiri. "The most militant of **Hamas** men are located there, and if damage was caused to innocent civilians, we can be sorry, but what can you do? -- this is war."

But **Hamas** spokesman Abdul Aziz Rantissi said Israel was trying to "annihilate the Palestinian people."

"This massacre proves beyond any doubt that the entire Palestinian people are targeted, whether they are armed or unarmed," he said. "Let us all rise to defend our existence, our children, our **women**, and defeat this enemy and liberate our homeland. The Jews are all murderers and they understand only one language.

"When we are attacked in Khan Younis, there should be no security in Tel Aviv. I call upon the resistance to attack all Jews, those who came from America and those who came from Russia, to usurp our land."

Gen. Yisrael Ziv, commander of Israeli forces in Gaza, said the operation was targeted at **Hamas** and other extremist groups.

Hamas vows revenge after 14 die in Israeli 'massacre': Operation targeted extremist groups, not civilians: Israel

"I was up close to the operation during the entire time," he said. "For the most part, our firing was against those who were armed, against anyone who resisted and for the return of fire and hand grenades thrown at us. Many other explosive devices were activated, and there was rocket-propelled grenade fire against our forces."

While the Israeli army said it was determined to stamp out centres of Palestinian terrorism, diplomats in the region reacted with dismay to the high number of casualties and the impact on efforts to achieve a ceasefire after more than two years of fighting.

European Union security chief Javier Solana, who is visiting the region, said he was "shocked" by the fighting, but said he would "continue working for a political solution."

The EU condemned the Israeli raid in unusually strong terms.

"There can be no justification for military actions directed indiscriminately against civilian neighbourhoods, whether Palestinian or Israeli," the EU said in a statement.

But Danish Foreign Minister Per Stig Moeller, who chairs the EU foreign ministers' council, urged the Palestinians to rein in calls for retaliation.

"I ask now the Palestinians to control their forces of terrorism so that they do not retaliate," he said.

U.S. State Department spokesman Richard Boucher said the U.S. administration was "deeply troubled" by events in Khan Younis.

"It's very important that Israeli forces do their utmost to act in a manner that avoids harm to civilians and humanitarian facilities," said Mr. Boucher. "We call on the Israeli military to investigate the circumstances surrounding these deaths and we expect immediate steps to be taken to prevent the recurrence of tragic incidents such as these."

Nabil Abu Rudeineh, a spokesman for Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat, said the raid was a calculated attempt by Israel to destroy diplomatic moves towards peace.

"This government is not just carrying out massacres, it is also playing with fire and dragging the whole Middle East into the verge of explosion and chaos."

Graphic

Photo: Khalil Hamra, The Associated Press; A Palestinian woman was carried to a hospital with shrapnel wounds.

Load-Date: October 8, 2002

Israel retaliates for attacks; Helicopters destroy alleged Hamas weapons factory after university attack and bus bombing

Hamilton Spectator (Ontario, Canada)

August 6, 2002 Tuesday Final Edition

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Section: CANADA & WORLD; Pg. B01; News

Length: 749 words

Byline: Sudarsan Raghavan

Dateline: JERUSALEM

Body

Israeli helicopters pummelled Palestinian targets in Gaza City last night, retaliating for a wave of attacks that killed 13 Israelis and wounded scores over a 24-hour period.

After circling the city, one of the helicopters fired several missiles at a metalworks factory near the centre of Gaza City, injuring five people, including a teenager, said witnesses and hospital workers. People ran for cover and ambulances rushed to treat the wounded. Women were screaming and men ordered their children to get inside their homes.

Knight Ridder Newspapers

The 20-minute assault temporarily knocked out the electricity grid, plunging portions of the city into darkness.

Israel said the factory was a bomb-making workshop and that the airstrikes were the latest attempt to knock out the "terrorist infrastructure" of the militant Islamic group Hamas.

Hamas, which is based in Gaza, has claimed responsibility for two bombings in the past week, one at Jerusalem's Hebrew University, which killed seven people, including five Americans, and the suicide bombing of a bus Sunday, which killed nine people in northern Galilee.

The bus bombing was the first of a wave of Palestinian attacks over the weekend, including a dramatic shootout near Jerusalem's Damascus Gate, which left three people dead, and two ambushes that wounded seven Israelis.

Early yesterday morning, Palestinian gunmen killed a couple and wounded two of their children south of Nablus. Israeli soldiers shot three Palestinian militants Sunday in Gaza and the West Bank.

Israel announced yesterday it had arrested Mazen Foqha, a leading Hamas activist in the West Bank, for allegedly supplying the explosives for Sunday's bus attack.

The Palestinian violence has intensified since an Israeli airstrike July 22 killed senior Hamas militant Sheik Salah Shehada and 14 other Palestinians, most of them children, in Gaza. Since then, Palestinian militants have killed 27 Israelis and Hamas has vowed to carry out more attacks.

Israel retaliates for attacks; Helicopters destroy alleged Hamas weapons factory after university attack and bus bombing

Israel clamped down harder yesterday on Palestinian travel throughout much of the West Bank as a Palestinian man reportedly on a bombing mission prematurely exploded himself inside a car in northern Israel, killing himself and wounding the driver.

Israeli tanks choked off the southern town of Rafah, a hotbed of Palestinian violence, and sealed the northern West Bank. Defence Minister Benjamin Ben-Eliezer defended Israel's moves to prevent Palestinian attacks, saying that about 140 would-be bombers have been captured. He did not indicate the time frame.

Under the new restrictions, Palestinians will not be able to drive between the towns of Jenin, Nablus, Tulkarem, Qalqiliya and Ramallah, the Israeli army said.

"Nobody enters and nobody leaves," Ben-Eliezer said. The goal, he said, is "a much bigger closure than we are doing at the present."

Senior Palestinian officials denounced the restrictions, saying they would not make Israelis safe. "This is now the biggest jail in history, Gaza and the West Bank," chief Palestinian negotiator Saeb Erekat said in an interview. Strict limits on Palestinian travel have been in place since the Israeli-Palestinian violence broke out in September 2000.

Israel has initiated other attempts to deter suicide bombers. Over the weekend, Israeli soldiers demolished 11 houses that belonged to the families of previous suicide bombers in Hebron, Jenin and Nablus, a strategy also used decades ago against Palestinian attackers.

Israel hopes would-be bombers will not attack if they know their actions could harm their families. The demolitions also could provide an incentive for relatives to convince would-be attackers to stop their missions. "We will continue with demolition of terrorists' houses. We will begin exiling the families of suicide bombers, but only if there is a clear link proven between them and the act," Ben-Eliezer said.

Also yesterday, Israeli Foreign Minister Shimon Peres urged Egypt's President Hosni Mubarak to help jump-start the peace process. At a news conference in Cairo, Mubarak urged Israel to resume talks with Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat, whom Israeli Prime Minister Ariel Sharon has refused to meet.

After Sunday's attacks, Israeli-Palestinian talks on security and easing economic hardships for Palestinians were postponed, said Israeli government spokesman Ranaan Gissin. The talks had been scheduled for later this week.

"We're in the middle of a wave of terrorist activity," Gissin said. "We first have to take care of that. Then we can talk."

Graphic

Photo: Eitan Hess-Ashkenazi, the Associated Press; Israeli soldiers and family members of Israeli soldier Roni Ghanem carry his coffin wrapped in an Israeli flag during his funeral yesterday in the village of Maghar. He died in a bus bombing on Sunday.

Load-Date: August 6, 2002

**Palestinian group vows 'all-out war';
 Hamas made the pledge after losing four members.
 Israel issued its own threat after deadly shootings.**

The Philadelphia Inquirer

January 24, 2002 Thursday CITY-D EDITION

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The Philadelphia Inquirer

Found on Philly.com

Section: NATIONAL; Pg. A03

Length: 551 words

Byline: Mohammed Daraghmeh ASSOCIATED PRESS

Dateline: NABLUS, West Bank

Body

Threatening bloody revenge, Islamic militants and supporters of Palestinian leader Yasir Arafat marched side by side yesterday in the funeral procession for **Hamas** members killed in an Israeli commando raid, including one of the group's top terror masterminds.

Hamas said it would unleash "all-out war" in retaliation for the killing of four members of its military wing, Izzedine al Qassam. Israel, in turn, said it would respond to a shooting rampage by a Palestinian gunman who killed two **women** and wounded 14 bystanders in downtown Jerusalem on Tuesday.

Israel's new military intelligence chief, Maj. Gen. Aharon Zeevi-Farkash, told legislators that Israel must brace for a wave of Palestinian attacks, "worse than what we have experienced so far in Israeli cities," the Yediot Ahronot daily said.

The four **Hamas** members were killed before dawn Tuesday in an Israeli commando raid on their hideout and explosives lab in the West Bank town of Nablus.

Among the dead was Yousef Soragji, 42, leader of the **Hamas** military wing in the West Bank and a mastermind of several suicide bombings in Israel.

Yesterday, more than 15,000 people attended the funeral of Soragji and two other men killed in the hideout. The march was led by activists from **Hamas** and the Al Aqsa Brigades, a militia linked to Arafat's Fatah movement.

Maj. Gen. Yitzhak Eitan, a West Bank army commander, said the explosives lab was the biggest ever uncovered by Israeli forces. Eitan said the commandos found bomb belts, chemicals, and a large quantity of weapons "intended for terrorist attacks in the near future."

Palestinian group vows 'all-out war'; Hamas made the pledge after losing four members. Israel issued its own threat after deadly shootings.

The gunman in Tuesday's shooting attack in Jerusalem was a member of the Al Aqsa Brigades, which said the shooting came as revenge for last week's killing of a militia leader in an operation attributed to Israel. Sixteen people were hit by the gunman during the shooting on a cold, rainy afternoon on busy Jaffa Street in West Jerusalem. Two women later died of their wounds, and four other people were seriously wounded in the rampage, police said, which lasted about 10 minutes.

Amid mutual threats of retaliation, the speaker of Israel's parliament, Avraham Burg, said he had accepted an invitation to speak before the Palestinian legislature in the West Bank, despite opposition from Prime Minister Ariel Sharon.

"In spite of everything we should try to talk peace," Burg, a member of the center-left Labor Party, told Israeli Army Radio. No date was set for Burg's visit to the legislature, based in Ramallah.

Each side has blamed the other for the latest cycle of attack and retaliation, which came after several weeks of relative calm brought on by Arafat's truce declaration Dec. 16.

Israeli Foreign Minister Shimon Peres yesterday told the Council of Europe in France that Arafat needed to reestablish his leadership within the Palestinian camp before new moves toward peace could be made.

Peres complained that even if Arafat might want to make an opening toward the Israeli government, his support within the Palestinian movement was too fragmented to be effective.

Israeli government spokesman Avi Pazner said the Jerusalem attack, carried out by an Arafat supporter, would not go unpunished. "I think we employed only a fraction of our capabilities," Pazner said. "One thing is clear - we are going to defend ourselves."

Load-Date: January 24, 2002

**PALESTINIANS WANT REVENGE;
MOURNERS PROTEST ISRAELI BOMB ATTACK THAT KILLED HAMAS
LEADER, CIVILIANS**

Pittsburgh Post-Gazette (Pennsylvania)

July 24, 2002 Wednesday

SOONER EDITION

Copyright 2002 P.G. Publishing Co.

Section: WORLD,

Length: 567 words

Byline: JOHN KIFNER, THE NEW YORK TIMES

Dateline: GAZA CITY, Gaza Strip

Body

"Revenge, revenge!" cried tens of thousands of mourners streaming in a three-mile procession yesterday through Gaza City's bleak streets for the funeral of the **Hamas** military chieftain Salah Shehadeh, the flags of Palestinian factions rippling in unity, the fevered emotion punctuated by bursts of gunfire in the air. "God is great!"

An Israeli F-16 fighter jet dropped a one-ton laser-guided bomb into Gaza City's densely packed al-Daraj neighborhood just a few minutes after midnight, killing not only Shehadeh, who Israel blames for a string of deadly attacks, but 14 other people -- among them, nine children. An area about half the size of a city block was leveled, and several buildings were damaged. Shifa Hospital said more than 140 people had been injured, 15 of them seriously.

The procession for Shehadeh, whose body was wrapped in a green Islamic banner, and most of the other victims numbered 100,000 or more. In their midst, as they marched toward the Al Emari Mosque, the political leader of **Hamas**, Sheikh Ahmed Yassin, was pushed among the crowd in his wheelchair.

"Death to Israel!" the mourners shouted. "Death to America!"

A man held aloft the tiny body of the youngest victim, 2-month-old Dina Mattar, wrapped in a Palestinian flag, her small face visible. She was killed along with her mother and four siblings when upper-story rooms in their building collapsed.

Israeli Prime Minister Ariel Sharon, in a formal written statement issued by his office early in the day, described the airstrike as "one of our major successes."

But as the day wore on, and the extent of the civilian casualties became clear, worldwide condemnation -- including strong criticism from the European Union and a rare rebuke from President Bush -- began pouring in. Israeli officials scrambled to put the best face on their actions. "We wouldn't have done it if we knew what the consequences would be," a senior military official told a gathering of reporters hastily summoned in Jerusalem yesterday afternoon.

PALESTINIANS WANT REVENGE; MOURNERS PROTEST ISRAELI BOMB ATTACK THAT KILLED HAMAS LEADER, CIVILIANS

The briefing for foreign and Israeli reporters was conducted by Maj. Gen. Dan Harel, the army's chief of operations, and Maj. Gen. Aharon Farkash, the head of military intelligence. Under the rules, some of their remarks could be quoted directly, others were attributable only to "senior military officials."

Late last night, another top-ranking general was calling foreign reporters with further explanations.

"We launched a precision attack," Harel said at the meeting. "Only this house was hit, the house collapsed, and this mastermind terrorist died. Unfortunately, along with him died several civilians, apparently innocent, and we are very sorry for it."

At the Israeli briefing yesterday afternoon, a senior military official explained that the reason for using the F-16 instead of an Apache helicopter was "an Apache missile does nothing to a two-story building. We had to collapse it and make it rubble."

Neighbors said Shehadeh had been living in a rented apartment for about a month under an assumed name and was rarely seen. His family home in the northern Gaza Strip town of Beit Hanoun was destroyed in an Israeli raid last February.

Shehadeh was the "most brutal and brilliant terrorist operating in the Gaza Strip," said Israeli Foreign Ministry spokesman Daniel Taub. "He was personally responsible for orchestrating attacks against hundreds of civilians over the past two years."

Graphic

PHOTO: Vadim Ghirda/Associated Press: Palestinian women examine the damage done to their apartment when an Israeli fighter dropped a one-ton bomb on a neighboring apartment complex yesterday in Gaza City. The airstrike killed a top Hamas leader and 14 civilians.

Load-Date: July 24, 2002

Arafat: 'I'm helpless'; With Hamas vowing 'all-out war' on Israel, Arafat says he's helpless to keep the peace

The Cambridge Reporter

January 24, 2002 Thursday Final Edition

Copyright 2002 Toronto Star Newspapers, Ltd.

Section: NEWS; Pg. B2; NEWS

Length: 482 words

Dateline: JERUSALEM

Body

Islamic rebels threatened "all-out war" yesterday to avenge the killing of a **Hamas** commander in the West Bank, and Yasser Arafat's Palestinian Authority said it can no longer be expected to enforce a truce with Israel.

With tensions and violence rising, the U.S. ambassador to Israel called on Israelis and Palestinians to urge their governments to work for peace.

Palestinian rebels and mainstream activists marched together in a funeral procession in Nablus, burying the dead from Israel's raid on a bomb factory a day earlier. Four **Hamas** activists were killed, including West Bank rebel leader Yousef Soragji, 42, mastermind of several suicide bombings.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

The Israeli army commander in the West Bank said it was the biggest bomb factory ever uncovered, and the military displayed the range of explosives and timing devices found in the Nablus apartment.

More than 15,000 people marched in the funeral, led by activists from **Hamas** and the Al Aqsa Brigades, a militia linked to Arafat's Fatah movement.

Hamas pledged an "all-out war" against Israel in retaliation, and Palestinian cabinet secretary Ahmed Abdel Rahman said the Palestinian Authority could not enforce a ceasefire under the circumstances.

"The Israeli guns are being pointed to our heads," he told The Associated Press. "We are not able to implement any of our commitments."

On Tuesday, a Palestinian linked to Arafat's Fatah movement opened fire in downtown Jerusalem, killing two **women** and wounding 14 other people. Abdel Rahman said the Palestinian Authority opposes attacks on civilians, but charged that Israel was responsible for the deterioration.

A lull of several weeks in the 16 months of violence ended after last week's killing - widely attributed to Israel - of militia leader Raed Karmi in the West Bank town of Tulkarem. Palestinians have carried out a string of retaliatory attacks against Israeli civilians, bringing on more countermeasures.

Yesterday, Israeli tanks remained parked about 65 metres from Arafat's West Bank headquarters in the town of Ramallah, the most visible of the measures Israel has taken.

Arafat: 'I'm helpless'; With Hamas vowing 'all-out war' on Israel , Arafat says he's helpless to keep the peace

Also yesterday, Israeli bulldozers demolished two Palestinian houses on the outskirts of Jerusalem. Israeli officials said they were built without permits.

In a public appeal, U.S. Ambassador Daniel Kurtzer called on Israelis and Palestinians to press their governments to work for peace.

"They need to hear from you that you want peace, that you want reconciliation, that you want reasonable compromise," Kurtzer said at Givat Haviva, an Israeli institution that sponsors Jewish-Arab programs.

Kurtzer recalled that his generation stormed U.S. university offices to force change. "I don't recommend that," he said, but added that Israelis and Palestinians should take actions that "will be persuasive to the two governments involved that the people have had enough and they want to move forward."

Graphic

Photo: THE ASSOCIATED PRESS; Powderkeg Middle East has become too much for Yasser Arafat.

Load-Date: January 28, 2002

Israeli missiles kill 7, wound 48: Victims range in age from 4 to 75. Senior Hamas commander among those wiped out by huge explosion in Gaza City

The Gazette (Montreal, Quebec)

April 9, 2003 Wednesday Final Edition

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Section: News; Pg. A21

Length: 287 words

Byline: IBRAHIM BARZAK

Dateline: GAZA CITY, Gaza Strip

Body

Israeli aircraft fired five missiles at a car in Gaza City after sundown yesterday, killing at least seven people - including a Palestinian militant.

At least 48 people also were wounded, eight of them critically, by the missile strike, doctors said. AP; Cox News Service and the New York Times contributed to this report. The wounded, including women, were civilians ranging in age from 6 to 75, doctors said. A child of 4 and a teenager were among the dead.

Witnesses reported a huge explosion in the Zeitoun neighbourhood in Gaza City, known as a stronghold of the militant group Hamas, which is responsible for dozens of attacks that have killed hundreds of Israelis in 30 months of fighting.

One of the dead was identified as Saed Arabeed, 38, a senior Hamas commander.

The Israeli military refused to comment. Since the war in Iraq began on March 20, Israel had scaled back its incursions and military operations in the West Bank and Gaza, but Israeli forces have arrested dozens of suspects in nightly sweeps and raids in the West Bank.

Residents said two Israeli F-16 fighter planes circled low over Gaza City just before attacking a Subaru car on a Gaza street.

Yussef Touth, 24, said the white car was approaching an intersection when he saw the planes, then "a big flame in the sky" followed by the missile hitting the car. He was wounded in both legs and lay covered with blood in the hospital.

"I saw bodies torn to pieces," he said.

Palestinians who had rushed toward the car to help those inside were scattered by a second air strike from helicopters, according to witnesses.

Israel has carried out many similar attacks targeting suspected militants. Palestinians and human rights groups have condemned the practice.

Hamas vowed to retaliate for the attack.

Israeli missiles kill 7, wound 48: Victims range in age from 4 to 75. Senior Hamas commander among those wiped out by huge explosion in Gaza City

Graphic

Photo: SUHAIB SALEM, REUTERS; Palestinians carry the body of a man killed during an Israeli aircraft attack in Gaza City yesterday. Missiles killed at least seven people and wounded 48.

Load-Date: April 9, 2003

End of Document

Children killed in suicide attack on bus: Hamas claims responsibility for Jerusalem blast that leaves eight dead while dealing stunning blow to peace camp

The Guardian (London)

November 22, 2002

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Section: Guardian Foreign Pages, Pg. 19

Length: 756 words

Byline: Chris McGreal in Jerusalem

Body

Nael Azmi Abu Hilail had more than enough time to see those he was about to kill after he boarded the number 20 bus at the bottom of Mexico Street.

The young Palestinian man cannot have failed to notice the two dozen or more children clutching their school books as he squeezed his way to the centre of the packed bus winding through the rush-hour traffic to the centre of Jerusalem yesterday morning.

But that did not discourage him.

Two stops later he detonated the explosive packed around his body, the first suicide bombing in Jerusalem in more than three months and a stunning blow to the peace camp in Israel's general election campaign.

Eight passengers were killed instantly. By the end of the day the death toll had risen to 11. About half were children.

The Israeli prime minister, Ariel Sharon, ordered the army to launch a "wide and extensive operation" in response to the bombing. He was not specific but, given that the bomber was from a village on the outskirts of Bethlehem, it seemed likely that the army would be ordered back into the city three months after it pulled out as a first step towards restoring Palestinian authority over West Bank towns. Within hours of the attack, the military had arrested the bomber's father and brother.

Among those who escaped with wounds was Tamar Ravivo, who was sitting at the back of the bus. "I never believed that this would happen in my neighbourhood," she said. "So I wasn't looking and just read my book of Psalms. Suddenly there was such an explosion . . . and people flew in the air, on fire."

The victims included 13-year-old Hodaya Asraf, who had followed her killer on to the bus. Hodaya was buried eight hours later. Others who died included a mother and her 16-year-old son and an elderly woman and her eight-year-old grandson. A large proportion of the 50 or more wounded were also children.

The explosion tossed schoolbags and textbooks on to the road, and scattered shards of glass for hundreds of metres. Frantic mothers ran to the scene desperate to know if their children were all right. The police were not letting the distraught women near the bodies, so they started phoning hospitals in search of answers. But in the chaos of the moment there were none.

Children killed in suicide attack on bus: Hamas claims responsibility for Jerusalem blast that leaves eight dead while dealing stunning blow to peace camp

Two young girls stood weeping, hand in hand, on a grass slope overlooking the bus.

Hamas claimed responsibility for the attack and promised worse to come.

"We confirm the path of jihad and martyrdom is continuing in every part of our occupied land as long as there is occupation and there are crimes. What is coming is bigger and, God willing, greater," said **Hamas**'s armed wing in a statement.

The bombing is the first during the campaign for Israel's general election in January and its political significance was quickly made clear. Security is the only issue that matters to most voters, and Mr Sharon is campaigning on the back of his crackdown in the Palestinian territories and his refusal to deal with Yasser Arafat.

Despite **Hamas**'s admission of responsibility, the Israeli government directed its fire at Mr Arafat. "Undoubtedly (Mr Arafat) is the one who is responsible," said Uzi Landau, one of Mr Sharon's cabinet. "We see the Europeans are now pressing for the swift establishment of a Palestinian state. How can we allow that? That would simply be used as a base for more attacks.

"This is a world war. It's no different from what happened in Bali and at the theatre in Moscow. It all has its roots in radical Islam."

The company that owned the bus reinforced the point by filing a lawsuit against Mr Arafat and the Palestinian Authority a few hours after yesterday's bombing, claiming pounds 6.7m in damages for the attacks on its vehicles over the past two years of the intifada.

The Palestinian Authority condemned the bombing as "terrorism" and said it had nothing to do with "resistance to occupation". But it did say that Israel's continued occupation of Palestinian territories and its brutal military crackdown in the West Bank and Gaza, which has left several Palestinian children dead over the past week, kept the suicide bombers coming.

Mr Arafat's Fatah movement spent last week in Cairo trying to persuade militant **Hamas** leaders that suicide bombings united Israelis behind Mr Sharon's militarist tactics.

But independent Palestinian leaders, such as Mustafa Barghouti, argue that neither **Hamas** nor the Israeli right are interested in peace. "**Hamas** has the same interest as Sharon - they don't want an agreement, they don't want to see progress, they feed off each other," he said.

Load-Date: November 22, 2002

Israel strikes back for attack on kibbutz: In Cairo, Hamas considers one-year end to suicide bombings

Ottawa Citizen

November 12, 2002 Tuesday Final Edition

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Section: News; Pg. A11; News; Crime

Length: 529 words

Byline: Muin Shadid

Dateline: TULKARM, West Bank

Body

TULKARM, West Bank -- Dozens of Israeli tanks swept into a Palestinian refugee camp in the northern West Bank early this morning, as Israel responded to a Palestinian shooting rampage that killed five people in a kibbutz.

Military retaliation for the attack by a lone gunman, who killed the collective farm community's administrator, two women and two small children before escaping, was likely to complicate a new U.S. peace mission that began yesterday.

Israeli security sources had said hours earlier that Israel had decided on military action in the Tulkarm and Nablus areas of the West Bank. A senior Israeli military official said Israel knows the shooter and his accomplices came from Tulkarm, but were dispatched by militants in Nablus.

Reuters; with files from The Associated Press

Palestinian witnesses and security sources said about 30 tanks, armoured troop carriers and jeeps stormed into Tulkarm's camp about 3 a.m. and fanned through the streets. They reported heavy gunfire from Israeli troops, but no immediate resistance from Palestinian militants.

The Israeli army had no immediate comment.

Prime Minister Ariel Sharon and new Defence Minister Shaul Mofaz had visited the kibbutz last night and discussed a "measured" military response to the attack. Israeli security sources said afterward Mr. Sharon and Mr. Mofaz had opted for military action "in the coming hours."

Also last night, in the Gaza Strip's Rafah refugee camp, a two-year-old Palestinian child was shot dead in his father's arms by what witnesses called unprovoked gunfire into the neighbourhood from an Israeli army watchtower. An army spokesman said Israeli troops had responded to shots fired at them.

The kibbutz attack threw a cloud over U.S. envoy David Satterfield's arrival to push a new peace "roadmap" entailing reciprocal steps by the two sides -- focusing on Palestinian reforms and Israeli military withdrawals -- leading to a Palestinian state in 2005.

The proposal, part of efforts by an international "quartet" made up of U.S., European Union, UN and Russian mediators, has met with skepticism from Palestinian officials and Israeli cabinet ministers. The envoys met in Tel

Israel strikes back for attack on kibbutz: In Cairo, Hamas considers one-year end to suicide bombings

Aviv last night to weigh changes to the plan to be approved at a meeting of top leaders in mid-December, diplomats said.

Meanwhile, hopes for a halt to suicide bombings in the two-year-old Palestinian uprising were renewed yesterday, after Palestinian officials said the Islamic militant group **Hamas** had discussed a possible one-year suspension of such attacks during talks with Mr. Arafat's Fatah faction in Cairo.

The talks are expected to wrap up today with a final communique and an agreement to resume discussions at a later date after consultations with their leaderships. **Hamas** has opposed Mr. Arafat's peace deals with Israel and has carried out suicide attacks that have increased since Palestinians launched an uprising in September 2000.

A **Hamas** official at the talks said the two sides formed "a joint political vision on how to face the next phase, since the Zionist aggression against the Palestinian people is increasing and the Zionist right has become more cruel and more daring in showing its hostility."

Load-Date: November 12, 2002

End of Document

***Calls for vengeance as Israeli missile kills nine children;
Britain joins condemnation after attack on Hamas chief***

DAILY MAIL (London)

July 24, 2002

Copyright 2002 Associated Newspapers Ltd.

Section: Pg. 8

Length: 689 words

Byline: Matthew Kalman;David Williams

Body

BRITAIN last night joined international condemnation of the Israeli air strike in Gaza that killed 15 people, including two babies and seven other children.

Foreign Secretary Jack Straw described the attack as 'unacceptable and counterproductive' and Tony Blair urged an end to the 'cycle of violence which has scarred the region'.

Hamas commander Salah Shehada, Israel's most wanted man and said to be behind a wave of suicide bombings, was the target of an operation described by Israeli Prime Minister Ariel Sharon as a 'great success'.

Shehada died but it was the civilian toll, the 154 injuries and the scale of destruction caused by the F-16 warplane strike in a heavily populated area that sparked outrage.

Thousands of Palestinians took to the streets to call for vengeance.

Mourners carried the body of two-month- old Dina Mattar, wrapped in a Palestinian flag.

Other bodies, including that of her mother, Iman, were carried in coffins and on stretchers. Several were small children Hours earlier, in the aftermath of the attack, rescuers had formed human chains to pass the injured and the dead from the rubble.

Volunteers dug desperately among the debris where apartment blocks packed with families had once stood.

At one stage they passed out the body of a black haired child wearing a baby suit decorated with flowers.

Another group of rescuers shouted for the path in front of them to be cleared as they clutched the arms and legs of a woman as they ran her to an ambulance. It was too late, she too was dead.

'We will kill their children like they killed ours,' shouted one man with a loudspeaker.

'The blood of the babies and **women** will be the bridge for the Palestinian people to continue the uprising,' said Suhur Matar, who held a picture of her five-year-old daughter, killed in the attack.

The missile or bomb from an unseen F-16 struck as Palestinians were putting their children to bed in the Daraj district, one of Gaza's most highly populated areas.

Calls for vengeance as Israeli missile kills nine children; Britain joins condemnation after attack on Hamas chief

Three and four storey buildings collapsed on those inside. Every building within a 100-yard radius was badly damaged.

The Israeli target Shehada, a 49-year-old former university lecturer, lived in an apartment with his first wife and three daughters.

None of the neighbours knew his family was in the area. As the international criticism grew, Israel braced itself for a fresh wave of suicide attacks.

A senior **Hamas** official warned: 'Retaliation is coming and everything is considered a target.

'We will not rest until we have our revenge, until we see Zionist body parts in every restaurant, bus stop, bus and sidewalk.' Mr Straw said: 'While Israel is entitled to take steps to protect itself from terrorist attack, such steps should be neither disproportionate nor excessive.' In Washington-where the Bush administration has repeatedly backed Israel's right to defend itself, the President's spokesman made a rare criticism in describing the action as 'heavy handed'.

The attack came a day after **Hamas**'s spiritual leader, Sheikh Ahmed Yassin, said it would consider halting suicide bombings if Israel withdrew from occupied West Bank cities.

'Israel has the legal and moral responsibility to take all measures to avoid the loss of innocent life,' said United Nations Secretary General Kofi Annan.

'It clearly failed to do so in using a missile against an apartment building.' Saudi foreign minister Prince Saud al-Faisal called the strike a 'horrible act' with 'no ethical, moral or even military justification.

He added: 'We call for severe punishment for these crimes against Palestinian people.' Mr Sharon said he regretted the loss of civilian life but was obviously delighted at the death of 49-year-old Shehada.

Israel says he was responsible for setting **Hamas** policy on suicide attacks and giving orders to militants who carried them out.

Israel's defence minister Binyamin Ben-Eliezer said that 'the information we had was that there were no civilians near Shehada'.

But Palestinians argued that such an attack was certain to cause civilian casualties.

Yasser Arafat said: 'I ask the whole world, how can they be silent? Sharon does not want peace.'

Graphic

AFTERMATH: ANGUISHED MOURNERS CARRY THE TINY BODY OF DINA MATTAR; KILLED: SALAH SHEHADA

Load-Date: July 25, 2002

*Israelis closing in on suicide bomb Briton;
Secret service agents raid houses for hiding place as Hamas connection is
revealed*

MAIL ON SUNDAY

May 4, 2003

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Section: Pg. 18

Length: 563 words

Byline: Martin Smith; Ian Gallagher

Body

THE net was closing in on British suicide bomber Omar Khan Sharif last night after the Israeli secret service raided five houses in two pro-Palestinian towns near Tel Aviv.

Dozens of heavily armed agents carried out 'intelligence led strikes' in Ramle and Lod, which both have a predominately Arab population rife with Palestinian sympathisers and collaborators.

'If Sharif is still in the Tel Aviv area there are neighbourhoods in Ramle and Lod which would be ideal hiding places because so many people would be willing to help him,' a senior security source told The Mail on Sunday last night. 'These raids follow information from agents already secretly embedded there.' Sharif, 27, from Derby, has been on the run since Wednesday, when his accomplice, 21-year-old Asif Hanif from Hounslow, West London, detonated a suicide bomb strapped to his stomach at Mike's Place, a popular seafront bar next door to the American Embassy in Tel Aviv.

Three people were killed and scores more injured but Sharif's own bomb did not explode and he escaped after a struggle with security guards.

Last night police in London were still questioning three men and three women arrested under the Terrorism Act in connection with the blasts.

They are understood to be Sharif's wife Tahira and her brother, Sharif's two sisters and one of his brothers, and a friend of the family. All six are understood to have connections with Derby, and police are believed to have conducted searches at houses in the city and in Nottinghamshire.

It is also thought officers are investigating an extremist Islamic group operating in Normanton, Derby.

The Israeli authorities refused to give details of their huge operation to hunt down Sharif or whether any arrests were made during the raids, but the security source said 'his days of freedom are numbered'.

Meanwhile, fresh details emerged about how the two young Muslims embarked on their fanatical crusade after coming under the spell of the Dawa, the Islamic system of religious preaching turned into virulent fundamentalist propaganda.

Israelis closing in on suicide bomb Briton; Secret service agents raid houses for hiding place as Hamas connection is revealed

It began shortly after Hanif first arrived in Syria two years ago to study Arabic and Islamic Law and received 'spiritual guidance' with Sharif from Sheikh Omar Bakri Muhammad, head of the radical Muhajiroun movement.

The Israeli secret service has established the two men then underwent-basic training under the personal-guidance of Imad Al Alami, head of the **Hamas** movement in Syria, and it was almost certain that it was Al Alami himself from Gaza who planned their suicide mission.

'There were scores of volunteers in Syria wanting to help Saddam Hussein but none with British passports,' another Israeli security source said.

'As far as **Hamas** was concerned, the advantages of the two carrying British passports were far too valuable to be lost on an Iraqi mission.' With their training in Damascus complete, Hanif and Sharif crossed to Jordan with a **Hamas** minder two weeks ago. 'It went like clockwork because their British passports gave them carte blanche in each border crossing,' said the source.

'From Jordan they crossed into Palestine and took a taxi to Gaza.' In Gaza the two were once again able to exploit their British identity to pose as peace activists and even took part in a memorial service to a real peace activist, Rachel Corrie, who was killed by an Israeli army bulldozer during a protest march.

Load-Date: May 6, 2003

End of Document

***Israel: Faulty data led to attack;
It said it had not known women and children were with the Hamas leader
killed last month.***

The Philadelphia Inquirer

August 3, 2002 Saturday CITY-D EDITION

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The Philadelphia Inquirer

Found on Philly.com

Section: Pg. A03; news

Length: 567 words

Byline: Ramit Plushnick-Masti Associated Press

Dateline: JERUSALEM

Body

The Israeli military said yesterday that faulty intelligence was to blame for the deaths of 14 civilians - most of them women and children - in an air attack on a Gaza City apartment building that successfully targeted and killed a Hamas military leader last month.

In a statement summarizing the military investigation of the attack, the army said it regretted the civilian deaths. The army also said the attack never would have been launched if authorities had known women and children were in the building with Salah Shehadeh, head of the Hamas military wing.

Israel faced world criticism for the attack.

The Israeli pilot of a U.S.-made F-16 fired a one-ton missile at the three-story building where Shehadeh was staying on the night of July 22. His wife and 14-year-old daughter were among those killed in the attack. One hundred and fifty people were wounded in the explosion that brought down the targeted building and badly damaged three others.

Palestinian officials and other critics of the attack said that using such a powerful bomb in the densely packed Gaza City neighborhood was sure to cause civilian casualties.

Hamas vowed to avenge Shehadeh's death and said the first blow was struck Wednesday in the bombing at Jerusalem's Hebrew University that killed seven people, including five Americans.

The army said that Shehadeh was one of the founders of the Hamas military wing, known as Izzedine al-Qassam, and that he was directly responsible for initiating many of the deadliest attacks against Israelis.

Israel : Faulty data led to attack; It said it had not known women and children were with the Hamas leader killed last month.

Meanwhile, in Nablus the Israeli army blew up two buildings with explosives labs and arrested at least 50 Palestinians in house-to-house searches yesterday as troops took control of the city that Israel called "the main factory of suicide bombings."

Also, the military said it planned to expel two relatives of suspected Palestinian militants from their homes in the West Bank to the Gaza Strip - a transfer Israel hopes will deter potential attackers.

The stepped-up Israeli military actions follow a series of Palestinian attacks against Israel.

"There's been a train of Palestinian terrorism that's been hitting Israel over the past week to 10 days, and what we've been able to discern is that its hub is in Nablus," Israeli government spokesman Dore Gold said.

Nablus has replaced nearby Jenin "as the main factory of suicide bombings against Israel." Nablus, the largest city in the West Bank with about 200,000 people, has been under an Israeli military curfew for most of the last six weeks, along with other Palestinian population centers.

Residents of Nablus defied the curfew from Monday to Wednesday, and life regained a semblance of normalcy as Palestinians returned to the streets and Israeli forces remained in armored vehicles parked on the outskirts of the city.

However, the military reinforced the curfew Thursday, and a convoy of more than 100 tanks and armored personnel carriers rolled into Nablus about 2 a.m. yesterday. The Palestinian suspects were handcuffed and blindfolded before being taken from Nablus on army buses.

The Israeli military said it found and blew up two buildings in the Old City that were being used as explosives laboratories.

Palestinian leader Yasir Arafat called the Israeli operation "a new massacre" and appealed for U.N. intervention. "I need an answer from the whole United Nations: Is this acceptable?" he asked at his headquarters in Ramallah.

Load-Date: August 3, 2002

Hamas declares 'all-out war' on Israel: Palestinian gunman killed after wounding 15 in attack on civilians at crowded bus stop

The Ottawa Citizen

January 23, 2002 Wednesday

Final EDITION

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Section: NEWS,; News

Length: 1133 words

Byline: Matthew Kalman

Dateline: JERUSALEM

Body

A Palestinian gunman rampaged along downtown Jerusalem's busiest street yesterday afternoon, spraying a crowded bus stop and pedestrians with assault rifle fire and injuring at least 15 Israelis before he was gunned down by police.

The assault occurred 12 hours after Israeli troops killed four militants from the Islamic Resistance Movement, known as **Hamas**, in a pre-dawn raid in the West Bank city of Nablus on what Israel described as a major explosives lab.

Even after nearly two weeks of steadily escalating violence, signs pointed to a fresh wave of attacks and reprisals in the 16-month-old conflict, which has already cost more than 1,000 lives. In response to the raid in Nablus, **Hamas** said it would unleash an "all-out war" against Israel.

The Ottawa Citizen; with files from Citizen News Services

Israeli officials said they were alarmed that the Al-Aqsa Martyrs Brigades, an armed group affiliated with Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat's Fatah organization, is now openly sponsoring attacks inside Israel, including the shooting rampage in downtown Jerusalem and another at a girl's coming-of-age party in northern Israel last week.

Two **women** were still fighting for their lives in hospital last night after a lone gunman, 24-year-old Saeed Ibrahim Ramadan, armed with an M16 assault rifle, opened fire without warning on shoppers and pedestrians in Jerusalem's Jaffa Road just after 4 p.m. At least five people were seriously wounded as he sprayed bullets indiscriminately over a large area.

Israeli police said the gunman fired 58 rounds into the crowds before being killed in a shootout with police who heard the commotion and rushed to the scene.

The centre of Jerusalem looked like a battlefield, with bleeding victims strewn across the pavement. Shop windows were smashed by gunfire and emergency vehicles screamed through the busy traffic to tend to the wounded.

Senior Israeli officials warned their countrymen to brace for a surge of

Hamas declares 'all-out war' on Israel : Palestinian gunman killed after wounding 15 in attack on civilians at crowded bus stop

attacks and vowed to strike back in

response to the assault in central Jerusalem, which left one woman in critical condition and six other people in serious to moderate condition.

"Israel will respond appropriately and in a manner that will eliminate this ongoing threat to the people of Israel," said Dore Gold, an adviser to Israeli Prime Minister Ariel Sharon.

Some officials openly endorsed toppling Mr. Arafat's eight-year-old Palestinian Authority, which administers parts of the West Bank and Gaza Strip, even though the government has not formally decided to do so.

"We need to intensify the pressure so that at the end of the day it may bring the end of Arafat's era," said Danny Naveh, an Israeli cabinet minister.

Religious leaders meeting in Egypt yesterday called for an end to the killing of innocent people in the Middle East. A joint statement from top Christian, Jewish and Muslim leaders followed an unprecedented meeting between the leader of the three faiths.

The group emerged from a 36-hour meeting urging an end to the violence and the resumption of the peace process in the Middle East.

Meanwhile, former Israeli prime minister Ehud Barak, who while in office offered major concessions to Mr. Arafat, harshly criticized the Palestinian leader yesterday, saying, "Maybe he's a real terrorist. Maybe it's time to tell the truth to ourselves," Mr. Barak said.

The U.S. State Department said it was mostly up to Mr. Arafat to stop the violence that has sidetracked peacemaking between the Palestinian Authority and Israel.

A little more than a year ago, Mr. Barak, then Israel's prime minister, offered Mr. Arafat control of virtually all of the West Bank, Gaza and part of Jerusalem in exchange for peace. Mr. Arafat did not accept the offer, which was endorsed by former U.S. president Bill Clinton.

Asked yesterday why he had changed his mind about Mr. Arafat, Mr. Barak said, "Arafat leaves us no choice Arafat happens to behave like a terrorist," he said. "He looks like one, he walks like one, he quacks like one."

The attack yesterday took place only a few metres from the Sbarro Pizzeria, where 15 people were killed last August in a suicide bomb attack, and across the road from the scene of a November double-suicide bombing in which 10 young people died.

Eyewitness Avi Malkam said the gunman was dressed in an Israeli army uniform and wearing a black hat. "He started firing in all directions," said Mr. Malkam. "People ran and screamed. Many fell to the ground. The terrorist then started running away. Some shopkeepers drew pistols and chased after him."

"I heard automatic gunfire and ran towards it," said Hanan Ben-Naim, the police officer believed to have killed the attacker. "He ran towards (a) parking lot and a gun battle started between us. He was shooting at me with the M16, and I carried on shooting at him until the terrorist was neutralized."

On-duty police officers in the area reacted swiftly, said Jerusalem police chief Mickey Levy. "The attacker tried to escape, but after a short chase of maybe 10 or 15 metres they succeeded in hitting him."

One shopkeeper said she heard several men speaking Arabic in a car that was waiting in the parking lot at the rear of some shops, suggesting the gunman may have been planning a getaway rather than a suicide attack.

Earlier in Nablus, a pre-dawn swoop by Israeli commandos on a large bomb laboratory in an apartment building left four Hamas members dead. Palestinian officials said that the four had been shot in cold blood and some appeared to have been sleeping.

Hamis declares 'all-out war' on Israel : Palestinian gunman killed after wounding 15 in attack on civilians at crowded bus stop

But Israeli officials said the Palestinians set off a bomb and fired at the troops during the raid.

The bomb factory was "perhaps the largest ever discovered in the West Bank," said Maj.-Gen. Yitzhak Eitan, head of Israeli Central Command.

"The laboratory contained explosives ready for use, belts strapped with explosives, and chemical materials used to create explosive devices."

The Israeli army said the four dead were wanted **Hamis** terrorists who were deeply involved in bomb-making and sending suicide bombers into Israel, including Yusuf Sukagi, head of the **Hamis** terrorist wing in the northern West Bank. All four of had been tried and convicted by the Palestinian Authority but were released at the start of the intifada uprising in October 2000 and resumed their terrorist activities.

In the raid, at least nine men wanted by Israel on suspicion of terrorist activity were captured and taken for questioning. In promising revenge, **Hamis** threatened to renew suicide bombings throughout Israel. More than 2,000 **Hamis** supporters rioted outside Palestinian police headquarters in Nablus.

"This is state terror being waged against the Palestinian people," said Palestinian minister Saeb Erekat. "I believe that Sharon is preparing the ground to renew the occupation."

Graphic

Colour Photo: Lefteris Pitarakis, The Associated Press ;, Terror Attack Turns Jerusalem Into a Battlefield: An Israeli, pedestrian cries in shock following the shooting yesterday in, Jerusalem. A gunman opened fire on commuters waiting for a bus on a, busy downtown street.

Load-Date: January 23, 2002

Nativity siege duo are Hamas bomb terrorists

The Evening Standard (London)

May 3, 2002

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Section: Pg. 18

Length: 917 words

Byline: Sam Kiley

Body

THESE two men are members of a close-knit clan leading the Palestinian guerrillas currently holed up in the Basilica of the Nativity and who have deliberately endangered Christian parts of Bethlehem for months.

The key figure is Ibrahim Mohammed Abayat, 41, whom Israel wants handed over for trial as a "leading member of Hamas responsible for organising suicide attacks and bombings". In Bethlehem, he's known as the brains behind the clan's operations - some consider him the new "Godfather" and a ring leader of the besieged in the Basilica. With him is Aziz Mohammed Abayat Jubran, 31, an explosives expert also alleged to be behind the dispatch of suicide bombers into Israel.

Two of the Abayat clan - who headed Israel's Most Wanted list for Bethlehem - have already been killed by Israeli hit squads. Ibrahim "abu Galif" Abayat, was, according to the Israel Defence Force's website, a "prominent Tanzim operative who heads a military cell. He is the successor of Hussein and Atef Abyat (sic)".

Ibrahim was alleged to have been behind three killings: of IDF officer Yehuda Edri in June 2001; Sarit Amrani in September 2001 and Avi Boaz in January 2002.

All three Israelis were allegedly killed by Ibrahim operating from Beit Jalla, a Christian suburb of Bethlehem which sits across a valley from Gilo, a Jewish settlement which is also a Jerusalem suburb.

After Hussein, 38, was killed by an Israeli helicopter strike in which two innocent elderly Palestinian women were also blown to bits, Ibrahim continued to follow his clan's strategy to the letter.

Hussein's brother, Naji, 28, told Charles Sennott, author of *The Body and the Blood*, a study of Christians in the Holy Land, that the clan, all Muslim, fired on Israeli soldiers and civilians from the Christian areas of Beit Jalla and Beit Sahur because they knew the Israelis would retaliate - and undermine the cause of the Jewish State in the Christian West. "It was a military strategy," Naji said.

Hardened by life in the Judean desert, the Abayats hail from Hindazi, a village close to the Israeli fortress known as the "Crow's Nest" which controls access to Beit Sahur, where Hussein was killed. He could have fired on the "Crow's Nest" from a barren hillside overlooking the Israelis. But he chose to fire his heavy machine gun from close to Christian homes.

"David", a joint Palestinian-American, bore the brunt of Israeli retaliation - his living room was blasted by Israeli grenade launchers. He hailed the Abayats as heroes for fighting Israel's occupation of the West Bank.

Nativity siege duo are Hamas bomb terrorists

But he too cursed their tactics as night after night they traded bullets with the Israelis near his house.

Israeli intelligence experts believe that the Abayats who took refuge in the Basilica serve under the colours of the Tanzim and Hamas. The reality is that they take their funding where ever they can get it. Much of it came from running Israeli guns to other Palestinian groups and making 100 per cent on the deals. After Hussein died, leaving an arsenal behind in his home, his mantle fell on the shoulders of Atef, who continued to attack Israelis from Christian areas, until he too was killed. Mohammed, Hussein's cousin, took over. He was a hard man even by their standards. He took to fighting when he was released by Yasser Arafat from a Palestinian jail where he was serving a life term for the decapitation of his own sister and her lover in an "honour killing". The Israelis killed him at the end of 2001 in Beit Jalla - but the attacks on Gilo and the "Crows Nest", near Beit Sahur, continued unabated.

When the mixed crowd of gunmen, police, youths, and clerics fled into the Basilica on 2 April this year, it is no surprise that the Abayats were in the vanguard. Nidal Abayat, 22, was killed by a sniper earlier this week.

He had, the Israelis claim, tried to storm out of the Basilica with his rifle. Whatever the reason for his death, his blood was spilled inside the church.

The imagery is as powerful as it can get. Jewish snipers hiding in a nest dangling from a crane over Manger Square, their cross hairs trained on the Door of Humility, entrance to the Basilica of the Nativity. Franciscan monks emerge, shepherding terrified teenagers to safety and struggling under the weight of a dead man, killed by a Jew in the birthplace of Christ.

Inside the Basilica, built above the cave where St Catherine declared that Jesus was born two millennia ago, nuns tend to wounded Palestinian nationalists, sharing their meagre supplies of food and water with up to 200 people who sought sanctuary-in the holy site three weeks ago, and now sleep on pews.

Driven by hunger to forage in the courtyard of St Catherine's Roman Catholic church, which forms part of the nativity complex, at least two Palestinians have been shot dead, and two others wounded picking grass and lemon leaves.

Another of the victims of a Jewish bullet was the retarded bell ringer who wandered into the siege of the Basilica, in the early days of the siege, ignorant that it had become a battle ground - and died a "martyr".

For the Israelis, the siege of the Basilica has been a public relations nightmare. They have insisted that they will not storm the church - and have allowed youths and ordinary Palestinian policemen to leave unharmed.

But Israel has incurred the wrath of the Vatican and strained relations with Washington with its heavyhanded stand off and almost daily snipings.

And that's exactly what the Palestinians behind the siege on the Basilica wanted.

Load-Date: May 4, 2002

'PASSOVER MASSACRE' KILLS 19: HAMAS CLAIMS RESPONSIBILITY FOR SUICIDE BOMBING

The Columbian (Vancouver, WA.)

March 28, 2002, Thursday

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Section: Front Page; Pg. a1

Length: 863 words

Byline: JASON KEYSER, Associated Press writer

Body

NETANYA, Israel -- A suicide bomber burst into a hotel dining room and blew himself up Wednesday just as Israelis dressed in their holiday best were sitting down to a Seder meal celebrating the Jewish Passover. At least 19 Israelis were killed and more than 120 wounded.

The explosion tore through the ground floor of the Park Hotel in this northern coastal resort, blowing out walls and windows and overturning tables and chairs. Bits of rubble and wires dangled from the ceiling. In the chaos, one table remained standing, covered by a white cloth and with the elaborate Seder place settings still in place.

"Suddenly it was hell," said one of the guests, Nechama Donenhirsch, 52. "There was the smell of smoke and dust in my mouth and a ringing in my ears."

The Islamic militant group ***Hamas*** claimed responsibility for what Israeli government spokesman Gideon Meir called a "Passover massacre." The bomber, a 25-year-old Palestinian, had worked in Netanya hotels in the past.

The bombing in Netanya threatened to derail the latest U.S. truce mission, just hours after President Bush said his envoy to the region had made some progress. In later comments, Bush said "this callous, this cold-blooded killing, it must stop."

Israel, which had reluctantly accepted the latest U.S. cease-fire proposals, said it would have to reassess its policy and held Arafat responsible for the bombing. Police Minister Uzi Landau called for retaliation, saying the Palestinian Authority must be destroyed.

The Palestinian Authority said it "strongly condemned" the bombing, and that it would take tough measures against those involved. Palestinian security sources said Arafat ordered the arrests of four key militants in the West Bank.

The bombing came just hours after Saudi Crown Prince Abdullah presented a new peace initiative at the Arab summit in Beirut, offering Israel normal relations with the Arab world in exchange for a complete withdrawal from the territories it occupied in the 1967 Mideast war.

Arafat, who remains confined to the West Bank by Israel, embraced the initiative in a televised speech, and said he hoped it would be adopted by the summit.

'PASSOVER MASSACRE' KILLS 19: HAMAS CLAIMS RESPONSIBILITY FOR SUICIDE BOMBING

Israeli officials responded guardedly, saying the Saudi plan was too vague and somewhat weakened the idea of "normalization" initially floated by Abdullah. The prince's last-minute addition a demand that Israel recognize the right of return of Palestinian refugees is "totally unacceptable," said Danny Ayalon, a Sharon adviser.

Earlier reports said 16 Israelis were killed, but police officials said later that the figure had climbed to 19. The injury toll rose to more than 120, including more than two dozen who were in serious condition. It was one of the worst suicide bombings in the past 18 months of Israeli-Palestinian fighting. The deadliest was an attack in June outside a Tel Aviv disco that left 22 dead.

The explosion occurred at about 7:20 p.m. Wednesday, as dozens of guests in the Park Hotel along Netanya's boardwalk settled down for the Passover Seder in the dining hall. Guests were dressed in their holiday best; the women in festive dresses, the men in white shirts and dark pants.

Bomber walked past guard

The bomber, carrying a large bag of explosives, made his way past an armed guard at the hotel entrance who did not consider him suspicious, Israel TV said. From the lobby, he ran toward the dining hall, where he blew himself up.

Donenhirsch, the guest, said that as she and her family fled, they saw a little girl, about 10 to 12 years old, lying dead on the ground.

Some of the wounded staggered out of the lobby, which was plunged into darkness by the explosion. Others were taken to ambulances in stretchers.

Witnesses said they saw five bodies lined up on the pavement, some of them dismembered, including that of a woman in festive holiday clothes.

"They attacked innocent Israelis on one of the most sacred nights to Jewish people, Passover," said Meir, the Israeli government spokesman.

Israeli police had been on high alert for possible attacks during the weeklong Passover holiday, with more than 10,000 officers deployed in potential trouble spots.

The country's police commissioner, Shlomo Aharonishki, said it was impossible to prevent all attacks.

"Even with more policemen and a broader deployment, we cannot block the centers of the cities," Aharonishki said.

Hamas identified the bomber as Abdel Baset Odeh, 25, from the West Bank town of Tulkarem. Palestinian security sources said Odeh was wanted by Israel and the Palestinians.

Israel has said repeatedly it cannot tolerate more attacks on its civilians. Earlier this week, Sharon convened his security Cabinet to discuss possible options in the event the truce mission fails. One idea raised was a large-scale military operation in the West Bank and Gaza Strip.

Israel has accused Arafat of doing nothing to rein in militants. Raanan Gissin, a Sharon adviser, said the attack in Netanya "will require us to re-evaluate our overall policy."

"We are still working to achieve a cease-fire to which we are fully committed, but if the Palestinians have decided to choose the road of terrorism ... then we have to decide what measures we will take," Gissin said.

Graphic

'PASSOVER MASSACRE' KILLS 19: HAMAS CLAIMS RESPONSIBILITY FOR SUICIDE BOMBING

Eitan Hess-Ashkenazi/The Associated Press * Israeli police work amid the rubble where a suicide bomber killed 19 Israelis and wounded more than 120 Wednesday at a hotel dining room in the resort of Netanya. Guests had gathered for a Passover Seder, the ritual meal ushering in the Jewish holiday.

Load-Date: March 28, 2002

End of Document

14 wounded in Tel Aviv suicide raid

The Weekend Australian
January 26, 2002, Saturday

Copyright 2002 Nationwide News Pty Limited

Section: WORLD; Pg. 11

Length: 541 words

Byline: * Correspondents in Tel Aviv

Body

FOURTEEN people were wounded, three of them seriously, in a suicide blast last night in a busy pedestrian zone of Tel Aviv that claimed the life of the assailant.

The bomb went off during the morning peak hour at the old, abandoned bus station in the city centre, a relatively rundown area of small stores usually crowded on a Friday.

Tel Aviv police chief Yossi Setbon said the bomber detonated the explosive belt he was wearing next to a scooter, contrary to earlier police reports that he was riding a motorbike, Mr Setbon explained.
AFP,AP

The area was immediately cordoned off by police, who launched a search in case of other bombs.

According to Israel's military radio, police were already on high alert in the Tel Aviv area following information on possible attacks.

"We are expecting further attacks in the coming days," said Israel police chief Shlomo Aharonishky.

The last attack inside Israel took place on Tuesday when a Palestinian gunman fired on a peak-hour crowd in the centre of Jerusalem, killing two women and wounding 40 people.

Earlier, Israeli troops shot dead two militants of the Islamic radical movement Hamas in the Gaza Strip as they tried to infiltrate a Jewish settlement.

The gunmen attempted to infiltrate a community in the Gush Katif settlement of the southern Gaza Strip. They were detected by an army patrol and killed in an exchange of gunfire.

Palestinian security sources accused the army of "finishing off" the two men after they were wounded in the gunfight.

A liaison committee was awaiting the army's handover of the bodies for the families to bury the men.

Sources close to Hamas identified the militants as Ahmad Abdel Wahab and Raed Agha, without giving their ages.

The latest killings raised to 1163 the number of deaths during the intifada, which erupted in September 2000. Palestinians account for 891 of the deaths and Israelis for 250.

14 wounded in Tel Aviv suicide raid

The suicide attack in Tel Aviv, for which there was no immediate claim of responsibility, came after **Hamas** vowed revenge for the Israeli military's killing of one of its militants in a helicopter strike late on Thursday.

Baker Hamdan, 26, died when an Israeli helicopter fired a missile at his car, also wounding two passengers.

An Israeli army spokesman said Hamdan was the chief of **Hamas**'s military wing, the Ezzedine al-Qassem Brigades, in Khan Yunis and that he was linked to the January 9 killings of four Israeli soldiers on the edge of southern Gaza.

"**Hamas** will not keep its arms crossed in the face of the assassination of one its members and the resistance will carry on until the liberation," a **Hamas** official said.

The Israeli army yesterday temporarily re-occupied the area of Khan Yunis where the two **Hamas** men in the infiltration bid originated, a Palestinian security source said.

Earlier, two **Hamas** activists were arrested by the army near Nablus in Palestinian-controlled territory of the West Bank. Witnesses said they were arrested at home and evacuated by helicopter from the village of Talluza.

On Tuesday, the army killed four **Hamas** members in a raid in Nablus.

After prayers for the dead men on Wednesday, a **Hamas** spokesman, addressing a crowd of 15,000 mourners, called for the organisation's armed wing to resume suicide bombings on Israel.

Load-Date: January 25, 2002

Israel bombs rebel's home, at least 11 die

Times Colonist (Victoria, British Columbia)

July 23, 2002 Tuesday Final Edition

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Section: News; Pg. A1; News

Length: 672 words

Dateline: GAZA CITY, Gaza Strip

Body

GAZA CITY, Gaza Strip (AP) -- An Israeli warplane attacked a house in a crowded, rundown Gaza City neighbourhood early today, wounding or killing a leading **Hamas** rebel and killing at least 11 others, including **women** and children, and burying efforts to reduce Mideast tensions.

The air strike came just as Palestinians and Israelis were trading ideas to relieve tensions in the West Bank, but the bloody results of the Israeli attack were likely to derail the efforts as **Hamas** threatened revenge.

The target was Salah Shehadeh, commander of the military wing of **Hamas**, known as Izzadine el-Qassam. His fate was uncertain. A **Hamas** statement said he was alive, but at Gaza's Shifa hospital, where the casualties were taken, **Hamas** official Abdel Aziz Rantisi would say only, "until now we don't have any indication about the fate of Sheik Shehadeh. We don't have his body. I haven't seen him."

Associated Press

Hamas spokesman Ismail Haniyeh said Shehadeh's wife and three of their children were killed, but he did not know what had become of Shehadeh. "Some sources said he is alive, some sources say he had the honour of becoming a martyr," meaning he had been killed, Haniyeh said.

A list of 11 dead released by the hospital did not include the names of Shehadeh or any of his family, adding further confusion. The list included two babies ages 18 and two months, five children ages three to five, an 11-year-old and three adults.

The **Hamas** announcement said, "We will avenge the blood of the martyrs." A statement from the Palestinian Authority denounced the Israeli strike and called for international intervention to "stop these massacres." The statement charged that the aim was to "sabotage the international efforts to pressure the Israeli government to withdraw troops ... and to get back to negotiations."

Israeli Foreign Ministry official Gideon Meir said the attack was a "strike against a known terrorist who is responsible for hundreds of attacks on Israeli civilians in recent years." He expressed regret for the loss of life.

"To our great sorrow, in these operations, sometimes, and in military operations, civilians are also killed," he said.

In a statement, the Israeli military said Shehadeh was hit in the air strike. The military said Shehadeh was targeted because he was behind "hundreds of terror attacks in the last two years against Israeli soldiers and civilians."

Israel bombs rebel's home, at least 11 die

The **Hamas** military wing has claimed responsibility for dozens of attacks against Israelis during nearly two years of fighting, including many suicide bomb attacks. Also, **Hamas** has been behind almost daily mortar attacks on Jewish settlements in the Gaza Strip.

Hamas threatened to hit back for the air strike. Haniyeh said, "Not only will **Hamas** take revenge for the martyrs, all the Palestinian people will unify to revenge for the blood of the martyrs," talking to reporters at Gaza's Shifa hospital, where the dead and wounded were taken.

The air strike followed two Palestinian attacks last week that put an end to a month-long respite in fatal Palestinian strikes against Israeli civilians, the longest such period since the current round of violence began in September 2000.

Nine Israelis were killed in a Palestinian ambush on a bus in the West Bank on July 16. The next day, two Palestinian suicide bombers blew themselves up in Tel Aviv, killing three bystanders.

In nearly 22 months of fighting, 1,779 people have been killed on the Palestinian side and 778 on the Israeli side.

Before the attack, top Israeli and Palestinian officials appeared to be nearing an agreement about easing Israeli restrictions in the West Bank, loosening an Israeli chokehold that has led to warnings of starvation and malnutrition there.

Israeli Foreign Minister Shimon Peres said that the army was prepared to withdraw from two West Bank towns, Bethlehem and Hebron, as long as they remained quiet and if the Palestinians assumed control of security.

The air strike in Gaza, however, changed the focus and threatened to rekindle the conflict.

Graphic

Photo: Adel Hana, Associated Press; Palestinian rescuers search for bodies in the rubble of destroyed houses in Gaza City. An Israeli warplane blew up the house of a leading **Hamas** militant in the Gaza Strip early today, killing at least 11 people.

Load-Date: July 23, 2002

**Arafat condemns bombing: Stage set for Powell's meeting with Arafat;
 Hamas vows to continue campaign of violence**

Ottawa Citizen

April 14, 2002 Sunday Final Edition

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Section: News; Pg. A1; News

Length: 942 words

Byline: Hilary Mackenzie

Dateline: JERUSALEM

Body

JERUSALEM -- Yasser Arafat and senior Palestinian leaders yesterday strongly condemned the killings of Israeli civilians, setting a meeting with U.S. Secretary of State Colin Powell back on track.

The U.S. State Department confirmed Mr. Powell will meet today with Mr. Arafat in his destroyed Palestinian Authority headquarters in Ramallah.

The meeting, originally to have taken place yesterday, was delayed after a suicide bomber killed six Israelis in a Jerusalem market on Friday.

"We strongly condemn violent operations that target Israeli civilians, especially the last operation in Jerusalem," Mr. Arafat and the senior Palestinian leadership wrote in a statement.

The Ottawa Citizen; with files from The Los Angeles Times

"We have to all work together ... to stop the war and relaunch the peace process."

The statement, one of the preconditions the U.S. quietly set for a meeting with Mr. Powell, was written and delivered in Arabic after Mr. Arafat met with the Palestinian negotiating team at his headquarters in Ramallah, where Israeli troops have held him under siege for two weeks.

In their meeting, Mr. Powell will press Mr. Arafat to "show leadership" and "make these statements a reality with effective action" by ending the wave of terror against Israel and participating in an "early resumption of a political process," State Department spokesman Richard Boucher said.

After Mr. Arafat's statement, the militant Islamic group **Hamas** pledged to continue its campaign of violence against Israel.

"We have the full right to react without any limitation against the state terrorism of Israel," said **Hamas** spokesman Ismail abu Shanab.

Hamas is the second of three groups behind the spate of bombings. Islamic Jihad is the third.

And for all the positive words in Mr. Arafat's communique, it was also filled with bitter accusations about Israel's "choking siege."

Arafat condemns bombing: Stage set for Powell's meeting with Arafat; Hamas vows to continue campaign of violence

It charged that Israel is attempting to "squash our people's quest for freedom" with tanks, warplanes and artillery. And it appealed to Mr. Powell, as well as UN and other international officials, to survey the areas under Israeli occupation for evidence of the "massacres and bloodbaths plaguing our people."

"We also strongly condemn the massacre and the killing Israel occupation forces have, and are still committing against Palestinian civilians and refugees in the city of Nablus and the Jenin refugee camp and the Church of Nativity in Bethlehem and other Palestinian territories over the past two weeks."

Israel denied the allegations.

Meanwhile, the government of Prime Minister Ariel Sharon said it was "not impressed" with the statement and rejected Mr. Arafat's words as duplicitous.

"We want deeds, not words," said Danny Ayalon, foreign policy adviser to Mr. Sharon.

"They are sending the suicide attacker to Jerusalem, giving her instructions and financing. They cannot keep the strategy of terror and expect us to be impressed by condemnations," he added, referring to the young female suicide bomber behind Friday's attack.

Israel continued to buck U.S. and world opinion as tanks rolled into the towns of Arabe, Hashmiah and al-Yamoun and the village of Burqeen and imposed strict curfews on their civilians. All four places are close to the northern city of Jenin, the scene of fierce fighting until Israeli forces quelled the last major pocket of Palestinian resistance on Thursday.

Troops also entered three villages near Nablus and Ramallah yesterday. The army said it had arrested 40 Palestinians for what it called "terrorist activities."

The new Israeli raids came the day after Mr. Powell met Mr. Sharon and urged him to withdraw from the Palestinian cities and towns the army has occupied in a bid to crush the "infrastructure of terror" during its 15-day-old West Bank campaign.

Mr. Sharon has dismissed a flurry of calls from Washington, Israel's chief ally, and made no commitment to Mr. Powell beyond speeding up military operations.

Friday's suicide bombing in a crowded Jerusalem market, as Jews shopped for the Sabbath holiday, further hardened public opinion against a settlement.

"A majority of Israelis think there is a military solution," said pollster Manach Smith. "They think that if there is enough energy and pressure that they will get a relatively peaceful period."

The al-Aqsa Martyrs' Brigade, a group linked to Mr. Arafat's Fatah movement, said it had carried out the attack. A senior Palestinian security official said it appeared to be revenge for Israel's assault on Palestinian areas.

In Jenin, where the first shipment of food, water, mattresses, blankets and medicines to the besieged camp arrived yesterday from Oxfam Quebec and other non-governmental organizations, the mood was angry.

"I saw many women and children buried as their houses collapsed around them," said Lotfiye Mahmoud. "They collapsed as the bulldozers came."

Ms. Mahmoud said there was no water, no electricity, no food, no sanitation. The Israelis, she said, had cut their lifeline to civilization and dignity.

"We don't want these things -- food, clothes -- we want a solution," said the headmistress, who had no word of her husband, her son or her father. "We want to live safely. We want our children to live safely."

But, she vowed, the crisis would breed more suicide bombers.

Arafat condemns bombing: Stage set for Powell's meeting with Arafat; Hamas vows to continue campaign of violence

"Everyone wants to fight, even small children," she said.

"Could you strap a bomb around you? Could you?" she asked. "Many people here are suicide bombers."

So strong is the sentiment in support of suicide bombers that women are naming their first born after slain "martyrs," who in the name of Islam give their lives to honour what they say is their cause.

Graphic

Photo: Lefteris Pitarakis, The Associated Press; Palestinian medical personnel carry supplies to the hospital under the supervision of Israeli soldiers in the Jenin refugee camp yesterday. Israeli forces retained tight control of the camp and surrounding towns and villages as part of its military offensive launched on March 29.

Load-Date: April 14, 2002

End of Document

Israeli air strike kills 11 in Gaza

The Gazette (Montreal, Quebec)

July 23, 2002 Tuesday Final Edition

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Section: News; Pg. A1 / FRONT

Length: 852 words

Dateline: GAZA CITY, Gaza Strip

Body

An Israeli warplane attacked a house in a crowded, rundown neighbourhood here early today, aiming at a leading **Hamas** rebel but killing at least 11 people, including **women** and children, and burying efforts to reduce Mideast tensions. It was not clear if the rebel was killed.

At least 150 people were reported injured in the blast. Many bodies were buried under the rubble of five houses destroyed by the Israeli missile, and body parts lay scattered across the debris, according to witnesses in the affected neighbourhood of Gaza City.

AP; The Washington Post contributed to this report

The air strike came just as Palestinians and Israelis were trading ideas to relieve tensions in the West Bank, but the bloody results of the Israeli attack were likely to derail the efforts as **Hamas** threatened revenge.

The target was Salah Shehadeh, commander of the military wing of **Hamas**, known as Izzadine el-Qassam. A **Hamas** statement said Shehadeh was alive, but at Gaza's Shifa hospital, where the casualties were taken, **Hamas** official Abdel Aziz Rantisi would say only, "Until now, we don't have any indication about the fate of Sheikh Shehadeh."

Hamas spokesman Ismail Haniyeh said Shehadeh's wife and three of their children were killed, but he did not know what had become of Shehadeh.

"Some sources said he is alive, some sources say he had the honour of becoming a martyr," meaning he had been killed, Haniyeh told a news agency.

The **Hamas** announcement said, "We will avenge the blood of the martyrs." A statement from the Palestinian Authority denounced the Israeli strike and called for international intervention to "stop these massacres."

In a statement, the Israeli military said Shehadeh was hit in the air strike. The military said Shehadeh was targeted because he was behind "hundreds of terror attacks in the last two years against Israeli soldiers and civilians."

The **Hamas** military wing has claimed responsibility for dozens of attacks against Israelis during nearly two years of fighting, including many suicide bomb attacks. Also, **Hamas** has been behind almost daily mortar attacks on Jewish settlements in the Gaza Strip.

Hamas threatened to hit back for the air strike. Haniyeh said, "Not only will **Hamas** take revenge for the martyrs, all the Palestinian people will unify to revenge for the blood of the martyrs," talking to reporters at Gaza's Shifa hospital.

Israeli air strike kills 11 in Gaza

The air strike followed two Palestinian attacks last week that put an end to a month-long respite in fatal strikes against Israeli civilians, the longest such period since the current round of violence began in September 2000.

Nine Israelis were killed in a Palestinian ambush on a bus in the West Bank on July 16. The next day, two Palestinian suicide bombers blew themselves up in Tel Aviv, killing three bystanders.

In nearly 22 months of fighting, 1,779 people have been killed on the Palestinian side and 778 on the Israeli side.

Before the attack, top Israeli and Palestinian officials appeared to be nearing an agreement about easing Israeli restrictions in the West Bank, loosening an Israeli chokehold that has led to warnings of starvation and malnutrition there.

Israeli Foreign Minister Shimon Peres said that the army was prepared to withdraw from two West Bank towns, Bethlehem and Hebron, as long as they remained quiet and if the Palestinians assumed control of security.

The air strike in Gaza, however, changed the focus and threatened to rekindle the conflict.

Also yesterday, Israeli police reopened the university offices of the leading Palestinian official in Jerusalem, Sari Nusseibeh. Police closed his office two weeks ago, alleging that Nusseibeh, the president of Al Quds University, had violated peace accords by engaging in Palestinian political activity in Jerusalem.

Nusseibeh, who is also the chief representative of the Palestine Liberation Organization in Jerusalem, said he signed a document yesterday agreeing not to use the premises for political activity. However, he said he'd conduct his PLO activity elsewhere.

The Palestinians want east Jerusalem for the capital of a future state, while Israel claims sovereignty over the entire city.

The Israeli daily Haaretz reported yesterday that Yehiyeh outlined a proposal to resume security co-operation with Israel after Israeli troops withdraw. Security co-operation, in which the sides share information and act jointly where possible to prevent attacks, ground to a halt after fighting erupted in September 2000.

Palestinians would undertake to confiscate illegal weapons and arrest rebels, Haaretz reported. In return, the newspaper said, Israel would free prisoners arrested in the fighting, end its strikes on Palestinian targets and end its "targeted killings" of rebels - which the Palestinians call assassinations - of the type Israel carried out in Gaza this morning.

An Israeli government official, speaking on condition of anonymity, said the proposal was being discussed as part of a broader discussion on reforming Palestinian security and finances.

"Certainly we are looking very seriously into the venue of co-ordinating the security," the official said.

Graphic

Photo: ADEL HANA, AP; Rescuers search for bodies in the rubble of houses leveled when an Israeli warplane blew up the Gaza City home of a leading **Hamas** official.

Load-Date: July 23, 2002

**Ending bomb campaign is the first step to peace;
It may be up to Arab countries to leash Hamas, Hezbollah and Islamic Jihad.**

Portland Press Herald (Maine)

April 3, 2002 Wednesday, FINAL Edition

Copyright 2002 Blethen Maine Newspapers, Inc.

Section: EDITORIAL; Pg. 6A

Length: 346 words

Body

The peace proposal coming out of the Arab summit had its flaws, but it also held promise. Saudi Arabia and the other countries that have offered the olive branch, however, should go further to advance the cause of peace in the Middle East. They should take steps to end the suicide-bombing campaign that has already claimed too many lives.

Each time a Palestinian bomb goes off, innocent men, women and children are killed and injured. Each explosion, furthermore, provokes a response from Israel, which claims the right to defend itself against such attacks.

The situation continues to deteriorate. The Passover Massacre at Netanya killed 22 Israeli citizens and has been followed by daily attacks. Israel's army is menacing Palestinian Authority chairman Yasser Arafat, holding him accountable for failing to restrain Hezbollah, Hamas and Islamic Jihad. Arafat's exile, even his death, is no longer unthinkable, wrong as it would be.

It is clear to us that while Arafat has refused to take the steps necessary to crack down on terrorist groups within Palestinian-controlled lands, he also lacks the power to stop the bombing campaign unilaterally.

Israeli Prime Minister Ariel Sharon has declared a war on terror and moved his army against Palestinian cities, but even if he removes Arafat from power and pounds refugee camps into rubble, the bombs will continue to go off.

Sharon cannot make them stop just as Arafat cannot make them stop.

It's time, then, for the leaders of the Arab world to come forward and fully commit themselves to the peace process. They wield influence over the terrorists because they are the primary funders of these organizations. If Saudi Arabia and other Arab countries demand a cessation to the suicide bombing campaign, if only to get the Israeli army to withdraw, that would be a first step back to the bargaining table.

Until a sustainable cease-fire is achieved, Israel will not negotiate. Without negotiation, the Saudi peace proposal is but a scrap of paper - and as such, it will only fuel the fires of a drawn-out, bloody war without winners.

Load-Date: April 3, 2002

Missile hits Israel after raid kills 11 Palestinians

Philadelphia Inquirer

February 20, 2003 Thursday CITY-D-EAST EDITION

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The Philadelphia Inquirer

Found on Philly.com

Section: NATIONAL; Pg. A02

Length: 830 words

Byline: By Michael Matza; Inquirer Staff Writer

Dateline: GAZA CITY, Gaza Strip

Body

A lull in mortar attacks from Gaza into Israel came to a crashing end yesterday when a missile tore through the roof of a Sderot warehouse, seriously wounding an Israeli factory worker. It was the first such injury inside Israel in more than two years of rocket fire by Palestinians.

A spokesman for the radical group **Hamas** said its military wing launched five homemade Qassam missiles hours after a predawn raid by Israeli tanks, bulldozers and helicopter gunships cut through two Gaza City neighborhoods, killing 11 Palestinians and wounding 27.

Faced with growing complaints from Palestinian farmers caught in the cross fire, **Hamas** had, in the last two weeks, quietly halted mortar and missile attacks over the border into Israel. The farmers, who have protested publicly, say they lose huge swaths of land whenever Israeli troops retaliate for the attacks.

Yesterday, amid **Hamas** calls for revenge and Israeli promises of a continued crackdown, all agreements, tacit or otherwise, were null and void.

Hamas founder Sheik Ahmed Yassin said his group had stopped using rockets for a while but would now return to all available weapons.

"Cease-fire is impossible," **Hamas** spokesman Abdel Aziz Rantisi said, speaking to reporters inside a vacant schoolyard in the heavily damaged Tuffah neighborhood of Gaza City, where residents swarmed over the rubble.

"Come with us into the trench of resistance," Rantisi said, calling on all Palestinians to take up arms against Israel and reject tentative talks by negotiators he called "isolated Palestinian figures."

Arriving in a column of 40 tanks, Israeli soldiers fired machine guns and used planted explosives to destroy houses and metal workshops they said were used to manufacture rockets and mortars. As the raid began, electricity was cut, throwing the two- and three-story stone homes into pitch blackness.

Missile hits Israel after raid kills 11 Palestinians

Amid calls from mosque loudspeakers for gunmen to come out and confront the soldiers, armed Palestinians took up positions on Gaza's sandy streets.

Three Palestinian intelligence officers, who Palestinian police sources said were patrolling a border area to prevent militants from launching mortars, were killed by Israeli machine-gun fire that came from an Apache helicopter, witnesses said.

The dead also included a suicide bomber who tried to blow up a tank, Palestinians said.

Israeli Col. Imad Faras, commander of the infantry, said the operation showed that Israel can go after **Hamas** targets inside Gaza City. "This was a deeper operation... in a place they thought we would not be able to get to," Faras told Israel Television.

Capt. Sharon Feingold, an Israeli army spokeswoman, said the raid, which lasted six hours and produced no Israeli casualties, was a "preemptive, pinpoint, targeted operation against a **Hamas** stronghold."

Rantisi called it "an attack on the Palestinian people as a whole."

Mazen al-Qattari, 39, said his cousin Adham, 33, a Palestinian police captain, had grabbed a rifle to fight back and was swiftly shot in the groin, abdomen and shoulder. He lay unconscious in intensive care in Gaza's Shifa Hospital yesterday.

The hospital's emergency-services director, Dr. Mouawaya Hassanein, said all 11 dead were males, age 17 to early 30s. No children were among the 27 wounded; one was a woman, Hassanein said.

Demonstrators marched in noontime funerals. Hundreds of Palestinian men paid respects at a mourners' tent set up on the edge of Tuffah. Black-veiled **women** held a separate vigil. Fresh graffiti praised **Hamas** military wing, the Izzedine al-Qassam Brigade, as "the army of the nation and the pride of the future."

In Sderot, an Israeli town three miles from the Gaza border, Vladimir Yarkrov, 43, was using a forklift to move glass doors at a shower-enclosure company when a rocket tore through the warehouse roof. Shrapnel struck his head and penetrated his lung, said paramedics, who rushed him to a Beer Sheva hospital.

Company owner Avi Mitrani said the missile, which tore a football-size hole in the pavement and left mountains of broken glass on the warehouse floor, landed with a bang and an acrid smell.

"We are worried. We didn't feel the rockets would arrive here," he said, adding that the nearest they ever came was about two miles away.

Hamas, which has launched hundreds of missiles in the last two years, has been trying to build rockets that fly farther and more accurately.

Standing near a large puddle of Yarkrov's blood and the blue ball cap that flew off when he was hit, Mitrani said the increased range of the missiles was cause for alarm because it meant the builders "were getting better."

The Israeli army has hit Gaza hard during two years of low-intensity war. But it has generally refrained from massive incursions into cramped Gaza towns where it is difficult and dangerous to operate.

Israeli leaders have, however, promised to crack down on **Hamas** after the group blew up an Israeli tank Saturday, killing four soldiers.

Contact staff writer Michael Matza at foreign@phillynews.com

Load-Date: February 20, 2003

Missile hits Israel after raid kills 11 Palestinians

End of Document

ISRAEL WIPES OUT HAMAS FAMILY IN DAY OF REVENGE

The Independent (London)

March 5, 2002, Tuesday

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Section: FOREIGN NEWS; Pg. 11

Length: 717 words

Byline: Eric Silver In Jerusalem

Body

YESTERDAY IT was the Palestinians' turn to mourn their innocent dead and vow revenge.

With warplanes, tanks and guns, Israel staged raids on targets including the Bethlehem headquarters of the Palestinian leader, Yasser Arafat, Palestinian refugee camps and an upscale West Bank neighbourhood. They killed 17 Palestinians, including five children and a doctor in an ambulance.

Bushra Abu Quaik, the wife of a leading Hamas militant, and her three children, aged eight to 17, were killed when an Israeli tank shell hit their pick-up van as she was driving them home from school near Ramallah. A second vehicle passing in the opposite direction was hit by shrapnel. The driver and two children aged four and 16 were killed. Witnesses said the seats of Mrs Abu Quaik's van were soaked with blood. School books were scattered and charred. An Israeli army spokesman said the tank had fired at another car carrying armed Palestinians, but had missed. He regretted the loss of life.

That was no consolation to the bereaved father, Hussein Abu Quaik, who told hundreds of angry mourners after viewing the bodies: "The enemy has unmasked its ugly face. Sharon, the bloodsucker, wants to break our will and our steadfastness. I say to him he will not celebrate our defeat. The resistance will continue and the Palestinians and Israelis in this hellish war will pay the price."

Elsewhere on the West Bank, Israeli infantrymen shot at a Red Crescent ambulance in the Jenin refugee camp, killing the head of local emergency services, Dr Khalil Suleiman, and wounding two paramedics. The Union of Palestinian Medical Relief Committees said troops fired at another ambulance, wounding the driver.

The Israeli spokesman said Dr Suleiman's ambulance was travelling at high speed at the soldiers, who called on the driver to stop. When he failed to comply, the soldiers fired single shots with light weapons.

The Israelis said the ambulance then exploded, though they could not tell whether it was carrying a bomb or whether the fuel tank had been hit. The Red Crescent said the ambulance was hit by an Israeli tank shell.

Jibril al-Rajoub, the Palestinian preventive security chief for the West Bank, said: "These are massacres, and it is these crimes that make suicide bombers out of our people and bring about retaliation and more victims and bloodshed."

Dr Mustafa Barghouti, of the medical relief organisations, said five other people were killed in Jenin when Israeli tanks and armoured personnel carriers invaded the camp for the second time in a week: a man and two women hit

ISRAEL WIPES OUT HAMAS FAMILY IN DAY OF REVENGE

inside their homes and two gunmen killed in exchanges of fire. Near the West Bank town of Qalqilya, troops shot dead a man they claimed ran at them with a knife shouting "Allahu Akbar" (Allah is Great).

According to Dr Barghouti, 165 ambulances have been hit since the intifada began 17 months ago. Dr Suleiman's death brought to 11 the total of Palestinian doctors, nurses and ambulance drivers killed. An Israeli colonel claimed at the weekend that ambulances were sometimes used to transport Palestinian fugitives.

Israeli troops were still on the periphery of the Jenin refugee camp last night, and exchanges of fire were continuing. Earlier yesterday, the army stormed into the Rafah camp at the southern end of the Gaza Strip, killing three Palestinians with automatic fire. Doctors said two were civilians, one of whom was trying to get his child away from the shooting.

The Israelis moved in after Mr Sharon's inner cabinet vowed on Sunday night to step up reprisals for the weekend suicide bomb attack in a religious neighbourhood of Jerusalem, where the death toll rose to 10 yesterday, and the shooting dead of 10 soldiers and civilians at a checkpoint north of Ramallah. The Prime Minister told parliament that Israel would not succumb to the "relentless campaign of Palestinian terror". He said: "We are in a war over our home and the war is horrible, but we will win and in the end peace will come to this home."

t The Egyptian President, Hosni Mubarak, proposed yesterday that there should be a summit meeting between Mr Sharon and Mr Arafat in an Egyptian resort. Mr Mubarak also told CNN that Mr Sharon had asked him to arrange a secret meeting with Crown Prince Abdullah of Saudi Arabia, architect of a recent peace plan.

Load-Date: April 9, 2002

End of Document

9 die in clashes; West Bank: Israelis and Palestinians prepare for peace talks amid violence

Telegraph Herald (Dubuque, IA)

February 17, 2003 Monday

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Section: Pg. b9

Length: 763 words

Byline: ASSOCIATED PRESS

Dateline: GAZA CITY, Gaza Strip

Body

Nine Palestinians were killed Sunday - six in a mysterious explosion in Gaza and three by Israeli army fire in the West Bank - while Palestinian and Israeli officials prepared to send teams to London for a new international effort to end 29 months of Mideast violence.

The Palestinian delegates are carrying a letter from Yasser Arafat to British Prime Minister Tony Blair, in which the Palestinian leader affirms his intention to appoint a prime minister, fulfilling a key demand of the United States and other mediators, said Palestinian Planning Minister Nabil Shaath.

Arafat made the promise publicly on Friday, under heavy pressure from the so-called Quartet of Mideast mediators - the United States, the European Union, Russia and the United Nations. But it remained unclear how much power Arafat might cede, who would be appointed, and when the appointment would be made.

Raanan Gissin, spokesman for Prime Minister Ariel Sharon, said a genuine transfer of authority from Arafat to a prime minister could be a breakthrough leading to new peace talks.

On Sunday, however, violence continued.

In Gaza City, a blast tore through the home of a member of the Islamic militant group **Hamas**, killing six Palestinians and wounding three, witnesses and hospital officials said. The six killed were **Hamas** members, the group said in a statement.

"I heard the sound of screaming **women**, and cars evacuating people from the house," said Ramzi Suleiman, a 29-year-old neighbor. "I saw at least three people covered in blood being taken away."

The cause of the blast was not immediately known. In the past, explosions have occurred when Palestinian militants mishandled bombs.

A **Hamas** official said the explosion was in a car. After keeping reporters away for more than an hour, **Hamas** showed them the damaged car.

Hamas said the militants were examining a small, remote-controlled plane to be used in an attack against Israel when it exploded.

9 die in clashes; West Bank: Israelis and Palestinians prepare for peace talks amid violence

The group said Israel detonated explosives that were planted in the plane.

"The Israeli enemy used a unique technology, which caused this massacre," he said, without giving details.

There was, however, no evidence that the explosion was caused by Israel - although Israeli officials have said they would react to a Gaza roadside bombing, claimed by **Hamas**, that blew up a tank and killed its four-man crew Saturday.

Those killed in Sunday's blast included Nidal Farhat, a **Hamas** militant who was instrumental in designing a rocket used in attacks against Israel, **Hamas** officials said.

"We renew our commitment to God to continue the path of resistance until we liberate all the Palestinian land and our retaliation is coming soon, God willing," **Hamas** said in a release.

In the West Bank city of Nablus, three Palestinians were killed and about two dozen wounded by army fire in a clash between soldiers and Palestinian gunmen and stone-throwers, Palestinian security officials said. One of the wounded was comatose and on life support, hospital officials added.

The army said Palestinians shot at troops who were arresting Tayseer Khaled, a senior PLO member. The soldiers returned fire, hitting what the military described as "two terrorists." A military spokeswoman said she had no knowledge of additional Palestinian casualties.

The two incidents brought the death toll since fighting erupted in September 2000 to 2,109 on the Palestinian side and 727 on the Israeli side.

On the diplomatic front, a six-member delegation of Palestinian Cabinet ministers - comprised of Shaath, Information Minister Yasser Abed Rabbo, Local Government Minister Saeb Erekat, Finance Minister Salam Fayad, Economics Minister Maher al-Masri and Tourism Minister Nabil Qassis - is to participate in three days of talks in London this week, starting Tuesday.

In London, the Palestinian officials will meet with international donors and diplomats monitoring Palestinian reform and will hold talks with British Foreign Secretary Jack Straw on Thursday.

A U.N. official in Jerusalem, speaking on condition of anonymity, said representatives of the Quartet would meet Monday in London before talks with the Palestinians and that there would likely be extensive diplomatic discussions in addition to the formal talks on international aid.

Gissin said an Israeli team would also meet the Quartet delegates. Gissin did not say if that would happen separately or together with the Palestinians, but did not rule out an Israeli-Palestinian meeting at some point during the London visit.

Such an encounter would be the first meeting of official Israeli and Palestinian delegations in at least a year.

Graphic

photo

Load-Date: February 17, 2003

SUICIDE BOMBER KILLS 19 ISRAELIS AT BEGINNING OF PASSOVER MEAL

EXPLOSION AT HOTEL INJURES MORE THAN 120; HAMAS CLAIMS RESPONSIBILITY

St. Louis Post-Dispatch (Missouri)

March 28, 2002 Thursday Three Star Edition

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Section: NEWS; Pg. A1; PROFILE; CONFLICT IN THE MIDDLE EAST; SIDEBAR STORY

Length: 649 words

Byline: Jason Keyser The Associated Press

Dateline: NETANYA, ISRAEL

Body

A suicide bomber burst into a hotel dining room and blew himself up Wednesday just as Israelis dressed in their holiday best were sitting down to a Seder meal celebrating the Jewish Passover. At least 19 Israelis were killed and more than 120 wounded.

The explosion tore through the ground floor of the Park Hotel in Netanya, a northern coastal resort. The blast blew out walls and windows and overturned tables and chairs. Bits of rubble and wires dangled from the ceiling. In the chaos, one table remained standing, covered by a white cloth and with the elaborate Seder place settings still in place.

"Suddenly it was hell," said one of the guests, Nechama Donenhirsch, 52. "There was the smell of smoke and dust in my mouth and a ringing in my ears."

The Islamic militant group **Hamas** claimed responsibility for what Israeli government spokesman Gideon Meir called a "Passover massacre." The bomber, a 25-year-old Palestinian, had worked in Netanya hotels in the past.

The bombing threatened to derail the latest U.S. truce mission, just hours after President George W. Bush said his envoy to the region had made some progress. In later comments, Bush said "this callous, this cold-blooded killing, it must stop."

Israel had reluctantly accepted the latest U.S. cease-fire proposals. But it said it would have to reassess its policy and held Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat responsible for the bombing. Police Minister Uzi Landau called for retaliation, saying the Palestinian Authority must be destroyed.

The Palestinian Authority said it "strongly condemned" the bombing, and that it would take tough measures against those involved. Palestinian security sources said Arafat ordered the arrests of four key militants in the West Bank.

The bombing came just hours after Saudi Crown Prince Abdullah presented a new peace initiative at the Arab summit in Beirut, Lebanon.

SUICIDE BOMBER KILLS 19 ISRAELIS AT BEGINNING OF PASSOVER MEAL ; EXPLOSION AT HOTEL INJURES MORE THAN 120; HAMAS CLAIMS RESPONSIBILITY

It was one of the worst suicide bombings in the past 18 months of Israeli-Palestinian fighting. The deadliest was an attack in June outside a Tel Aviv disco that left 22 dead.

The explosion occurred at about 7:20 p.m. Wednesday, as dozens of guests in the Park Hotel along Netanya's boardwalk settled down for the Passover Seder in the dining hall. Guests were dressed in their holiday best - the women in festive dresses, the men in white shirts and dark pants.

The bomber, carrying a large bag of explosives, made his way past an armed guard at the hotel entrance who did not consider him suspicious, Israel TV said. From the lobby, he ran toward the dining hall, where he blew himself up.

Donenhirsch, the guest, said that as she and her family fled, they saw a little girl, about 10 to 12 years old, lying dead on the ground, her eyes wide open as if in surprise.

Some of the wounded staggered out of the lobby, which was plunged into darkness by the explosion. Others were taken to ambulances in stretchers, including a young boy who had an oxygen mask pressed to his face.

"They attacked innocent Israelis on one of the most sacred nights to Jewish people, Passover," said Meir, the Israeli government spokesman.

Israeli police had been on high alert for attacks during the weeklong Passover holiday, with more than 10,000 officers deployed in potential trouble spots.

Hamas identified the bomber as Abdel Baset Odeh, 25, from the West Bank town of Tulkarem. Palestinian security sources said Odeh was wanted by Israel and the Palestinians.

Israel has said repeatedly that it cannot tolerate more attacks on its civilians. Earlier this week, Israeli Prime Minister Ariel Sharon convened his security Cabinet to discuss options in the event the truce mission fails. One idea raised was a large-scale military operation in the West Bank and Gaza Strip.

Israel has accused Arafat of doing nothing to rein in militants. Raanan Gissin, an adviser to Sharon, said the attack in Netanya "will require us to re-evaluate our overall policy."

Notes

CONFLICT IN THE MIDDLE EAST

Graphic

PHOTO, MAP; (1) Color Map from KRT - SUICIDE ATTACK; Suicide bombing at hotel holding Passover Seder; (2) Color Photo from THE ASSOCIATED PRESS - Israeli police work Wednesday in what was the dining room of the Park Hotel in Netanya, Israel. A Palestinian suicide bomber made his way past an armed guard at the hotel entrance who did not consider him suspicious, Israel TV said.

Load-Date: March 28, 2002

MIDDLE EAST: 'FOR US, THE PREFERRED WAY OF ENDING OUR LIVES WOULD BE MARTYRDOM'

Independent on Sunday (London)

April 28, 2002, Sunday

Copyright 2002 Independent Print Ltd

Section: FOREIGN NEWS; Pg. 21

Length: 1003 words

Byline: Robert Fisk In Gaza City Willing to die: Hamas leader Abdul-Aziz Rantissi said the group's exile to Lebanon turned it from a local to an international organisation.; 'We received the benefits of Israel's mistakes' MARCO DI LAURO/AP

Body

Abdul-Aziz Rantissi is constantly interrupted by calls. But his young bodyguard, Kalashnikov rifle nursed upside down on his knee, hands him a big military two-way radio receiver, not a mobile phone. I think - but I do not say - that this is to protect the Hamas leader. Mobiles are traceable to within a few feet. Israel's death squads became masters of analogue and digital technology in Lebanon.

From time to time, I notice that my eyes stray to the window. Am I watching for an Apache helicopter? Do Israel's victims ever see the missiles streaking towards them? Not that Mr Rantissi has any illusions. "It's something to be expected so far as we are concerned," he says. "But the thing I can say is something that can only be understood by someone who holds the Islamic faith the way I do.

"We believe that our lifetime is always predicted and that our death has already been determined by God, and this cannot change. There are many different reasons that could lead to the end of a person's life - a car accident, cancer, a heart attack - so I'm not saying I'm making a choice to shorten my life. But the preferred way of ending my life would be martyrdom."

My eyes glance again towards the window. Of his 55 years, Rantissi has spent 26 in prison or in exile on a Lebanese mountainside. That's where I met him first, nine years ago amid the flowers of Marj el-Zuhour after his exile by Yitzhak Rabin and Shimon Peres, along with 460 other Hamas and Islamic Jihad followers. In those days, he was still trying to understand how to run the organisation. Now he talks coolly - coldly, frighteningly - about suicide bombers and death. Hamas has its own death squads. They kill not just soldiers but also women, children, the old, the sick.

"Up till now, in this 'intifada', the Israelis have killed more than 2,000 Palestinians. Following the killings in Nablus and Jenin, the number of children killed has passed the 350 mark. This proves that the Israeli side is intentionally committing massacres against civilians."

I have been down this path before, of course. Every time you ask a Hamas leader to confront the wickedness of suicide bombing, you are taken down the statistics trail. What about the kids in the pizza parlour, the old folk at the Passover dinner? "We are fighting people who violated our land," he replies, very quickly.

MIDDLE EAST: 'FOR US, THE PREFERRED WAY OF ENDING OUR LIVES WOULD BE MARTYRDOM'

"They are all soldiers or reserve soldiers. It was reserve soldiers in Jenin who killed civilians - these are people who in ordinary life are Israeli doctors and lawyers. They were civilians just hours before they went into Jenin. But, of course, our fighters have orders to avoid civilians, especially the children."

Orders to avoid killing children? Or is this just a numbers game? The military phone pips again and Rantissi talks for several minutes. Is he in touch with Hamas leaders in the West Bank? He smiles bleakly. "There is some communication on a political level with leaders in the West Bank, yes. But they are wanted men and besieged and underground."

This, I note in the margin of my notebook, is the first time Hamas has acknowledged the effects of the Israeli re-occupation. "You take Hassan Youssef, a political leader in Ramallah - he is calling me for information about what is going on. But ultimately Sharon will not be able to put an end to resistance in the West Bank. When the Israelis deported 460 of us in 1993 and arrested another 1,500 Hamas members the same day, they said they had 'put an end' to resistance and to Hamas. After that, Yahya Ayash (a Hamas bomb-maker later assassinated by the Israelis) escalated the resistance."

Marj el-Zuhour, the hillside upon which the Hamas and Islamic Jihad men spent more than a year of their lives after deportation, became a kind of Islamic college. "It was a stage which changed the Palestinian struggle," Rantissi accepts. "It changed the history of Hamas for ever. Before that it was a local movement. After our exile on the hillsides of Lebanon, it became an international organisation, known all over the world. We received the benefits of Israel's mistakes."

There is no doubt who Rantissi's principal enemy is. "Sharon wanted to rip up the Oslo (agreement) papers," he says. "He is exercising his power over the Palestinian people - destroying or wilfully killing them - in order to compel them to leave. He wants to break our will so that we will accept his humiliating conditions. He also wants to create a conflict between the Palestinian Authority and the people."

So is the Gaza Strip next for Israeli re-occupation? "I want to remind you of something that Rabin said - that he hoped to wake up one morning to find Gaza swallowed by the sea. Gaza is a big, overcrowded prison. Sharon's entry into Gaza would mean widespread killings among the Palestinian people.

"And heavy casualties to the Israeli forces. Sharon would have to provide a reason for this to the Israeli people. His justification for the re- invasion of the West Bank was because 'martyrdom' (suicide) operations had been launched from there. He cannot use the same excuse about Gaza because it is so tightly besieged. So I think the chances of invasion are smaller rather than greater."

So what, I ask, about Benjamin Netanyahu's claim that Palestinian suicide bombers will soon be stalking the streets of New York? "We have just one enemy that is occupying our land," he replies. "We have just one front which is against the occupiers and we will not at any time attack targets outside the borders of Palestine." And what if Israel withdrew to the 1967 borders? Would that end the Hamas war?

"Firstly, I want to hear from the Israelis. Are they prepared to do that or not? Arafat asked them to do that. They refused. Bear in mind that Sharon, during the election, was referring to Jenin as occupied land that belonged to Israel. We can't be expecting to offer endless compromises when they are occupying our land and our holy places." Which, to utilise Winston Churchill's old saw, sounds more like war-war than jaw-jaw.

Load-Date: April 28, 2002

Suicide bomber kills 15;
Hamas claims responsibility for attack in Tel Aviv suburb

Windsor Star (Ontario)

May 8, 2002 Wednesday Final Edition

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Section: NEWS; Pg. A1; News

Length: 551 words

Byline: Matthew Kalman

Dateline: Jerusalem

Body

At least 15 people were killed Tuesday and 50 injured -- 12 of them seriously -- in an explosion in an unlicensed snooker and gambling club in Rishon le Zion, south of Tel Aviv.

Israeli police said the explosion at the Spiel Snooker Club was caused by a suicide bomber carrying explosives in a large bag -- the first terrorist attack on the sleepy suburban town.

Police said the bomb was filled with pieces of metal and screws designed to cause as much injury and death as possible.

Southam News

The Islamic militant group **Hamas** said it carried out the attack.

The attack came as Israeli Prime Minister Ariel Sharon was meeting with President George W. Bush at the White House in Washington.

Within minutes of receiving the news, Sharon decided to return immediately to Israel.

"The timing which the murderers chose to carry out this attack was carefully planned," said Israeli cabinet minister Eli Yishai, who was with Sharon at the White House.

Ambulance service spokesman Yerucham Mandola said parts of the targeted building had collapsed, trapping people underneath.

"There are bodies and perhaps injured people trapped under the rubble," said Mayor Meir Nitzan. "The emergency services are trying to get them out as quickly and carefully as possible."

Eyewitnesses said the explosion occurred on the third floor, causing the ceiling to collapse on dozens below. The club, on the top floor of a shopping and commercial centre, was a meeting place mainly for men, with snooker and billiard tables and slot machines.

Motti Monir, who was slightly wounded in the attack, said he was leaving the club just after 11 p.m. when there was a "huge explosion."

Suicide bomber kills 15; Hamas claims responsibility for attack in Tel Aviv suburb

It was the first major terror attack inside Israel since April 12, when a **female** member of the Al-Aqsa Martyrs Brigade blew herself up in a Jerusalem market, killing six people and injuring more than 30. That attack occurred as U.S. Secretary of State Colin Powell was in Jerusalem, causing him to delay a meeting with Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat by 24 hours.

Israeli forces launched a major military offensive in the West Bank at the end of March after more than 100 Israelis were killed that month in a wave of terror attacks.

Hundreds of terror suspects were captured, along with thousands of weapons and tonnes of explosives. The Palestine Red Crescent Society says more than 280 Palestinians have been killed in the offensive.

Operation Protective Shield was supposed to have dealt a severe blow to the infrastructure of Palestinian terrorism, but Tuesday night's attack showed it has failed to halt the ability of terror groups to send suicide bombers into the heart of Israel.

"We will carry out similar activities in the future, too," said Public Security Minister Uzi Landau on his arrival at the scene. "In most of the cases we will be successful. In some we will pay a price as we did here this evening. The point is that still we have terrorists on the other side. We have to protect ourselves and we will do it."

Israeli security services have been on high alert in recent days and said they had stopped at least one suicide attack each day for the past week.

Earlier Tuesday, a suspected Palestinian suicide attacker was intercepted and killed as he tried to enter an Israeli settlement in the Gaza Strip.

Graphic

DISBELIEF: An Israeli police officer looks down after an explosion Tuesday destroyed a pool hall and killed 15. AP photo; Ariel Sharon

Load-Date: May 8, 2002

PALESTINIANS, ISRAEL VOW RETALIATION AFTER KILLINGS

The Columbian (Vancouver, WA.)

January 24, 2002, Thursday

Copyright 2002 The Columbian Publishing Co.

Section: World/Nation; Pg. a3

Length: 311 words

Byline: MOHAMMED DARAGHMEH, Associated Press writer

Body

NABLUS, West Bank -- Threatening bloody revenge, Islamic militants and supporters of Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat marched side by side Wednesday in the funeral procession for **Hamas** members killed in an Israeli commando raid, including one of the group's top terror masterminds.

Hamas said it would unleash "all-out war" in retaliation for the killing of four members of its military wing, Izzedine al Qassam. Israel, in turn, said it would respond to a shooting spree by a Palestinian gunman who killed two **women** and wounded 14 bystanders in downtown Jerusalem on Tuesday.

Israel's new military intelligence chief, Maj. Gen. Aharon Zeevi-Farkash, told legislators that Israel must brace for a wave of Palestinian attacks, "worse than what we have experienced so far in Israeli cities," the Yediot Ahronot daily said.

In a phone call Wednesday, Arafat asked Secretary of State Colin Powell to send U.S. envoy Anthony Zinni back to the region. State Department spokesman Richard Boucher said there are no such plans.

The four **Hamas** members were killed before dawn Tuesday in an Israeli commando raid on their hideout and explosives lab in the West Bank town of Nablus.

When the **Hamas** men realized they were surrounded by Israeli forces, they detonated a bomb that inadvertently blew open the door to the apartment, military sources said. The commandos killed the four with handguns equipped with silencers, according to Yediot. Three men were killed in the sleeping quarters and one in the bathroom.

Among the dead was Yousef Soragji, 42, leader of the **Hamas** military wing in the West Bank and a mastermind of several suicide bombings in Israel.

Amid mutual threats of retaliation, the speaker of Israel's parliament, Avraham Burg, said he had accepted an invitation to speak before the Palestinian legislature.

"In spite of everything we should try to talk peace," said Burg.

Load-Date: January 24, 2002

PALESTINIAN AUTHORITY SAYS IT CAN'T ENFORCE A CEASE-FIRE

St. Louis Post-Dispatch (Missouri)

January 24, 2002 Thursday Five Star Lift Edition

Copyright 2002 St. Louis Post-Dispatch, Inc.

Section: NEWS; Pg. A10

Length: 583 words

Byline: The Associated Press

Dateline: JERUSALEM

Body

Islamic militants again threatened "all-out war" Wednesday to avenge the killing of a **Hamas** commander in the West Bank, and Yasser Arafat's Palestinian Authority said it no longer could be expected to enforce a truce with Israel.

With tension and violence rising, the U.S. ambassador to Israel called on Israelis and Palestinians to urge their governments to work for peace.

Palestinian militants and mainstream activists marched together in a funeral procession in Nablus, burying the dead from Israel's raid on a bomb-making site a day earlier. Four **Hamas** activists were killed, including Yousef Soragji, 42, the **Hamas** commander and mastermind of several suicide bombings.

The Israeli army commander in the West Bank said it was the biggest bomb-making site ever uncovered.

More than 15,000 people marched in the funeral, led by activists from **Hamas** and the Al Aqsa Martyrs Brigades, a militia linked to Arafat's Fatah movement.

Hamas pledged an "all-out war" against Israel in retaliation, and Palestinian Cabinet secretary Ahmed Abdel Rahman said the Palestinian Authority could not enforce a cease-fire under the circumstances.

"The Israeli guns are being pointed to our heads," he told The Associated Press. "We are not able to implement any of our commitments."

On Tuesday, a Palestinian linked to Arafat's Fatah movement opened fire in downtown Jerusalem, killing two **women** and wounding 14 other people. Abdel Rahman said the Palestinian Authority opposed attacks on civilians but charged that Israel was responsible for the deterioration.

A lull of several weeks in the 16 months of violence ended after last week's killing - widely attributed to Israel - of militia leader Raed Karmi in the West Bank town of Tulkarem. Palestinians have carried out a string of retaliatory attacks against Israeli civilians, bringing on more countermeasures.

On Wednesday, Israeli tanks remained parked about 70 yards from Arafat's West Bank headquarters in the town of Ramallah, the most visible of the measures Israel has taken.

PALESTINIAN AUTHORITY SAYS IT CAN'T ENFORCE A CEASE-FIRE

Also Wednesday, Israeli bulldozers demolished two Palestinian houses on the outskirts of Jerusalem. Israeli officials said they were built without permits.

In a public appeal, U.S. Ambassador Daniel Kurtzer called on Israelis and Palestinians to press their governments to work for peace.

"They need to hear from you that you want peace, that you want reconciliation, that you want reasonable compromise," Kurtzer said at Givat Haviva, an Israeli institution that sponsors Jewish-Arab programs.

He added that Israelis and Palestinians should take actions that "will be persuasive to the two governments involved that the people have had enough and they want to move forward."

The resumption of violence appears to have caused the cancellation of a third trip to the region by U.S. envoy Anthony Zinni, who had been expected last week.

In a phone call Wednesday, Arafat asked Secretary of State Colin Powell to send Zinni back to the region. But Richard Boucher, a State Department spokesman, said there were no such plans.

Meanwhile, Israeli warplanes attacked suspected Hezbollah positions in south Lebanon on Wednesday after the guerrillas fired rockets and mortar shells at Israeli outposts in a disputed border area. No casualties were reported.

In the first Israeli air raids on Lebanon in three months, witnesses said Israeli jets swooped repeatedly over a hill in the Chebaa Farms area, firing at least six air-to-surface missiles. Israeli artillery also shelled suspected guerrillas.

Graphic

PHOTO; Photo by the AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE - **Hamas** supporters celebrate Tuesday in Nablus, West Bank, as **Hamas** member Nidal Abu Arus (center) is liberated from prison. Arus, the brother of another **Hamas** member killed earlier in the day in an Israeli raid, was released by Yasser Arafat after about 5,000 people stormed the prison.

Load-Date: January 24, 2002

Revenge pledged after four killed

THE JOURNAL (Newcastle, UK)

January 10, 2002, Thursday

Edition 1

Copyright 2002 Newcastle Chronicle & Journal Ltd

Section: NEWS,

Length: 543 words

Byline: By The Journal

Body

Palestinians were last night braced for reprisal attacks after **Hamas** abandoned its truce and stormed an Israeli army post on the Gaza border, killing four soldiers.

It was the first deadly Palestinian attack on Israelis in nearly a month and hard-line Prime Minister Ariel Sharon told his emergency Cabinet he would stick to the government policy of vengeance attacks.

The attack, claimed by the Islamic militant **Hamas** group, dealt a severe blow to US truce efforts. Earlier this week, a US mediator had left the region on a hopeful note, saying both sides were working toward a truce after a lull of several weeks.

The four soldiers killed yesterday were members of the Israeli army's Desert Reconnaissance Battalion, made up almost entirely of Bedouin Arabs.

Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat said he was sticking to the truce, and the Palestinian Authority issued a statement condemning the attack.

However, Israeli army chief Lieutenant General Shaul Mofaz held Arafat's government responsible, saying the incident proved "beyond any doubt that the Palestinian Authority is not fighting against the infrastructure of terrorism".

Israel's Security Cabinet met for three hours and Sharon told ministers that Israel would stick to the principle of retaliating for every attack.

Hassan Yousef, a **Hamas** leader in the West Bank, said the group resumed attacks despite a public pledge last month to observe a truce because of what he said was continued Israeli aggression against Palestinians.

The attack began before dawn when raiders cut through the fence between Israel and the Gaza Strip, near the Israeli farming village of Kerem Shalom.

They stormed an army outpost, throwing grenades and firing assault rifles. One assailant fired at two soldiers in a jeep, while the second charged a nearby observation post, seriously wounding the sentry. After the initial attack, an

Revenge pledged after four killed

army patrol rushed to the scene, but also drew fire. A major, two sergeants and a fourth soldier were killed in the attack. Two soldiers were wounded, one of them seriously.

The two assailants, both dressed in Palestinian police uniforms, were killed.

They were identified as Mohammed Abu Jamous and Emad Rizek, residents of the Rafah refugee camp. Abu Jamous was a member of the Palestinian naval police. Clutching a photograph of her husband of only three months, Andalib Abu Jamous, 20, said her husband did not return home the night before the attack.

"He said he was going to spend the night praying at the mosque," she said, tears streaming down her face. She was sitting on cushions in between female relatives who held green Hamas flags in their hands.

Both men were well-known Hamas supporters, camp residents said.

The last deadly Palestinian attack on Israelis was on December 12 when a Hamas member opened fire on an Israeli bus, killing 10 passengers and wounding 30. Four days later, acting under growing international pressure, Arafat declared a halt to all attacks.

Since then, there has been a sharp drop in Palestinian violence. The Palestinian security forces also rounded up dozens of members of Hamas and the Islamic Jihad group.

However, Israel has said the Palestinians have not targeted the masterminds of terror attacks. Sharon has said Arafat has not abandoned violence.

Load-Date: January 15, 2002

Israel closes 2 Palestinian universities

Deseret News (Salt Lake City)

January 15, 2003, Wednesday

Copyright 2003 The Deseret News Publishing Co.

Section: WIRE;

Length: 652 words

Body

JERUSALEM (AP) -- Israel shut down two Palestinian universities in the divided town of Hebron on Wednesday, while Israeli soldiers shot and killed three Palestinians in West Bank clashes, officials said.

Israeli forces closed the Islamic University and the Polytechnic Institute in Hebron as part of its response to a Palestinian suicide bombing in Tel Aviv earlier this month. That attack killed 23 people.

Some students at the universities belong to militant groups, including Hamas and Islamic Jihad, and use its facilities to plan and carry out attacks, the army said in a statement.

In east Jerusalem, Israeli authorities sealed the apartments of three imprisoned Hamas militants by filling them with concrete so as to leave the multistory buildings intact. A home belonging to a fourth Hamas member was destroyed.

The four militants were recently convicted of organizing bombings that killed 35 people, including five Americans who died in a July attack at Hebrew University.

Israel has demolished dozens of homes in the West Bank and Gaza Strip to deter Palestinians from carrying out attacks on Israelis -- a tactic Palestinians condemn as collective punishment. However, Wednesday's demolitions were the first in east Jerusalem during the 28-month-old Palestinian uprising.

Unlike Palestinians in the West Bank and Gaza Strip, Arabs living in east Jerusalem have Israeli identity cards that allow them to travel freely inside Israel. The four were able to move about to plan the bombings, Israeli authorities said.

Also Wednesday, Hamas denied an earlier statement that it had smuggled new rocket-propelled grenades and rockets into the Gaza Strip to use against Israel.

A statement released in Hamas' name on Tuesday in Beirut, Lebanon, said the group had new rocket-propelled grenades capable of piercing tank armor. The statement also said Hamas had produced a new batch of its Izzadine al-Qassam rockets.

Meanwhile, Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat said Palestinian factions were trying to reach agreement on a possible ceasefire, but had failed so far. Hamas and other militant groups have rejected appeals by Arafat to halt attacks against Israel.

Arafat also criticized recent Israeli military actions.

Israel closes 2 Palestinian universities

The Israelis "are continuing their military escalation against our people, lands, institutions, women and children everywhere," Arafat said.

In the town of Tulkarem, Israeli troops entered a refugee camp to arrest suspected militants, the army said. Gun battles and stone-throwing clashes erupted at the entrance to the camp, Palestinian witnesses said.

A Palestinian detonated several bombs, and soldiers fired and killed him, the army said. Palestinian hospital officials said Mouhi Aldin Hamza, 16, was killed in the clash, though it was not clear whether he was the same person the army was referring to.

A second 16-year-old Palestinian was killed by Israeli troops in stone-throwing clashes that erupted later in Tulkarem, Palestinian witnesses and officials said. Soldiers shot and hit at a Palestinian who was hurling firebombs at troops, the army said, adding it had no information on his condition.

In Kabatiya village in the northern West Bank, Israeli troops surrounded a building where two suspected militants were hiding, and demanded that the pair surrender, Palestinian witnesses said.

A gunbattle erupted between the soldiers and the gunmen, and at one point a third Palestinian man began walking toward the troops, the army said. The man ignored warnings to stop, and troops shot him dead, fearing he was a suicide bomber.

However, no explosives or other weapons were found on the man, the army said. Relatives identified the man as Ribhi Zakarna, 42, and said he was mentally ill. The two Palestinian gunmen inside the house eventually surrendered, witnesses said.

Overall, more than 20 suspected Palestinian militants were arrested in West Bank sweeps overnight, the army said Wednesday morning.

Load-Date: January 15, 2003

End of Document

Female bomber vowed revenge

Ottawa Citizen

March 1, 2002 Friday Final Edition

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Section: News; Pg. A7; News

Length: 345 words

Byline: Wafa Amr

Dateline: JERUSALEM

Body

JERUSALEM -- Darin Abu Eisha was bent on revenge and she was determined to get it.

Never mind that **Hamas**, the Palestinian Islamic militant group, told her being a suicide bomber was men's work.

Wednesday, the 22-year-old student of English literature strapped explosives around her body and got her death wish.

Reuters

When she was stopped in a car at an Israeli checkpoint in the West Bank for identity checks, she set off the charge, killing herself and wounding three police officers.

Her sister Ibtissam said the immediate inspiration for the attack had been two cases of Israeli troops shooting pregnant **women** at a checkpoint near the northern West Bank city of Nablus, close to the family's home in the village of Beit Wazan.

"She said 'I will tear them (Israeli soldiers) apart, I swear I will carry out a martyrdom attack,' " Ibtissam said by telephone.

Darin Abu Eisha, who was active in **Hamas** at An-Najah University in Nablus, was only the second known **female** Palestinian suicide bomber.

Last month, relatives said, her cousin Safwat killed himself in a bomb attack for the Islamic Jihad group at a bus station in Tel Aviv and she had known several other suicide bombers in the 17-month-old Palestinian uprising against Israeli occupation.

But when Ms. Abu Eisha asked a senior **Hamas** official why the group did not recruit **women**, the answer was that it would when all the men ready to kill themselves killing Israelis had died.

"Because **Hamas** doesn't allow **women** to carry out martyrdom attacks, Darin said she would carry out an attack for an organization that would allow her to do so," her sister said.

Hamas and the Islamic Jihad both refuse to recruit **women** for suicide missions, whose perpetrators see themselves as martyrs bound for paradise. Israel regards them as terrorists.

Female bomber vowed revenge

Wafa' Idrees, a 28-year-old paramedic from the al-Amari refugee camp in the West Bank, broke the mould last month when she blew herself up in West Jerusalem, killing an elderly Israeli man and wounding more than 100 people. No group claimed the action.

Load-Date: March 1, 2002

End of Document

Condemn Palestinians and United Nations, but not Israel

USA TODAY
July 25, 2002, Thursday,
FINAL EDITION

Copyright 2002 Gannett Company, Inc.

Section: NEWS;; DEBATE

Length: 356 words

Body

Israel should not be condemned for indirectly killing "innocents" in its attack on **Hamas** leader Salah Shehadeh ("Israeli airstrike kills **Hamas** military chief," News, Tuesday).

Condemnation should go to:

- * Shehadeh for being a terrorist leader and a coward who hid behind **women** and children.
- * Yasser Arafat and other Palestinian leaders for aiding and abetting terrorism and destroying opportunities for peace and prosperity for Palestinians.
- * Western leaders and the United Nations for sanctioning terrorist-sponsoring entities and trying to push Israel into a policy of appeasing its murderous enemies.

When a peaceful, freedom-loving country such as Israel experiences terrorist attacks on a weekly basis, with hundreds of innocent people dying, it has a moral obligation to destroy the terrorists and their sponsors -- even at the risk of killing innocent people.

Glenn Woiceshyn

Calgary, Alberta

Israel's 'despicable' terror

If Israel's latest bombing is not a despicable act of terror, then what is?

It's time we stop this double standard when it comes to Israel.

The Israeli government's claims that it regrets civilian casualties and that it thought no civilians were in the area are offensive and not credible.

Whom other than civilians did Israeli forces expect to find in a densely packed apartment block in Gaza City in the wee hours of the morning? A flock of seagulls?

Whenever Palestinians attack, it is always reported that Israeli civilians are killed.

Condemn Palestinians and United Nations , but not Israel

But Tuesday's headline in USA TODAY proclaims "Israeli airstrike kills **Hamas** military chief." I consider this unprofessional and I hope that the American media will stop letting themselves be held hostage by narrow-minded interest groups.

Akram Baker

Berlin, Germany

Civilians caught in crossfire

Salah Shehadeh, the **Hamas** terror leader responsible for murdering and maiming thousands of Israelis, was killed when an Israeli warplane targeted his home. It's too bad his wife and children were also killed.

But if we knew in which cave Osama bin Laden is hiding, I doubt that the presence of his wife or wives and children would deter our just retaliation.

Scott Abramson

San Mateo, Calif.

Graphic

PHOTO, B/W, Mohammed Saber, AFP; Political graffiti: Palestinians stand in front of the building destroyed by an Israeli airstrike that killed a **Hamas** leader and at least a dozen other people.

Load-Date: July 25, 2002

End of Document

Explosion in a Gaza House Kills 2 Teenagers; Cause Is Disputed

The New York Times

January 28, 2003 Tuesday

Late Edition - Final

Copyright 2003 The New York Times Company

Section: Section A; Column 2; Foreign Desk; Pg. 7

Length: 386 words

Byline: By FRANK BRUNI

Dateline: JERUSALEM, Tuesday, Jan. 28

Body

Two teenagers were killed and 11 other people were injured just before midnight on Monday when an explosion tore through a house near Gaza City that belonged to a member of the militant Islamic group **Hamas**, hospital officials and a **Hamas** political leader said.

The **Hamas** leader, Abdel Aziz Rantisi, said the explosion had been caused by missiles fired from an Israeli helicopter that had been flying over a crowded neighborhood just north of Gaza City in the Gaza Strip.

But an Israeli military official said that he was not aware of any strike by Israeli forces in the area, and that the Israeli military's initial assessment was that the explosion might have been the result of a "working accident by Palestinian terrorists."

"We are still not sure of the reason," the official said.

Dr. Moawia Haasanin, the manager of the emergency room at Shifa Hospital, said two teenagers, Muhammad Muhammad Salamah, 17, and his sister, Sabreen, 15, had been killed.

Hospital officials said another 11 people, some of them **women** and children, had been wounded by the blast, which sent debris and shattered glass in all directions.

Mr. Rantisi said the house belonged to the children's father, Muhammad Salamah, who was taken to the hospital for treatment of a head wound. Mr. Rantisi said that Mr. Salamah was a member of **Hamas**. **Hamas** has carried out dozens of suicide attacks in Israel.

The Gaza Strip has been the site of intense fighting between Israeli forces and Palestinians in recent days as today's elections approached.

Late Saturday and early Sunday, Israeli forces made their deepest incursion into the Gaza Strip in the more than two years of the current conflict between Israelis and Palestinians, and soldiers killed 12 Palestinians. Israeli military officials said the raid was a response to Palestinian rocket attacks on Israel.

Explosion in a Gaza House Kills 2 Teenagers; Cause Is Disputed

An Israeli military official said operations in the Gaza Strip continued late Monday night and early this morning, with helicopter gunships firing on open spaces near Beit Hanun to prevent the launching of missiles and firing of mortar shells by Palestinian militants.

The official said that to his knowledge, nobody was hurt, and that the activity near Beit Hanun had nothing to do with reports from the Sheik Radwan neighborhood near Gaza City, where the explosion reportedly occurred.

<http://www.nytimes.com>

Load-Date: January 28, 2003

End of Document

10 KILLED AND 95 INJURED IN ISRAELI MISSILE ATTACK

The Express

July 23, 2002

Copyright 2002 EXPRESS NEWSPAPERS

Section: NEWS; Pg. 6

Length: 277 words

Byline: By Jane Young

Body

AN Israeli warplane fired a missile at a residential area in Gaza City last night killing at least 10 people, including three children and a baby.

The head of the military wing of Palestinian militant group **Hamas** - said to be the mastermind behind the recent wave of suicide bombings and Israel's number one terror target - was among those killed.

The home of Sheik Salah Shehada is thought to have been the target of the attack, which also levelled neighbouring houses.

Witnesses said one of the dead was a baby, and doctors said the dead included three children and four **women**. Hospital officials reported 95 people were injured.

Witnesses said two Israeli F-16 warplanes circled over Gaza before one of them fired a single missile.

Jamal Halaby, a Palestinian police officer who lives nearby, said he saw the missile streaking across the sky and then heard a huge explosion.

He said: "I fell out of my bed and I found myself a minute later covered in dust and stones, and the sounds of my children screaming and crying."

In recent days Israeli forces have struck Gaza twice, targeting metal workshops where they claim Palestinians were manufacturing mortar shells and rockets.

Hamas has killed dozens of Israelis in suicide bombings since a Palestinian uprising against Israeli occupation erupted in September 2000.

Palestinian security sources said Shehada had been at the top of Israel's most-wanted list.

Last night **Hamas** official Ismail Hanniye said: "It is a horrible massacre committed by the Zionist terrorists and the Americans who killed old people, **women** and children. **Hamas** will avenge the blood of each one of these victims. The battle is launched."

Load-Date: July 23, 2002

10 KILLED AND 95 INJURED IN ISRAELI MISSILE ATTACK

End of Document

11 KILLED AND 100 INJURED IN ISRAELI MISSILE ATTACK

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July 23, 2002

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Section: NEWS; Pg. 6

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The head of the military wing of Palestinian militant group Hamas - said to be the mastermind behind the recent wave of suicide bombings and Israel's number one terror target - was believed to be among those killed, along with his wife and several of their children.

The home of Sheik Salah Shehadeh is thought to have been the target of the attack, which also levelled a number of neighbouring houses.

Witnesses said one of the dead was a baby, and doctors said the dead included three children and four women.

Hospital officials reported 100 people were injured. Witnesses said two Israeli F-16 warplanes circled over Gaza before one of them fired a single missile.

In recent days Israeli forces have struck Gaza twice, targeting metal workshops where they claim Palestinians were manufacturing mortar shells and rockets.

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Last night Hamas official Ismail Haniyeh said: "It is a horrible massacre committed by the Zionist terrorists who killed old people, women and children.

"Hamas will avenge the blood of each one of these victims. The battle is launched."

Last night the Israeli military confirmed that Shehadeh was the target and said he was hit.

It claimed Shehadeh was behind "hundreds of terror attacks in the last two years against Israeli soldiers and civilians".

Load-Date: July 23, 2002

11 KILLED AND 100 INJURED IN ISRAELI MISSILE ATTACK

End of Document

IRAN & SYRIA UP THE ANTE IN ARAFAT'S WAR ON ISRAEL

Daily News (New York)

January 29, 2002, Tuesday

SPORTS FINAL EDITION

Copyright 2002 Daily News, L.P.

Section: EDITORIAL;; COLUMN,OPINION

Length: 614 words

Byline: BY RICHARD CHESNOFF

Body

The use of **female** suicide bombers is a frightening new twist in the already twisted Palestinian war of terror against Israel. Yasser Arafat may not have personally chosen the young woman who blew herself up on Jerusalem's Jaffa St. on Sunday, killing one person and maiming scores of innocents. But Arafat is responsible for almost every other atrocity of the 15-month-old intifadeh.

As if Arafat weren't doing enough to destroy Mideast peace on his own, he is getting increasing help from two of the region's worst troublemakers: Iran and Syria.

Iran's mullahs have been long sworn to scuttle the peace process. Together with their Lebanese-based Hezbollah stooges, they were knee-deep in the recently thwarted attempt to smuggle a shipload of arms to Arafat's terrorist armies.

And although Syria has no great love for Arafat, it has always been a place for Palestinian extremists and has become increasingly attractive to the Islamic fanatics who are behind the bloody campaign of suicide bombings in Israeli cities.

The White House is furious with Arafat for not stopping the bloodshed. But even if the increasingly isolated Palestinian leader cracked down on the terror gangs, as he endlessly promises to do, Islamic terrorist organizations - and Arafat's own Fatah extremists - would probably just relocate to Syria.

In fact, the fix is already in. According to reliable Mideast intelligence sources, **Hamas** senior operatives asked for a promise of asylum during a secret meeting on Dec. 3 with Syria's vice president, Abdel-Halim Khaddam.

The **Hamas** leaders, who included Khaled Masha'l, the foreign emissary, reportedly told Khaddam that they fear international pressure may force Arafat to drop his revolving-door policy of arresting and later releasing **Hamas** operatives.

Now, said the **Hamas** leaders, Arafat may feel compelled to take "serious action" - which in reality will mean letting **Hamas** chiefs (and, reportedly, Islamic Jihad activists) flee to Syria with the help of the Lebanese-based Hezbollah. Among the candidates for Syrian asylum: Salah Shehade, head of **Hamas**' Gaza operations, and Adnan al-Ghoul, a senior member of **Hamas**' Izzedine al Qassam military battalion.

IRAN & SYRIA UP THE ANTE IN ARAFAT'S WAR ON ISRAEL

Masha'l reportedly requested an urgent meeting with Syria's president, Bashar Assad. Although Khaddam promised to recommend that Assad consider the request positively, he stressed that Syria is "under heavy pressure" on terrorism. Nonetheless, he added, Syria "could not sit idly by in these times."

Syria is already home to any number of extremist and terrorist organizations, including Turkey's murderous Kurdish separatists and the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine-General Command, an organization that has been linked to the downing of Pan Am Flight 103.

To be sure, Syria was among the first to announce that it was joining President Bush's global coalition against terrorism. And surprisingly, given its dismal record, Syria is a member of the United Nations Security Council. But Assad, like his late father, doesn't consider Palestinian terrorists to be terrorists.

Neither does Iran. In the mind of Tehran's leaders, people like that woman in Jerusalem who self-detonate and kill innocent shoppers and children are martyred resistance fighters. The Iranians, who are busily developing nuclear weapons, also are stirring up trouble in neighboring Afghanistan.

The Bush administration has been trying to revive the Mideast peace process. Meanwhile, some officials have sought to warm up U.S. relations with Iran and Syria. There is an impossible conflict between these two goals. The administration must have no illusions about both nations' treacherous mischief-making.

E-mail: rzc@att.net

Graphic

AP An injured victim of Sunday's terror bombing in Jerusalem.

Load-Date: January 29, 2002

End of Document

In Gaza, they're still sure that resistance is only way

Sydney Morning Herald (Australia)

April 8, 2002 Monday

Late Edition

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Section: NEWS AND FEATURES; International News; Pg. 7

Length: 1205 words

Byline: Paul McGeough, Herald Correspondent, in Gaza City

Body

This city is braced for the blunt force of another Israeli strike. But even before the tanks roll in, the hard-line leaders of **Hamas** the Islamic militants behind the most deadly suicide bombing missions in Israel in the past two weeks are talking about more death, more punishment, more revenge.

The founder of the movement and its spiritual leader, the quadriplegic cleric Sheik Ahmed Yassin, embodies the defiance that is nurtured in this cauldron of refugee despair when he says: "All Palestinians are convinced they are going to die, so they

might as well die fighting. This is why all the youth and all their mothers are pushing to share in our martyrdom operations."

The cleric's **Hamas** deputy, Abdul Aziz Rantisi, a physician, says he can direct suicide strikes by the shadowy **Hamas** military wing with media statements such as: "The gates of resistance are open totally." He scoffs at the Israelis. "They wanted to kill us without paying a price. But now they are finding that there is a price after all."

Another in the Gaza-based leadership team, Mahmoud al-Zahar, a surgeon, celebrates the success of the suicide bombers. "Since we cannot touch Israeli dignity without such operations, everyone is encouraging more such attacks. Yes, there should be more what else can we do?"

And, finally, Ismail Abu Sanab, an engineer, talks about how **Hamas** measures success. "Look at the Israeli weapons and there is no balance of power in this war. But there is a balance of fear when we destroy an Israeli tank, that is evidence of success; when we kill an Israeli soldier, it's a major success; when we cross the Israeli defences and borders, it's a major success; and when we hurt inside Israel, that is indeed a major success."

Outside, trucks dumped earth at intersections in the hope of slowing the Israeli tanks; booby-trap bombs were secreted on the roads; business had virtually shut down and people queued for hours for bread to eat during the inevitable Israeli-imposed curfew.

The men from **Hamas** all expect to be targets in any Israeli round-up in Gaza. And despite these candid interviews all are taking precautions. Dr Rantisi has stopped using a mobile phone and Dr Zahar switches his car most days Israel has used explosives hidden in mobiles and helicopter missile attacks on moving cars in its campaign of targeted assassination of key Palestinians.

In Gaza, they're still sure that resistance is only way

In the the teeming squalor of Jabalya, biggest of the refugee camps with more than 100,000 Palestinians living in abject poverty, the first youngster approached raised his desire to be a suicide bomber.

This 19-year-old was furious that in the last Israeli incursion his family's metal workshop had been demolished because the Israelis said it doubled as a bomb factory. That was just weeks ago, when 20 Jabalya residents were killed in less than three hours.

All the security service buildings in Gaza have been demolished by Israeli jets or helicopters, so the regional security chief, General Saeb el-Ajez, has a makeshift office built of sandbags. On a plastic table were three mobile phones and a pistol, and his view was stated simply: "If [Israeli Prime Minister Ariel] Sharon enters this city he will be in big trouble".

Jabalya was the birthplace of the first, stone-throwing intifada, and the fight is still in the people. A few weeks ago a preacher used Friday prayers to urge his people on: "Do not run away. Throw petrol bombs and stones at [Israeli soldiers] and even your shoes if you cannot find anything else."

Gaza too was the birthplace of Hamas which today boasts refined bomb-making techniques that can produce weapons-grade explosives.

Even as reports came in that the Israelis were claiming to have killed Qais Adwan, a Hamas bomb-maker who they say masterminded Hamas's Passover bombing, which killed 27 people in the coastal city of Netanya and sparked Israel's deadly push into the

West Bank, the leaders in Gaza were confident that, in time, they would drive the Jews out of not just the West Bank and the Gaza Strip, but out of Israel too.

Sheik Yassin is a frail old man who tires just from talking. But on Friday he hectored a crowd of more than 15,000 at a demonstration in Jabalya. "Resistance has turned from stones into human bombs and missiles." And of the US and Israeli insistence that Yasser Arafat order a ceasefire and arrest Palestinian fighters, he said: "Arafat will not surrender to their demands."

In an interview at his home, he was just as uncompromising: "I declare that our people will not be broken; they will not kneel and give up. All of our nation, even those who believed in the peace process that started in Oslo, now know that resistance is the only way. Ten years of negotiations have failed us.

"We don't have the weapons that the Israelis use to kill our women and children. So we use what we have the martyrdom operations. We do not like to hurt people, but the Israelis are responsible for that because they kill our people.

"Martyrdom is an exceptional weapon for a time we said that we would stop it, but the enemy did not respect that declaration and so we had to start fighting back again."

That was after September 11, when Hamas decided to lie low lest its work be confused with that of Osama bin Laden. But then Israeli soldiers killed several Palestinians, and Hamas decided to strike back, and on October 3 gunmen attacked the Alei Sinai settlement, killing two and wounding 15.

Hamas claimed that attack, just as Dr Zahar declared that the Netanya mission was aimed at derailing the US-led search for peace.

It was Hamas's single greatest success, but Ismail Abu Sanab wanted to boast of what he saw as more fundamental. "We have changed the rules of the game. Israel's military force is confronted by our determination now that is the real success of the Palestinian resistance."

Asked how he felt on hearing the news from Netanya, he said: "First, ask me how I feel when the Israelis kill Palestinians who live in poverty and oppression. Netanya? I thought, 'Thank God that Palestinians can cause suffering for the Israelies like the Israelis cause for the Palestinians'.

In Gaza, they're still sure that resistance is only way

"Maybe the martyrdom bombings are primitive. But they are the only weapon we have, and they are less harmful than F-16s with tonnes of explosives."

But can the Palestinians win? "All the time in history, it has been the nations with determination that have defeated the nations with weapons. Look at the US in Vietnam, the French in Algeria and the Israelis in south Lebanon."

At his surgery, Dr Zahar spelt out the impact of the bombings. "The Israelis are feeling a deep sense of loss because we are destroying the integrity of their society. This is the first time the Israeli economy has been in recession since 1948; they are being deprived of tourism; and for the first time they are experiencing reverse immigration.

"So why should we go back to something like the Camp David peace process? It is madness. We negotiate, negotiate, negotiate, the Israelis implement nothing and once again our country is occupied by the Israeli military.

Will the Israelis strike in Gaza? Maybe. But, Dr Rantisi says: "If they do they will pay a very high price, because we are waiting."

paulmcgeough@aol.com

For a full version of this story, go to www.smh.com.au

Graphic

ILLUS: **Hamas** members wearing white robes and mock explosives demonstrate in Jabalya refugee camp in support of suicide bombings. Photo: Reuters

Load-Date: July 17, 2007

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Gloves off again as Israelis demolish homes

Sydney Morning Herald (Australia)

January 11, 2002 Friday

Late Edition

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

Length: 512 words

Byline: Ross Dunn, Herald Correspondent, in Jerusalem and agencies

Body

The military wing of Islamic Jihad said last night it would pull out of an understanding with the Palestinian Authority to stop attacks after Israeli Army bulldozers demolished up to 30 buildings in Rafah in the southern Gaza Strip.

Israel sent in the bulldozers yesterday after the militant Islamic group **Hamas** carried out an attack on Wednesday that killed four Israeli soldiers in Israel.

Islamic Jihad said in a statement: "We in the Jerusalem Brigades, the military wing of Islamic Jihad in Palestine, announce that starting from today we will not adhere to the understanding with ... the authority and its security services."

The rising violence came as the United States Secretary of State, Colin Powell, telephoned the Palestinian leader, Yasser Arafat, to press him for an explanation of the shipload of arms intercepted by Israeli forces last week in the Red Sea.

US officials said Israel's claim that the vessel was taking the weapons from Iran to the Palestinian Authority was "credible".

"Everything you have to say, you should say as soon as possible," Mr Powell told Mr Arafat.

The State Department spokesman, Richard Boucher, said the US had again stressed it was Mr Arafat's responsibility to prevent arms shipments and dismantle the groups involved.

The Palestinian leader repeated that neither he nor the Palestinian Authority was involved, and he was committed to a full investigation of the shipment.

The Bush Administration, meanwhile, strongly condemned the attack early on Wednesday by **Hamas** on an Israeli army post near the Gaza Strip, which also left two Palestinian gunmen dead.

It said the **Hamas** operation, though aimed at Israeli soldiers, was also a direct attack on Mr Arafat's authority.

Hamas said Israel's seizure of the weapons vessel, the Karine A, had prompted the attack.

The Palestinian Authority condemned the raid, saying it would give Israel an excuse to continue its "military escalation and siege against our people".

Gloves off again as Israelis demolish homes

But the Israeli Prime Minister, Ariel Sharon, blamed Mr Arafat personally for the attack, and said Israel would review its policy towards the Palestinian Authority and consider "what steps to take".

Less than a day after the **Hamas** raid, a dozen Israeli bulldozers and armoured vehicles drove into the Rafah refugee camp before dawn yesterday and began flattening homes, witnesses said. Residents fled their houses in heavy rain, and local officials said hundreds were made homeless. Weeping **women** and men and children sifted through the rubble trying to recover their belongings.

Baha Abu Libdeh, 31, one of the camp residents made homeless, along with his wife and six children, said Israel's retaliation would stoke more hatred. "What danger does my house pose to the Israeli security to be destroyed?"

On Wednesday the Israeli Army destroyed two Palestinian security posts in southern Gaza and closed three naval buildings on the Mediterranean coast.

The **Hamas** raid on Wednesday shattered a more than three-week lull in violence, the longest period of calm since the uprising against Israeli occupation began in September 2000.

Load-Date: July 17, 2007

End of Document

Israeli Army demolishes Palestinian homes

Sydney Morning Herald (Australia)

January 11, 2002 Friday

Early Edition

Copyright 2002 John Fairfax Publications Pty Ltd All Rights Reserved

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

Length: 504 words

Byline: Ross Dunn, Herald Correspondent, in Jerusalem and agencies

Body

Israeli army bulldozers demolished up to 30 buildings in Rafah in the southern Gaza Strip yesterday in response to an attack that killed four Israeli soldiers.

The escalation in violence came as the United States Secretary of State, Colin Powell, telephoned the Palestinian leader, Yasser Arafat, to press him for an explanation of the shipload of arms intercepted by Israeli forces last week in the Red Sea.

US officials said Israel's claim that the vessel was taking the weapons from Iran to the Palestinian Authority was "credible".

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It said the **Hamas** operation, though aimed at Israeli soldiers, was also a direct attack on Mr Arafat's authority.

Hamas said Israel's seizure of the weapons vessel, the Karine A, had prompted the attack. **Hamas** officials said they were still refraining from suicide bombings inside Israel in line with a promise to Mr Arafat, but the raid against the soldiers was legitimate because they were members of the "occupation army".

The Palestinian Authority condemned the raid, saying it would give Israel an excuse to continue its "military escalation and siege against our people".

But the Israeli Prime Minister, Ariel Sharon, blamed Mr Arafat personally for the attack, and said Israel would review its policy towards the Palestinian Authority and consider "what steps to take".

Israeli Army demolishes Palestinian homes

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Baha Abu Libdeh, 31, one of the camp residents made homeless, along with his wife and six children, said Israel's retaliation would only create more hatred.

"What danger does my house pose to the Israeli security to be destroyed?" Abu Libdeh asked.

"I became homeless today, and my children will remember one thing about the state of Israel: it is the enemy."

On Wednesday the Israeli Army destroyed two Palestinian security posts in southern Gaza and closed three naval buildings on the Mediterranean coast.

The **Hamas** raid on Wednesday shattered a more than three-week lull in violence, the longest period of calm since the uprising against Israeli occupation began in September 2000.

Load-Date: July 17, 2007

Israel kills 12 in Gaza;
INNOCENTS ATTACKED

MX (Melbourne, Australia)

April 10, 2003 Thursday

Copyright 2003 Nationwide News Pty Limited

Section: NEWS; Pg. 11

Length: 204 words

Body

The Israeli army killed 12 Palestinians, among them several children, in an air strike on a **Hamas** militant leader and a foray into a Gaza town.

As the Palestinians slammed the Israeli air strike on Gaza City as a bid to "sabotage" an internationally backed peace "roadmap", German Foreign Minister Joschka Fischer pushed their leader Yasser Arafat to hurry reforms aimed at sharing power with his moderate new premier.

Israel defended the strike by an F-16 fighter-bomber and two Apache helicopters, which killed seven Palestinians, including three **Hamas** Islamists and four civilians.

Military sources said the raid was aimed at **Hamas** leader Saad al-Arabid, "responsible for attacks that killed and wounded dozens of people".

Shortly after, a second attack raised the death toll and doubled the number of injured as it hit emergency workers and onlookers staring at wreckage from the first strike.

Women and children were among the 47 wounded, eight of whom were said to be in critical condition.

Meanwhile, an extreme right-wing Jewish group has claimed responsibility for a blast in a West Bank school that injured 29 Palestinian pupils.

The group said the blast was "to avenge the Jewish children killed by the Palestinians".

Load-Date: April 10, 2003

Hamas bomber 'told girl to get off doomed bus'

The Times (London)

August 10, 2002, Saturday

Copyright 2002 Times Newspapers Limited

Section: Overseas news; 19

Length: 809 words

Byline: Stephen Farrell in Baana

Body

SHE will for ever be the girl who said nothing.

For days Israel has been transfixed by the saga of the young Israeli-Arab woman who, when warned by a suicide bomber that "something bad" was about to happen to the bus she was on, simply stepped off the doomed vehicle and made no effort to warn other passengers or the police.

Yassra Bakhri, it appears, paused only to drag her friend Samia Assadi along with her.

The truth of what the **Hamas** bomber whispered in the ear of Ms Bakhri, 27, while aboard bus 361 last Sunday may never be known.

She says she was ignorant of his intent, insisting that she took his warning as a personal threat. "If I could have prevented it I would have," Ms Bakhri insisted in an interview with The Times yesterday. "I am against bloodshed and the killing of innocent people."

The bomber is beyond corroboration or contradiction, as minutes later he blew himself and nine victims apart, also injuring dozens of Jewish, Arab and Druze passengers.

The mystery is compounded by the fact that after the pair left the bus, they hailed a taxi and followed it at close range, being only yards away when it exploded. Ms Bakhri's accusers consider this evidence of the two **women**'s guilt. They have argued that they had no idea the bus was going to explode or they would not have put themselves in harm's way.

Ms Bakhri has now been indicted on suspicion of failing to prevent a crime. Israeli police said that they have evidence of her foreknowledge, but have failed so far to present it in open court.

Whatever she knew, the case has poisoned even further relations between the the Jewish, Arab and Druze communities, which are volatile at the best of times. It has also highlighted how every incident in the Middle East is viewed through the prisms of race and tribe loyalty.

Israelis appeared to believe that the two young members of the Arab minority that comprises 20 per cent of the Israeli population were quite capable of saving their own skins, and even forsaking their class friends, as they headed for the mixed college that they attend in nearby Safed.

Hamas bomber 'told girl to get off doomed bus'

The girls' families, from the Galilee villages of Baana and Dir al Assad, back their protestations of innocence. They insisted it was reasonable that a sheltered young Muslim woman would have been so startled by an unsolicited approach from a strange man that she simply bolted.

In the current climate of hostility toward Arabs, they said, it was unthinkable that she would approach the police without evidence and risk being ridiculed or worse.

Sitting in a comfortable living room alongside numerous relatives, an impassive and subdued Ms Bakhri intoned her version of events, frequently "guided" by her father and others who advised her in Arabic to, "Tell him this...", or, "Say you were confused."

She appeared frustrated by the interjections, and burst into tears at one point as she proclaimed her innocence. "Anyone who was under the pressure I was would have acted the same way," she said. In the neighbouring village, Ms Assadi's account was identical, and also subject to correction by attentive relatives.

However, it is Khaled, her father, who sums up both families' frustration at being pilloried. "Every time something like this happens the Israeli Government always tries to put a black spot on the Israeli Arabs, as if they are the wrongdoers."

The relatives of the dead and injured are less sympathetic. In the village of Sajour, Jamal Hassan received mourners who were paying their respects for the death of his daughter Maysoun, as another daughter sat scarred and traumatised nearby.

"Any good citizen should have carried out their duty to help other citizens. As far as we can see, this wasn't done," he said, choosing his words carefully as befits a former senior policeman.

Hisham Ghanem, the taxi driver who picked the girls up after they fled the bus, said that aspects of their behaviour during the 20-minute ride before the explosion seemed unimportant at the time, but later acquired more significance. Mr Ghanem, 26, and his sister Hanan said Ms Bakhri and Ms Assadi laughing and constantly glancing at the bus in the cab's rear view mirrors, becoming nervous only when it came too close. "When I got alongside it at one junction one of them screamed 'Yamma' (mother) said Mr Ghanem. "At the next stop the bus was behind us and as it approached they started saying 'Yalla, yalla (hurry, hurry)'."

But his objectivity may be impaired by the overwhelmingly negative coverage that the incident has received in the Israeli media, with headlines such as: "She knew and kept silent", and, "Why Didn't She Warn My Son?"

Then there is the extraordinary coincidence that it was his cousin Roni who was unlucky enough to climb into Ms Bakhri's seat next to the bomber when she alighted the bus so suddenly.

It is a small world, but a deeply divided one.

Load-Date: August 10, 2002

Gaza celebrates cafeteria bombing

Sydney Morning Herald (Australia)

August 2, 2002 Friday

Late Edition

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Section: NEWS AND FEATURES; International News; Pg. 8

Length: 401 words

Byline: Ross Dunn, Herald Correspondent, in Jerusalem

Body

As Palestinians in Gaza City yesterday celebrated the bombing at Hebrew University in Jerusalem that killed seven people, Israel planned military action against the group responsible, **Hamas**.

The Defence Minister, Binyamin Ben-Eliezer, has approved the retaliation, although details were not released.

Word of it came as Israeli forces searched for a suicide bomber reported to be on the way to one of the coastal cities north of Tel Aviv. No-one was caught and Israeli intelligence said the bomber might have returned to the West Bank temporarily as the result of a strong security presence.

The latest warning came 24 hours after a bomb exploded in the main cafeteria at Hebrew University. As Israelis mourned and braced for further attacks, thousands of Palestinian men, **women** and children celebrated in Gaza City, clapping, singing and handing out sweets.

Many called for more attacks to avenge the killing last week of Salah Shehadeh, the commander of the military wing of **Hamas**, and 14 others, including nine children, in an Israeli air strike on his home in Gaza City.

"We give this gift [attack] to the soul of Sheikh Salah Shehadeh and we say to the al-Qassam brigades [the military wing of **Hamas**] we are waiting for more," one speaker said.

At a rally in the Balata refugee camp on the edge of the West Bank city of Nablus, masked men burned an effigy of the Israeli Prime Minister, Ariel Sharon.

Five of the seven killed at Hebrew University on Wednesday were foreigners, four from the United States and one from France.

Hamas said it had carried out the bombing, in which a bag of explosives was left in the cafeteria. It is believed the bomber came from the northern West Bank, possibly Nablus. The device, triggered by mobile telephone, was packed with shrapnel.

Israeli security officials wondered if this indicated a change in tactics by **Hamas**, which has often deployed suicide bombers.

In other developments, Israel yesterday demolished the West Bank family home of the 17 year-old Palestinian who carried out a suicide bombing at a felaful stand in Jerusalem on Tuesday.

Gaza celebrates cafeteria bombing

The Israeli security cabinet also approved the expulsion of a relative of a Palestinian involved in attacks on a Jewish settlement in the West Bank and in Tel Aviv.

The cabinet is now waiting for the approval of the Attorney-General, Elyakim Rubinstein, who has to decide whether the legal conditions for deportation have been met.

Graphic

ILLUS: Two students comfort one another after the explosion in the cafeteria at Hebrew University. Photo: AFP/Dan Balility

Load-Date: July 17, 2007

End of Document

Suicide bombing in Israel hailed as 'a gift' to Iraq

The Star Phoenix (Saskatoon, Saskatchewan)

March 31, 2003 Monday Final Edition

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Section: World; Pg. D9; News

Length: 473 words

Dateline: NETANYA, Israel

Body

NETANYA, Israel (AP) -- A Palestinian suicide bomber wounded 30 people outside a packed cafe in northern Israel on Sunday, an attack the Islamic Jihad called "Palestine's gift to the heroic people of Iraq." The blast raised Israeli fears of more bombings as the war in Iraq intensifies.

The militant group said a vanguard of Palestinians has arrived in Baghdad ready to kill American and British soldiers in suicide missions. The claim came a day after a non-commissioned Iraqi army officer driving a taxi detonated explosives at a U.S. checkpoint in Iraq, killing himself and four American soldiers.

Associated Press

The blast in the coastal town of Netanya was the first suicide bombing in Israel in nearly a month and involved 2.25 kilograms of explosives studded with nails. It occurred during lunchtime outside the popular Cafe London on the downtown pedestrian mall.

Ten of the wounded were Israeli soldiers, including one who stopped the attacker as he tried to enter the cafe, police and the army said. Panicked customers ran, overturning chairs and tables and shouting, "Terrorist! Terrorist!"

Islamic Jihad identified the bomber as Rami Ghanem, 19, from a West Bank village just across the porous line with Israel. The bombing affirmed "the unity of battle from Palestine to Baghdad in confronting the American-Zionist invasion which targets the entire Arab and Islamic nation," the group said in a statement.

The militants' support for Iraq appeared to be a departure from pledges not to get involved in other conflicts. In the past 30 months of fighting with Israel, Islamic Jihad and its sister group **Hamas** have sent dozens of young men and a few **women** into Israeli cities, where they have killed hundreds with bombs and bullets.

Hamas also appeared to link the battle against Israel with the fighting in Iraq. Masked **Hamas** activists at a pro-Iraq march in the West Bank city of Nablus on Sunday posed before a large placard showing bloodied maps of Palestine and Iraq with a black-clad man strapped with explosives standing between them.

Meanwhile, **Hamas** leaders met in Gaza City with the Palestinian prime minister-designate, Mahmoud Abbas. One of Abbas' main challenges will be to rein in the militant groups.

Hamas, which opposes peace talks with Israel, had earlier criticized Abbas' appointment and said the militant Islamic group would not take part in his government.

Abbas, in Gaza to form a new cabinet, also met Sunday with representatives of the militant Popular Front group and the Iraq-backed Arab Liberation Front.

Suicide bombing in Israel hailed as 'a gift' to Iraq

Arriving at the scene of Sunday's attack, police found the bomber's mangled body on the blood-spattered pavement. Detectives wearing plastic gloves fingerprinted his severed hand and sifted through detritus that included broken plates, food, shredded clothing, bits of flesh and a baby's pacifier.

Load-Date: March 31, 2003

End of Document

New deaths dash last hopes for ceasefire

Sydney Morning Herald (Australia)

January 24, 2002 Thursday

Late Edition

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Section: NEWS AND FEATURES; Pg. 1

Length: 644 words

Byline: Ross Dunn, Herald Correspondent, in Jerusalem and agencies

Body

A coalition of militant Palestinian groups has called for a "general mobilisation" against Israel.

The call followed a day of escalating violence and appeared to dash any hopes of reviving the appeal last month by the Palestinian leader, Yasser Arafat, for a suspension of the Palestinian armed struggle.

A 24-year-old Palestinian gunman, Said Ramadan, went on a shooting spree in Jerusalem on Tuesday afternoon, wounding 16 people before police shot him dead. Two women, aged 56 and 78, later died of their wounds, and a hospital spokeswoman said two other victims were in serious condition.

Ramadan was a member of the Al-Aqsa Martyrs Brigades, a militia group linked to Mr Arafat's Fatah faction of the Palestine Liberation Organisation.

The rampage came hours after Israeli commandos killed four members of Hamas during a raid in the West Bank town of Nablus.

Yesterday thousands of Palestinians, chanting for revenge, marched in a funeral procession in Nablus for the four men. In a statement distributed at the burial, the Brigades said the Jerusalem attack was to avenge the death of one of their leaders, Raed al-Karmi, in a bomb blast last week and the Hamas men.

The Brigades' decision to widen the scope of anti-Israeli attacks from the West Bank to Israel itself marked a new convergence with Hamas.

Hamas issued a statement saying Israel had "opened the door to all-out war against the Zionist Army and [Jewish] settlers, by all means and all places".

The Israeli Prime Minister, Ariel Sharon, accused Mr Arafat of using "terror groups" under his control to drag the Middle East into war, while a Palestinian cabinet minister, Saeb Erekat, accused Israel of escalating the violence through its raids.

"We don't condone the killing of civilians Palestinians and Israelis," Mr Erekat said, urging international intervention.

"I condemn this state terror in Nablus, occupying parts of Nablus and then dynamiting a building, killing four people in that building," Mr Erekat said.

New deaths dash last hopes for ceasefire

The statement released in Gaza City by the Coalition of National and Islamic Forces, which includes **Hamas** and Fatah, said: "We call upon all the security forces, the heroes of the intifada and our entire people to confront the Zionist invasion."

The coalition also urged Mr Arafat to release the leader of the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine, Ahmed Saadat, who was detained in connection with his group's assassination of an Israeli Tourism Minister, Rehavam Ze'evi, in October.

Mr Sharon blamed Mr Arafat for the Jerusalem attack.

"The goal of Arafat and the terrorist organisations under his control is to drag the region into a war," he said.

In Washington, the US State Department spokesman, Richard Boucher, said: "We absolutely condemn this terrorist attack. There's no justification for these kinds of attacks."

He also said the United States planned to send its Middle East envoy, Anthony Zinni, back to the region, but gave no date.

Mr Boucher said the US was pushing Mr Arafat to dismantle militant groups. "It's not a matter of whether they decide they will or they won't carry out attacks. It's making sure that they can't," he said.

Mr Boucher also said the US continued to oppose Israeli incursions into Palestinian-controlled territory.

Israel is expected to respond militarily to the latest attack.

Hamas had already reacted to the killing of four of its members in Nablus with a declaration of "total war" against Israel. **Hamas** had said last month that it would suspend actions inside Israel in response to Mr Arafat's call for a ceasefire.

Israel said its soldiers also arrested at least nine suspected militants and uncovered what the army called a laboratory for making explosives during the Nablus raid.

At least 816 Palestinians and 248 Israelis have been killed in the Palestinian uprising against Israeli occupation.

Praise to God, and more blood is spilt Page 7

Load-Date: July 17, 2007

Israeli gunship kills 14; U.S. 'deeply troubled' by escalating violence

Hamilton Spectator (Ontario, Canada)

October 8, 2002 Tuesday Final Edition

Copyright 2002 Metroland Media Group Ltd

Section: CANADA & WORLD; Pg. D04; News

Length: 550 words

Dateline: GAZA STRIP

Body

Fourteen people were killed yesterday when an Israeli helicopter fired a rocket into a crowd of Palestinians, including women and children. As the wounded were arriving in hospital, Israeli guns opened up on the hospital, killing one man and wounding three others.

And within hours, four more Palestinians were dead after fighting between Hamas militants and Palestinian security forces loyal to Yasser Arafat flared. Palestinian police last night held 60 Hamas gunmen under siege in Nusseirat refugee camp in the Gaza Strip. Onlookers were attacking the police with stones.

Spectator Wire Services

The violence between Hamas and Palestinian Authority security forces began after a senior Palestinian police commander was kidnapped and killed by 13 Hamas gunmen yesterday.

Hamas leaders said the killing was part of a private blood feud and had nothing to do with the organization. The Palestinian Authority accused Hamas of being behind it.

In the airborne attack, Palestinians said the helicopter fired a rocket at a crowd that had come out of their houses in Khan Younis, thinking one Israeli raid was over.

The Israelis said Palestinian gunmen shot at them as they retreated, and they were returning fire. The Palestinians said the dead were civilians; the Israeli army said all but one were militants.

This was the heaviest death toll in an Israeli raid for months, just as Javier Solana, the EU's foreign policy chief, flew in to talk peace. The U.S. state department stepped up its criticism of Israel, saying Washington was "deeply troubled" by the raids.

The trouble began with the sort of incursion that happens regularly in the Gaza Strip these days. Tanks swept into the town of Khan Younis, and Israeli soldiers searched houses, apparently looking for militants. Then, it seems, they left, and 15 minutes later the helicopter's rocket struck the crowd.

There were women and children there, who were taken to Nasser hospital, that came under Israeli fire early yesterday, as it was thronged with emergency cases. The Israeli army said the gunshots were not aimed at the hospital but at mortar fire from nearby.

But the Israeli soldiers must have known they were firing in the direction of a hospital. Mohammed abu Shaluli, who worked there, died from a bullet in the head.

Israeli gunship kills 14; U.S. 'deeply troubled' by escalating violence

In an upstairs ward, 10-year-old Fawzi Aqqa was lying in shock, a metal brace newly wired into his shattered leg. His mother, Sheida al-Fara, described what had happened.

"After midnight, the Israelis came to our house. I went and opened the door. They were looking for something, I don't know what. Then they left the house, around 2 a.m.

"They took my husband's ID. They took them from all the men in the house. After the Israelis left, all the men went to look for their IDs. My son followed his father. I was standing on the balcony with my daughter. I saw a light in the sky, and suddenly, there was a big explosion. I heard my son saying, 'I don't want to die.' I went to help. When I saw my son, his leg was covered with blood."

Mrs. al-Fara said there were many armed men in the crowd, some of them militants, some legitimately armed members of the Palestinian police, which still operates in Gaza.

"No one was shooting at the Israelis." She added that they were shooting in the air to celebrate the Israeli soldiers leaving.

Graphic

Photo: Abed Omar Qusini,Reuters; Palestinian women cover their ears as an Israeli tank opens fire with a heavy machine gun after the army lifted the curfew in West Bank city of Nablus. Women and children were reported among those slain in Israeli raid in the Gaza Strip.

Load-Date: October 8, 2002

End of Document

U.S. joins criticism of Israel for strike

The Atlanta Journal-Constitution

July 24, 2002 Wednesday

Home Edition

Copyright 2002 The Atlanta Journal-Constitution

The Atlanta Journal-Constitution

Section: News;

Length: 887 words

Byline: MARGARET COKER

Body

Jerusalem --- A defiant Israeli Prime Minister Ariel Sharon hailed the killing Tuesday of a high-ranking *Hamas* militant leader as one of Israel's "major successes," despite U.S. and international criticism.

The attack also left 14 Palestinian civilians dead, including nine children.

In a rebuke, the Bush administration said the air strike in the Gaza Strip was "heavy-handed" and carried out "knowing that innocents would be lost."

A missile fired from an Israeli F-16 tore into a three-story apartment building in Gaza City, destroying the structure and damaging surrounding homes. The midnight attack targeted and killed Salah Shehadeh, 48, a co-founder of *Hamas* and leader of its military wing. His family and neighbors also died in the strike.

Cox Washington Bureau

In Gaza, tens of thousands of mourners marched to bury the dead, which included a 2-month-old baby whose body wrapped in a flag was held aloft as masked men chanted: "Death to Israel! Death to America!"

Sharon said he regretted the civilian casualties, but he hailed Shehadeh's death as a blow against terrorism.

"Yesterday we struck at the most senior member of *Hamas*' operational side. This action, to my knowledge, is one of our major successes," Sharon said Tuesday.

But by Tuesday evening, as the extent of the casualties and destruction became clear and the condemnations poured in, a senior military official said "we wouldn't have done it if we knew what the consequences would be."

The United States, European and Arab nations and the U.N. secretary-general sharply criticized the attack.

"The president views this as a heavy-handed action that is not consistent with dedication to peace in the Middle East," White House spokesman Ari Fleischer said. "That's a different measure from Israel's legitimate right to self-defense."

U.S. joins criticism of Israel for strike

The Israeli strike was "a deliberate attack against a building where there were civilians known to be living," Fleischer said. "This is an instance in which the United States and Israel do not agree."

U.N. Secretary-General Kofi Annan said Israel failed in its legal and moral responsibility to avoid hurting civilians.

Saudi Foreign Minister Prince Saud al-Faisal, in Cairo for talks with Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak, demanded severe punishment for what he called "a horrible act which will be recorded in history against Sharon."

It was unclear how seriously the rebuke by the United States, Israel's staunchest ally, would be taken by the Sharon government. In the past, President Bush has upheld Israel's right to defend itself, and Fleischer pointedly remarked Tuesday that Bush "will continue to be a lead defender of Israel."

Bush's June 24 speech, in which he urged Palestinians to replace leader Yasser Arafat, has been viewed here as tacit approval for Israel to prosecute its military campaign in the West Bank and Gaza Strip.

Hamas, the group responsible for many of the 73 suicide attacks against Israelis during the past two years, vowed revenge for the attack.

"**Hamas**' retaliation will come very soon, and there won't be only just one [attack]. . . . After this crime, even Israelis in their homes will be the target of our operations," **Hamas** official Abdullah Azziz al-Ranissi said.

Tuesday's military strike left the three-story apartment building that Shehadeh's family lived in and several adjacent buildings in ruins. Bedding, kitchen utensils, clothes and children's toys were strewn among the debris. Hundreds of residents dug through rubble, searching for survivors and personal belongings.

Haleema Matar, 45, was on the ground floor of the building in Gaza City when the missile hit. Her children were sleeping upstairs.

"The children died. If I died, it would have been better, I would not have to see this," she said. Five children in the extended Matar family were killed.

From his headquarters in the West Bank city of Ramallah, Arafat called the attack a crime.

"I ask the whole world, how can they be silent? Sharon does not want peace," Arafat said.

Palestinians also were angered by the timing of the assassination. It came after **Hamas** leader Sheikh Ahmed Yassin promised Monday to consider halting suicide attacks if Israel would withdraw from Palestinian territory.

The Israeli Defense Ministry said intelligence had indicated there would be no civilian casualties during the air strike. Sharon and Defense Minister Binyamin Ben-Eliezer received this assessment before approving the attack, it said.

"According to the information we had, no civilians were expected to be in his vicinity. Indeed, in the past we avoided striking at Shehadeh in light of information indicating there were civilians nearby," the ministry said.

Shehadeh's building was in a crowded residential neighborhood. Gaza residents said it was difficult to believe that Israel did not know that **women** and children would be killed or wounded.

Shehadeh, his wife and 14-year-old daughter were killed in the strike, as were eight other children.

Their funerals in Gaza on Tuesday turned into a mass protest in which an estimated 100,000 people took to the streets. Masked men fired their guns into the air, chanting, "The blood of the martyrs will not be lost" and "The Palestinian people will revenge these crimes."

--- Staff writer Bob Deans of the Washington Bureau and special correspondent Craig Nelson contributed to this article.

Graphic

Photo: A Palestinian walks through the rubble of a house in Gaza City on Tuesday after the Israeli missile strike. **Hamas** has vowed to avenge the attack. / ADEL HANA / Associated Press; Photo: Two young victims of the Israeli missile attack are Khamis Huwatif (right), 8, and Tarek, 12, shown Tuesday at a Gaza City hospital after they were treated for their injuries. The strike in the Gaza Strip killed at least 14 people, including **Hamas** leader Salah Shehadeh, who was at the top of Israel's most wanted list. / VADIM GHIRDA / Associated Press

Load-Date: July 24, 2002

End of Document

'Would the British attack like this to kill Adams?'

The Times (London)

July 24, 2002, Wednesday

Copyright 2002 Times Newspapers Limited

Section: Overseas news; 3

Length: 820 words

Byline: Stephen Farrell

Body

Stephen Farrell on rage among civilians after the attack on Gaza

The F16 jet's smart bomb dipped down toward Gaza on a full moonlit night. Within seconds the screams of nine dying children mingled with dust and blood rising into the air, as Sheikh Salah Shehada's two-storey hideout collapsed. Beneath the rubble lay 15 dead Palestinians, including the **Hamas** military leader, his wife, Layla, and his bodyguard, Zaher Nasser.

One of their three daughters, associates say, was among the dead children aged between two months and 13. Another 145 people were injured.

Among the first on the scene was Knel Deeb, 27, a Dubliner who was visiting his Palestinian cousins in a nearby building. "I heard the F16 and I had just asked my cousin: 'Do they give you much warning?' when it struck." He stared down at the rubble from a building whose facing wall had been ripped off by the force of the blast.

"I ran here and just saw pieces of flesh everywhere, one man running away holding a lump of flesh on a metal tray and another pulling out a baby boy with half his face blown away, obviously dead.

"Everyone was screaming, shouting, crying and shouting 'Revenge to the Israel child-killers'. I have never seen anything like it. I just kept thinking: 'If the British Army wanted to take out Gerry Adams, would they use a bomb that size in a residential area like this?' " Most of the jobless Palestinians living in the area had no idea that the man who had moved in four days earlier under an assumed name was the most-wanted leader of **Hamas**'s military wing, the Izz al-Din al-Qassam Brigades. None, that is, except presumably at least one collaborator prepared to deliver into the hands of the Israelis a man wanted for planning countless suicide bomb and other attacks on Israeli settlers and civilians.

At the scene of the blast, new graffiti -in English and Arabic for the television networks -reads: "This is Israeli Peace, This is American Weapons." As locals gathered to stare at the rubble, torn fragments of children's blouses and a pile of dead budgerigars and canaries lay among the reinforced cement.

A few minutes' drive away in al-Shifa hospital, Gaza, children lay injured, comforted by relatives and friends. In one ward four children sat dazed on one bed, bandaged and bleeding.

Iman, Jihad, Tarek and Khamis Houaiti know that their father, Mahmoud, is upstairs in another ward, and that two of their brothers are dead. What nobody has yet told them is that their mother, Mona, was also killed. "We were

'Would the British attack like this to kill Adams?'

asleep and then I just knew the roof was on top of me," said Iman, aged ten, a bandage around her head. "I remember my father trying to get me out. He was calling for people to help. I couldn't get up, I couldn't move."

Upstairs Mr Houaiti lies covered in wounds, angry and humiliated that he was unable to summon the strength to pull his own children to safety. "I tried, but I could do nothing," he said. "I had to ask others to help. Who does this in a residential area?"

Outside the window a large, angry crowd was gathering. Beneath a rainbow of yellow, green and black flags - signifying the al-Aqsa Martyrs' Brigades, Fatah, Hamas and Islamic Jihad militias, tens of thousands set off on a march to the main mosque, a procession of makeshift floats bearing loudspeakers and banners, flanked by angry young men in balaclavas, carrying mortar bombs and Kalashnikovs.

In recent days Hamas had let it be known they were considering an end to suicide operations. Sheikh Ahmed Yassin, the group's spiritual leader, said it would consider halting such attacks if Israel withdrew from occupied West Bank cities. It was a plan that divided the movement and aroused great public debate.

But yesterday there was no more debate, and attacks on Israeli towns are almost inevitable given the strength of feeling generated by the deaths.

"Who is your army?" one firebrand roared through a loudspeaker. "Qassam," came the unanimous reply, the name of Hamas's military wing. "Revenge, Revenge."

Israel remains steadfast over the deaths, Ariel Sharon, its Prime Minister, defending the strike. "This operation was in my view one of our biggest successes," Mr Sharon told Cabinet ministers. "We hit perhaps the most senior Hamas figure on the operational side."

President Katsav went further, expressing condolences to the relatives of the dead but saying: "Shehada maliciously chose to locate himself in a crowded residential area. This is a tragedy and shows how criminal Palestinian terrorists, in order to protect themselves, are using the lives of innocent women and children, intentionally making them into helpless human hostages."

Shehada, a hardliner opposed to any deal with Israel, is likely to be succeeded by his deputy, Mohammad Daif.

A Hamas spokesman promised reprisals. "Hamas's retaliation will come very soon. After this crime, even Israelis in their homes will be the target," he said.

Letters, page 19

Load-Date: July 24, 2002

Tanks head to Gaza;
Israeli incursion includes bulldozers, helicopters

Windsor Star (Ontario)

February 19, 2003 Wednesday Final Edition

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Section: NEWS; Pg. B4; News

Length: 351 words

Byline: The Associated Press

Dateline: Gaza City, Gaza Strip

Body

At least 40 Israeli tanks headed for Gaza City late Tuesday, accompanied by bulldozers and attack helicopters, witnesses said.

Several tanks entered the neighbourhood of Shajaiyeh, which straddles the main north-south road through the Gaza Strip on the west side of the territory. Witnesses said the tanks were moving toward the neighbourhood from three directions.

AP

The Israeli military had no immediate comment.

Residents said the helicopters fired machine guns, but there were no immediate reports of casualties. Calls came from mosque loudspeakers for gunmen to come out and confront the Israelis and witnesses said armed Palestinians were taking up positions on Gaza streets.

Israeli incursions into Gaza City are relatively common. The presence of the bulldozers indicated the Israelis intended to knock down a building. Israel has been pursuing a policy of destroying houses of suspected militants.

Since the militant Islamic group **Hamas** took responsibility for a bomb that blew up a tank in northern Gaza Saturday, killing four soldiers, Israel has been targeting **Hamas**.

Eight **Hamas** activists have been killed in the last three days, though six of them died in a mysterious explosion that may not have been tied to Israel. Israeli troops killed a **Hamas** activist in a West Bank raid and arrested three Palestinian **women** suspected of planning to carry out suicide bombings.

Israeli Prime Minister Ariel Sharon met over the weekend with Palestinian Finance Minister Salam Fayad, his second meeting with a senior Palestinian official in recent days after a long freeze. Fayad said the two discussed financial issues, including the transfer of funds to the Palestinians. A senior Sharon aide has also been holding truce talks with the Palestinian interior minister.

In London, Palestinian and Israeli delegations are attending talks this week on Palestinian government reform and international aid to the Palestinian Authority. The Palestinians will request \$1.5 billion in assistance from international donors through April 2004, Palestinian Planning Minister Nabil Shaath said.

Tanks head to Gaza; Israeli incursion includes bulldozers, helicopters

Graphic

SCUFFLE: An Israeli soldier reimposing a curfew, pushes Mustafa Abu-Aisha, 72, who refused to leave an area and scuffled with the soldier, in the Palestinian sector of the West Bank town of Hebron Tuesday. The soldiers later allowed Abu-Aisha to stay. AP photo: Nasser Shiyoukhi

Load-Date: February 19, 2003

End of Document

Four Israeli troops die as truce is broken

Western Morning News (Plymouth)

January 10, 2002

Copyright 2002 Western Morning News

Section: NEWS: OTHER, Pg.25

Length: 461 words

Body

PALESTINIANS were last night braced for reprisal attacks after **Hamas** abandoned its truce and stormed an Israeli army post on the Gaza border, killing four soldiers.

It was the first deadly Palestinian attack on Israelis in nearly a month and hard-line Prime Minister Ariel Sharon told his emergency cabinet he would stick to the government policy of vengeance attacks.

The attack, claimed by the Islamic militant **Hamas** group, dealt a severe blow to US truce efforts. Earlier this week, a US mediator had left the region on a hopeful note, saying both sides were working toward a truce after a lull of several weeks.

The four soldiers killed were members of the Israeli army's Desert Reconnaissance Battalion, made up almost entirely of Bedouins Arabs.

Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat said he was sticking to the truce, and the Palestinian Authority issued a statement condemning the attack. However, Israeli army chief Lieutenant General Shaul Mofaz held Arafat's government responsible, saying the incident proved "beyond any doubt that the Palestinian Authority is not fighting against the infrastructure of terrorism."

Israel's security cabinet met for three hours where Sharon told ministers that Israel would stick to the principle of retaliating for every attack.

Hassan Yousef, a **Hamas** leader in the West Bank, said the group resumed attacks - despite a public pledge last month to observe a truce - because of what he said was continued Israeli aggression against Palestinians.

The attack began before dawn when raiders cut through the fence between Israel and the Gaza Strip, near the Israeli farming village of Kerem Shalom. They stormed an army outpost, throwing grenades and firing assault rifles.

One assailant fired at two soldiers in a jeep, while the second charged a nearby observation post, seriously wounding the sentry, said Major General Doron Almog, head of the army's Southern Command.

After the initial attack, an army patrol rushed to the scene, but also drew fire.

A major, two sergeants and a fourth soldier were killed in the attack. Two soldiers were wounded, one of them seriously.

The two assailants, both dressed in Palestinian police uniforms, were killed.

Four Israeli troops die as truce is broken

They were identified as Mohammed Abu Jamous and Emad Rizek, residents of the Rafah refugee camp.

Abu Jamous was a member of the Palestinian naval police. Clutching a photograph of her husband of only three months, Andalib Abu Jamous, 20, said her husband did not return home the night before the attack.

"He said he was going to spend the night praying at the mosque," she said, tears streaming down her face.

She was sitting on cushions in between female relatives who held green Hamas flags in their hands.

VICTIM: A wounded soldier is rushed to hospital after the Hamas attack on an army post

Load-Date: January 15, 2002

End of Document

Israel bombing 'gift' to Iraqi people, group says March 31, 2003, Monday

Charleston Gazette (West Virginia)

March 31, 2003, Monday

Copyright 2003 Charleston Newspapers

Section: News; Pg. P2C

Length: 570 words

Byline: The Associated Press

Body

NETANYA, Israel - A Palestinian suicide bomber wounded 30 people outside a packed cafe in northern Israel on Sunday, an attack the Islamic Jihad called "Palestine's gift to the heroic people of Iraq." The blast raised Israeli fears of more bombings as the war in Iraq intensifies.

The militant group said a vanguard of Palestinians has arrived in Baghdad ready to kill American and British soldiers in suicide missions. The claim came a day after a noncommissioned Iraqi army officer driving a taxi detonated explosives at a U.S. checkpoint in Iraq, killing himself and four American soldiers.

The blast in the coastal town of Netanya was the first suicide bombing in Israel in nearly a month and involved five pounds of explosives studded with nails. It occurred during lunchtime outside the popular Cafe London on the downtown pedestrian mall.

Ten of the wounded were Israeli soldiers, including one who stopped the attacker as he tried to enter the cafe, police and the army said. Panicked customers ran, overturning chairs and tables and shouting, "Terrorist! Terrorist!"

Islamic Jihad identified the bomber as Rami Ghanem, 20, from a West Bank village just across the porous line with Israel. The bombing affirmed "the unity of battle from Palestine to Baghdad in confronting the American-Zionist invasion which targets the entire Arab and Islamic nation," the group said in a statement.

The militants' support for Iraq appeared to be a departure from pledges not to get involved in other conflicts. In the past 30 months of fighting with Israel, Islamic Jihad and its sister group **Hamas** have sent dozens of young men and a few **women** into Israeli cities, where they've killed hundreds with bombs and bullets.

Hamas also appeared to link the battle against Israel with the fighting in Iraq. Masked **Hamas** activists at a pro-Iraq march in the West Bank city of Nablus on Sunday posed before a large placard showing bloodied maps of Palestine and Iraq with a black-clad man strapped with explosives standing between them.

Meanwhile, **Hamas** leaders met in Gaza City with the Palestinian prime minister-designate, Mahmoud Abbas. One of Abbas' main challenges will be to rein in the militant groups.

Hamas, which opposes peace talks with Israel, had earlier criticized Abbas' appointment and said the militant Islamic group would not take part in his government.

Abbas, in Gaza to form a new Cabinet, also met Sunday with representatives of the militant Popular Front group and the Iraq-backed Arab Liberation Front.

Israel bombing 'gift' to Iraqi people, group says March 31, 2003, Monday

Arriving at the scene of Sunday's attack, police found the bomber's mangled body on the blood-spattered pavement. Detectives wearing plastic gloves fingerprinted his severed hand and sifted through detritus that included broken plates, food, shredded clothing, bits of flesh, and a baby's pacifier.

"There were pieces of bodies," said Alberto Sciunnach, 37, who owns a nearby ice cream parlor. A wounded teenage girl trying to flee collapsed in front of his shop, he said.

Israeli officials have warned that Palestinians could step up attacks during the U.S.-led war in Iraq.

"The motivation to harm Israel and to help the Iraqi struggle is well known to us and it comes across in all the intelligence reports," said the internal security minister, Tzachi Hanegbi.

Tens of thousands of Palestinians have taken to the streets in recent days to show support for Iraq and call on Saddam's forces to fire Scud missiles at Israel.

Load-Date: April 2, 2003

End of Document

Israeli tanks flatten Palestinian post

Deseret News (Salt Lake City)

July 26, 2002, Friday

Copyright 2002 The Deseret News Publishing Co.

Section: WIRE;

Length: 412 words

Byline: Associated Press

Body

JERUSALEM -- Seven Israeli tanks and a bulldozer flattened a Palestinian intelligence post and destroyed two metal workshops in Gaza City today, in the first operation since a heavily criticized bombing attack there killed a **Hamas** leader and 14 civilians.

Before the forces withdrew, gunmen fired at the Israelis, and two Palestinians were wounded in the exchange, witnesses said.

In the West Bank, Israeli troops fatally shot a Palestinian man as he stood in his kitchen in Qalqiliya, Palestinian security officials said. They said Israeli soldiers were firing live ammunition as they searched houses, and that the man had been hit in the head. The army said it was checking the report.

About 3,000 Palestinians, waving the green flags of **Hamas**, marched through the Jabaliya refugee camp on the edge to Gaza City and vowed revenge on Israel for the Tuesday attack that killed nine children among the casualties.

"The **Hamas** reaction will be equal to the Zionist crime," **Hamas** official, Abdul Aziz Rantisi, told the crowd, which included five veiled **women** who said they were relatives Salah Shehadeh, the group's military commander killed by the Israeli air strike.

Nevertheless, officials from both sides said representatives from their finance ministries would meet early next week and Israel said the talks would cover easing restrictions in the West Bank, where Israel controls seven of the eight main Palestinian towns and cities. After the air strike, Israel pledged to release some tax money withheld from the Palestinian Authority and to lift curfews.

In Copenhagen, Denmark, Israeli Deputy Foreign Minister Michael Melchior said about 70,000 Palestinians eventually would be issued permits to work in Israel.

Before fighting began nearly two years ago, approximately 125,000 Palestinians crossed daily into Israel for jobs. Now Israel blocks most of those, fearing terrorist attacks.

Melchior said the Israeli Cabinet had "decided to let 7,000 Palestinians from Gaza come and work in Israel and eventually increase that figure to 70,000."

Melchior didn't say when the additional work permits would be distributed. Earlier this week, Foreign Minister Shimon Peres said the number would be only about 30,000.

Israeli tanks flatten Palestinian post

Raanan Gissin, a spokesman for Israeli Prime Minister Ariel Sharon, said the results of the talks depend on Palestinian efforts to stop attacks against Israel. Gissin also dismissed concerns that the Gaza air strike would lead to a surge in suicide bombings as revenge.

Load-Date: July 26, 2002

End of Document

**Cycle of violence continues despite diplomatic activity;
Islamic militants' verdict on historic Sharon-Mazen talks resulted in death
tally of 21 last week**

Sunday Tribune (Ireland)

May 25, 2003

Copyright 2003 The Sunday Tribune plc

Section: Pg. 19

Length: 988 words

Byline: PAUL KEARNS

Body

LESS than a few hours after the historic meeting between Ariel Sharon and Abu Mazen last week, two Israelis were killed in Hebron in the first of five suicide bombs that rocked Israel and the occupied territories over a period of 48 hours. A total of 15 people were killed in the subsequent blasts. A sixth bomb injured eight Israelis in Gaza on Friday morning.

From Jerusalem and Hebron in the east, Afula in the north and Gaza in the south, the militant Islamic ***Hamas*** and Islamic Jihad gave their verdict in no uncertain terms to the Sharon-Mazen talks, the 'road map' and the peace process. Both organisations now appear to be vying for military supremacy or at least for the affection of radical Palestinian public opinion.

Their methods are becoming increasingly desperate. The suicide bomber in Jerusalem had disguised himself as an Orthodox Jew, the bomber in Gaza arrived on a bicycle with the explosives strapped to his back. The ***female*** suicide bomber in Afula was a first for Islamic Jihad, who had in the past expressed moral equivocation about ***female*** recruits. ***Hamas*** has been using ***female*** suicide bombers for over two years.

Sharon promptly announced the postponement of his visit to Washington, where he was scheduled to meet President Bush on Tuesday last.

Israel also announced it intends to officially boycott any foreign dignitaries who intend to meet or have recently met with Yasser Arafat. The idea of expelling Arafat from the territories has also resurfaced as a political option in government circles. Sharon's right wing coalition allies this week were openly urging him to deport the Palestinian President. Shaul Mofaz the defence minister was more reticent, saying now was neither the most opportune or practical time to expel Arafat.

In another measure, the government ordered the closure of the border between Israel and the West Bank and Gaza. Under the circumstances, and compared to previous reactions to suicide attacks, the Israeli military response was relatively muted.

The closures of the territories will however further plunge the Palestinian economy deeper into economic crises.

Cycle of violence continues despite diplomatic activity; Islamic militants' verdict on historic Sharon-Mazen talks resulted in death tally of 21 last week

A recent World Bank report 'Two Years of Intifada, Closures and Palestinian Economic Crisis', reported that GDP in the occupied territories fell by 19.5% in 2001 and by a further 25.5% in 2002. GDP per capita now stands at a paltry \$950 a year, compared to \$18,000 in Israel.

Twenty-seven months after the outbreak of the intifada, 60% of the population of the West Bank and Gaza live under a poverty line of \$2 per day.

Unemployment stands at 53%. The report says the "health status of the Palestinian population has deteriorated measurably with 13% of the population of Gaza suffering acute malnutrition similar to levels found in Zimbabwe and Congo".

The report estimated that prior to the present intifada some 128,000 Palestinians worked in either Israel or the settlements. These workers provided one quarter of all Palestinian income. Today it is estimated no more than 15,000 do, and only when closures and curfews are not in place.

Only this week Israeli security forces stated they detained some 1,300 Palestinians over a 24-hour period who had entered Israel illegally without permits. All except 19 of them were released and returned to the territories. Most if not all were probably seeking work illegally in Israel.

The rapidly deteriorating economic situation in the occupied territories coupled with escalating terror attacks of **Hamas** and Jihad are further eroding and destabilising what little power the new Palestinian Prime Minister Abu Mazen has in the Palestinian Authority. His political relevance if not his political survival is now openly questioned.

Mazen's popularity is low amongst the Palestinians, his public recognition not much higher.

In a direct challenge to his authority Mahmoud Zahar, a spokesperson for **Hamas** vowed to continue the armed resistance. "Abu Mazen is undermining himself when he disarms the Palestinian people, " he was quoted saying on Tuesday.

Despite the **Hamas** statement, Mazen went ahead with talks with representatives of the group in Gaza on Thursday evening. This was the first official meeting between the Palestinian prime minister and the militant Islamic group. The Palestinian prime minister is eager to achieve a ceasefire in order to wrest concessions from Israel on the security front. Israeli media reported that **Hamas** intimated they might entertain a temporary ceasefire if the Israeli defence forces ceased all strikes on suspected Palestinian militants.

Hamas spokesman Ismail Hanieh however suggested that the truce would involve a halt in attacks on civilians in Israel, but not settlers and soldiers in the West Bank and Gaza, conditions that will be condemned and utterly rejected by Israel. The meeting between **Hamas** and Mazen will nevertheless be welcomed.

Elsewhere on the diplomatic front, the Bush administration has been pushing Israel hard this week to formally accept the road map. The Israelis have accepted it in principle only. On Friday however it was reported that following Washington assurances on a number of sticking points for the Israelis, Jerusalem was willing to move forward.

The prime minister's office in a statement said "the State of Israel is ready to accept the steps which are outlined in the road map and it will be presented to the government for approval". Sharon may bring the 'road-map' to a cabinet vote as early as today. Despite the presence of two rightist coalition partners, a majority of the cabinet is likely to vote in favour.

Despite the flurry of diplomatic activity at the beginning and end of the week, the cycle of violence continued. Aside from the six suicide attacks, a 12-year-old Palestinian was killed by Israel defence forces on Thursday near the West Bank city of Jenin. On Wednesday, troops shot dead a woman and a 17-year-old youth in Ramallah. This week's death tally stands at 21.

Cycle of violence continues despite diplomatic activity; Islamic militants' verdict on historic Sharon-Mazen talks resulted in death tally of 21 last week

Graphic

Jamil: suicide bomber Hiba: suicide bomber A Palestinian woman cries in front of her house destroyed by Israeli troops in Beit Hanoun in northern Gaza City last week AP/HATEM MOUSSA

Load-Date: May 28, 2003

End of Document

Butchers need dead babies

The Daily Telegraph (Sydney, Australia)

July 30, 2002, Tuesday

Copyright 2002 Nationwide News Pty Limited

Section: FEATURES; Pg. 16

Length: 239 words

Byline: PIERS AKERMAN

Body

THE usual groups have been making much of the civilians killed in the Israeli attack which, happily, wiped out one of the world's worst terrorists -- Salah Shehade.

It is truly wrenching to see tiny bodies being carried out of the ruins, but almost inevitable when monsters such as the truly evil **Hamas** chief hide behind the camouflage of civilian life.

MATP

Yet, as the Fourth Geneva Convention makes clear in Part 3, Article 1, Section 28, "The presence of a protected person may not be used to render certain points or areas immune from military operations."

It is easy to claim the Israelis target civilians, but this is patently untrue.

It can, however, be said that **Hamas** and other terrorist organisations do target Israeli civilians and soldiers indiscriminately -- because they are at war with the very idea of a Jewish state.

The pro-Palestinian lobby will argue with this but if Palestinian chiefs wished to reduce the number of their civilians killed by the Israelis they should instruct Palestinian terrorists to wear uniforms like regular soldiers, live in barracks

like regular soldiers and stop using ordinary men, **women** and children as human shields.

But **Hamas** and the other fanatical terrorist groups are not interested in lessening the toll -- they need deaths to further

their cause.

Blame for the deaths of the civilians killed along with Shehade should be sheeted home where it belongs -- to the dead terrorist chief.

Load-Date: July 29, 2002

CHILDREN AMONG 12 DEAD IN ISRAELI AIR STRIKE

The Scotsman

July 23, 2002, Tuesday

Copyright 2002 The Scotsman Publications Ltd.

Section: Pg. 11

Length: 862 words

Byline: Foreign Staff

Body

AN Israeli missile strike aimed at a **Hamas** leader in the Gaza strip killed at least 12 people last night, including four children, Palestinian officials said.

Reports said a missile fired by an F-16 warplane had levelled several houses, burying victims under the rubble. A baby was among the dead, Palestinian doctors said. More than 100 people were wounded.

Security officials said one of the houses destroyed belonged to Sheik Salah Shehada, founder of the military wing of **Hamas** in Gaza and the West Bank, and he had been killed inside. Some reports said his wife and three children were also among the dead. He had been at the top of Israel's wanted list, and was held responsible for most of the attacks against Israelis in the Gaza strip. Troops blew up his house in a raid last year.

However, the killing of a senior **Hamas** figure is likely to invite a new round of retaliation from the Islamic militant group and the deaths of civilians, particularly children, will only fuel anger. Earlier yesterday, a top member of **Hamas** said the organisation had been considering an end to suicide attacks if Israeli forces withdrew from Palestinian areas.

The strike came as Israel's foreign minister, Shimon Peres, had been voicing the hope that Israel would loosen its occupation of West Bank towns in areas where Palestinian authorities were ready to reassert control.

After weeks in which suicide bombings have raised sympathy for Israel's role as victim, the strike appeared not just a tragedy but a major tactical blunder by Israeli forces.

While Israel has been accused of killing civilians in its raids on West Bank camps, last night appeared to bring clear-cut case of several innocent deaths.

The Israeli army declined to make immediate comment, but **Hamas** announced the killing of its high-ranking member. "We have confirmation that the leader of the military wing of **Hamas**, Sheikh Salah Shehada, was killed in this attack," a **Hamas** official, Ismail Haniyeh, told reporters. Doctors at Gaza's Shifa Hospital said at least 11 other people, including four children and four **women**, had been killed in the air raid.

At least 1,447 Palestinians and 559 Israelis have been killed in the violence which erupted in September 2000.

In recent days Israeli forces have struck twice at Gaza, targeting metal workshops where the Israelis say Palestinians have been making mortar bombs and rockets.

CHILDREN AMONG 12 DEAD IN ISRAELI AIR STRIKE

Describing last night's attack, witnesses said two Israeli F-16 warplanes had circled over Gaza before one of them had fired a single missile.

Jamal Halaby, a Palestinian police officer, said he had seen the missile streaking across the sky and then he had heard a huge explosion. "I fell out of bed and I found myself a minute later covered in dust and stones, and the sounds of my children screaming and crying."

The air strike came as Israel and the Palestinians had been exchanging ideas about reducing tensions in the West Bank and easing Israeli restrictions.

Israel had also backed away from its plan to deport the families of suspected Palestinian suicide bombers and their leaders, a move condemned by both the United States and the European Union.

Some Israelis had suggested that Gaza could be used as a test case for returning areas to Palestinian control, because the territory, separated from the West Bank by Israeli territory, had not been targeted by Israeli ground forces, and Palestinian security structures there were intact.

However, more hawkish elements of Israel's government expressed deep skepticism about the possibility of reaching any deal that would hold, and suggested that Israel would remain in the Palestinian towns for considerable time.

Although military reoccupation has curbed suicide bomber missions into Israel, violence in the Gaza Strip between Palestinians and Israeli troops guarding Jewish settlements has continued. Palestinian officials said two Islamic Jihad militants were killed over Sunday night in a clash with Israeli troops near the Gush Katif settlement in the southern Gaza Strip.

Mr Peres' statement suggesting an Israeli pull back followed weekend meetings at a Tel Aviv hotel between the foreign minister and a fellow cabinet member Dan Naveh, a noted Israeli hardliner, and a Palestinian delegation headed by a cabinet minister, Saeb Erekat. The meeting was also attended by the new Palestinian interior minister, Abdel Razak Yehiyeh, who is responsible for security in the Palestinian territories. Israel's Haaretz newspaper reported yesterday that Mr Yehiyeh had outlined a proposal to resume security co-operation with Israel after its troops withdrew.

In London, the Israeli defence minister, Benjamin Ben-Eliezer, urged his British counterpart, Geoff Hoon, to work towards consolidating a co-ordinated European policy that would lead to the isolation of the Palestinian Authority chairman, Yasser Arafat, and encourage the establishment of an alternative Palestinian leadership that was opposed terror.

Mr Ben-Eliezer told Mr Hoon: "Europe must express sympathy toward Israel and the Palestinians who are suffering terribly instead of toward Arafat. The Europeans should ignore him and strengthen alternative elements."

Load-Date: July 23, 2002

Palestinian gunmen fire upon two cars, killing 4; Violence: The attacks occur after Israeli tanks flatten an intelligence post

Telegraph Herald (Dubuque, IA)

July 27, 2002 Saturday

Copyright 2002 Woodward Communications, Inc.

Section: Pg. a5

Length: 558 words

Byline: ASSOCIATED PRESS

Dateline: JERUSALEM

Body

Palestinian gunmen opened fire Friday on two Israeli cars near a Jewish settlement in the southern West Bank, killing four people and injuring three others, the army and rescue officials said.

Three of the slain settlers were members of the same family who were on their way to spend the Sabbath with friends in a nearby settlement, Israel Radio said.

The two attacks took place about 2 1/2 hours apart, near the Jewish settlement of Carmel, southeast of Hebron, said settler spokesman Yehoshua Mor-Yosef. Three people were killed in the first car, and one person in the second car, he added.

An army spokesman confirmed four dead. Medics with the Magen David Adom rescue service said three people were injured, one of them seriously.

The attacks came after seven Israeli tanks and a bulldozer flattened a Palestinian intelligence post and destroyed two metal workshops in Gaza City, in the first operation since a heavily criticized bombing attack there killed a **Hamas** leader and 14 civilians, including nine children.

Before the forces withdrew, gunmen fired at the Israelis, and two Palestinians were wounded in the exchange, witnesses said.

The nighttime raid into Gaza marks at least the third time Israeli tanks have moved against Gaza City in the past 22 months of fighting. The previous two incursions only reached the fringes of the city.

The Israeli military said soldiers destroyed three buildings containing rocket workshops. "During the past few days, dozens of mortar shells and Qassam rockets were launched toward army posts and Israeli communities inside and outside the Gaza Strip," an army statement said.

There was no immediate claim of responsibility for the shootings of the Israeli cars. Settlers in the West Bank have been targets of dozens of shooting attacks during 22 months of fighting.

Several Palestinian groups also have vowed to seek revenge for Israel's airstrike in Gaza, which killed **Hamas** military commander Salah Shehadeh.

Palestinian gunmen fire upon two cars, killing 4; Violence: The attacks occur after Israeli tanks flatten an intelligence post

Mor-Yosef, the spokesman for the settlers, suggested the gunmen might have been in cars because the attacks were spaced apart along the road.

David Baker, an official in the office of Prime Minister Ariel Sharon, said Friday's attack was "graphic proof of the extent of Palestinian terror and how totally devoted they are to killing innocent Israeli civilians."

"Israel is resolved to rid itself of the noose of terror hanging over us," Baker said.

In other violence Friday, Israeli troops fatally shot a Palestinian man as he stood in his kitchen in Qalqiliya in the West Bank, Palestinian security officials said. They said Israeli soldiers were firing live ammunition as they searched houses, and that the man had been hit in the head. The army said it was checking the report.

About 3,000 Palestinians, waving the green flags of **Hamas**, marched through the Jabaliya refugee camp on the edge to Gaza City and vowed revenge on Israel for the Tuesday attack.

"The **Hamas** reaction will be equal to the Zionist crime," a **Hamas** official, Abdul Aziz Rantisi, told the crowd, which included five veiled **women** who said they were relatives of Salah Shehadeh, the group's military commander killed by the Israeli air strike.

Nevertheless, officials from both sides said representatives from their finance ministries would meet early next week, and Israel said the talks would cover easing restrictions in the West Bank.

Load-Date: August 1, 2002

Response to Massacre Prepared

New York Sun (Archive)

November 12, 2002 Tuesday

Copyright 2002 The New York Sun, Two SL, LLC

Section: FOREIGN; Pg. 5

Length: 430 words

Byline: By MARGOT DUDKEVITCH

Dateline: JERUSALEM

Body

The response to the murderous attack in Kibbutz Metzger will be harsh and immediate, a senior security source said yesterday.

Meanwhile, preparations are under way to launch a widespread operation in Samaria, focusing mainly on Nablus and Tulkarm, in an attempt to wipe out the Fatah Tanzim terrorist infrastructure and catch those responsible for dispatching the Metzger terrorist and other would-be attackers.

According to some officials, the operation is expected to last for several days, and troops will adopt tactics similar to those used during the operation in Jenin following the suicide bombing at Karkur junction last month. They will set up positions in the cities and conduct house-to-house searches for suspects and bomb and weapons factories.

By last night, the security establishment had received more than 40 specific warnings of planned attacks by terrorists from **Hamas**, Islamic Jihad, and Tanzim. The army refused to comment on Palestinian reports that troops were massing around Nablus and the nearby Balata refugee camp.

The green light for the military operation was given following a meeting of Prime Minister Sharon, Shaul Mofaz, the defense minister, and top military representatives.

Speaking to reporters prior to the meeting, Mr. Sharon said: "Terror doesn't differentiate between children, **women**, and men, settlers, soldiers, and civilians. It doesn't differentiate between cities, communities, settlements, and kibbutzim inside the Green Line. It distinguishes Jews in order to harm them."

Mr. Mofaz said: "Our enemies are despicable murderers, and we will do everything within our power to lay our hands on them."

In recent weeks, there has been a sharp escalation in attempts by **Hamas** and Islamic Jihad terrorists. In most cases, security forces succeeded in thwarting them. However, it was the Tanzim's Aksa Martyrs Brigades which claimed responsibility for Sunday night's attack.

Near Otniel, security forces arrested **Hamas** activists Yusef Halil Ismail Amdah and Ibrahim Yusef Ahwad. A third **Hamas** activist, Fadi Suewiti, was arrested near Karmeit Tzur. Security officials said the three were responsible for a number of bombings and shootings.

Response to Massacre Prepared

Security forces are on full alert along the Green Line following dozens of warnings of pending attacks by Palestinian terrorists.

Such measures were apparently part of the manhunt for the terrorist believed responsible for the killings at Kibbutz Metzger. The alert level was downgraded in the evening.

Police reiterated calls on the public to be alert and report immediately any suspicious people, objects, or vehicles.

Load-Date: January 21, 2004

End of Document

Terrorist mobs flag a warning

The Daily Telegraph (Sydney, Australia)

April 9, 2002, Tuesday

Copyright 2002 Nationwide News Pty Limited

Section: FEATURES-TYPE- FEATURE-COLUMN- OP ED; Pg. 18

Length: 676 words

Byline: PIERS AKERMAN

Body

THE flags of two of the civilised world's most loathed terrorist organisations, *Hamas* and Hezbollah, flew in downtown Sydney over the weekend as elements of a pro-Palestinian mob rioted outside the Israeli consulate.

Beneath Hezbollah's yellow banner with its stylised illustration of a Kalashnikov rifle, US and Israeli flags were burned as the crowd chanted: "Jihad"!

On Hezbollah's English-language website, the introduction makes no bones about the fact that Hezbollah sees "no legitimacy for the existence of Israel".

In Gaza, the leaders of *Hamas*, the group responsible for most of the suicide bombers' attacks on civilian targets, have been gloating about the success of their murderous campaign.

MATP

According to The New York Times of April 4, they are confident of achieving their goal -- the eradication of Israel as a Jewish state.

And in the editorial pages of the broadsheet newspapers, scholarly lawyers argue about the provisions of the Federal Government's proposed Terrorism Bill, concerned that the civil rights of Australians must be preserved.

How Australian, however, are the supporters of *Hamas* and Hezbollah, both organisations which support religious as opposed to secular states, both organisations which hold peculiar views about the rights of *women*, the law and education?

By any test, *Hamas* and Hezbollah are undemocratic. By any imaginable test they epitomise terrorism, and by any reasonable test they, and their supporters, should be outlawed in this country.

The *Hamas* leadership "steering committee", has the capacity to direct the suicide bombers. They broadcast the messages that direct the suicide bombers into action.

Yet, though they cloak their foul business in pretentious religiosity and make much of seeking a truce during the Muslim religious festivals, they also celebrated the deaths of 25 Israeli civilians at a Seder on Passover night in a Netanya hotel and a further 15 in a Haifa cafe as "the most successful" attacks they have ever arranged. That these monsters can find any support for their policies in Australia should be enough to set alarm bells ringing.

Terrorist mobs flag a warning

Fortunately, education in this country is not completely controlled by the ideologists from the teachers' union and there are large numbers of people who care about peace who are willing to challenge the propaganda broadcast by the ABC and SBS on the historical background to the Middle East conflict.

FOR, despite what **Hamas** and Hezbollah and Fatah and the other terrorist organisations proclaim, the Islamic claim to Jerusalem is rooted in fantasy.

Not only is Jerusalem not mentioned once in the Koran, there was no such religion as Islam when the Jewish and Christian religions claimed the city as one of the keys to their respective faiths.

In a sense, the Palestinians have been party to a great deception by other Arab nations, a deception that is exemplified by the warped fables that are peddled as fact in the Arab-language media.

They talk of the US as the Great Satan, they should talk of the past leaders of Jordan, Syria and Egypt as the Great Liars -- and they should reserve a special place for the greatest impediment to peace in the Middle East, Yasser Arafat, the man who turned down the settlement brokered by former US president Bill Clinton just two years ago.

They must recognise the truth if they are going to find true liberation from the lies they have been peddled.

For all their faults, Australians have tried to build a nation based on truth, and unlike most other countries, they can be justifiably proud of their country's ability to absorb people from many creeds and cultures into the national fabric.

The contribution of those who rioted in Sydney injuring police officers is difficult to define except as violently antipathetic to everything Australia stands for.

While sympathy is felt for all who are homeless, the actions of many in the crowd did little to instil empathy as much as a desire to ensure that a strong national response to terrorism is taken as soon as possible.

akermanp@dailytelegraph.com.au

Load-Date: April 8, 2002

End of Document

Shooting in Jerusalem: Militant Palestinians abandon informal truce, await retaliation

The Gazette (Montreal, Quebec)

January 23, 2002 Wednesday

Final EDITION

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Section: NEWS,; Crime

Length: 591 words

Byline: MATTHEW KALMAN

Dateline: JERUSALEM

Body

A gunman from the terrorist wing of Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat's Fatah movement opened fire in downtown Jerusalem, wounding at least 20 people.

Mideast tensions are again surging after several weeks of relative calm, with the Israelis effectively keeping Arafat under house arrest at his West Bank government compound, and militant Palestinians abandoning an informal truce.

The attack came only hours after Israeli commandos raided a **Hamas** bomb factory in northern West Bank city of Nablus, killing four Islamic militants.

Southam News

Hamas called the raid a "massacre" and announced that the Israelis had "opened the door to an all-out war."

Palestinians are bracing for Israel to respond to the attack in Jerusalem.

"Israel will respond appropriately and in a manner that will eliminate this ongoing threat to the people of Israel," said Dore Gold, an adviser to Prime Minister Ariel Sharon.

Two **women** were still fighting for their lives in hospital last night after a lone gunman, 24-year-old Saeed Ibrahim Ramadan, armed with an M16 assault rifle, opened fire without warning on shoppers and pedestrians in Jerusalem's Jaffa Road just after 4 p.m. At least five people were seriously wounded as he sprayed bullets indiscriminately over a large area.

Israeli police said the gunman fired 58 rounds into the crowds before being killed in a shootout with police who heard the commotion and rushed to the scene.

The centre of Jerusalem looked like a battlefield, with bleeding victims strewn across the pavement. Shop windows were smashed by gunfire and emergency vehicles screamed through the busy traffic to tend to the wounded.

Shooting in Jerusalem: Militant Palestinians abandon informal truce, await retaliation

The attack took place only a few metres from the Sbarro Pizzeria, where 15 people were killed last August in a suicide bomb attack, and across the road from the scene of a November double-suicide bombing in which 10 young people died.

Eye-witness Avi Malkam said the gunman was dressed in an Israeli army uniform and wearing a black hat. "He started firing in all directions," Malkam said. "People ran and screamed. Many fell to the ground. The terrorist then started running away. Some shopkeepers drew pistols and chased after him."

"I heard automatic gunfire and ran toward it," said Hanan Ben-Naim, the police officer believed to have killed the attacker. "He ran toward a parking lot and a gun battle started between us. He was shooting at me with the M16, and I carried on shooting at him until the terrorist was neutralized."

Earlier in Nablus, a pre-dawn swoop by Israeli commandos on a large bomb laboratory in an apartment building left four **Hamas** members dead. Palestinian officials said that the four had been shot in cold blood and some appeared to have been sleeping.

But Israeli officials said the Palestinians set off a bomb and fired at the troops during the raid.

The bomb factory was "perhaps the largest ever discovered in the West Bank," said Maj.-Gen. Yitzhak Eitan, head of Israeli Central Command.

"The laboratory contained explosives ready for use, belts strapped with explosives, and chemical materials used to create explosive devices."

The Israeli army said the four dead were wanted **Hamas** terrorists who were deeply involved in bomb-making and sending suicide bombers into Israel, including Yusuf Sukagi, head of the **Hamas** terrorist wing in the northern West Bank. All four of had been tried and convicted by the Palestinian Authority but were released at the start of the intifada uprising in October 2000 and resumed their terrorist activities.

Graphic

Photo: LEFTERIS PITARAKIS, AP ; An Israeli pedestrian cries, in shock as he is comforted following a shooting attack in downtown, Jerusalem yesterday. At least 20 were injured.; Photo: ABED OMAR, QUSINI, REUTERS ; Palestinian policemen scuffle with **Hamas**, supporters who try to enter the Palestinian central jail in the West, Bank town of Nablus yesterday to demand the release of militants, held inside. Palestinian police fired tear gas at hundreds of the, stonethrowing protesters.

Load-Date: January 23, 2002

Special report: Friends and martyrs: Social pressures to kill

The Guardian (London)

June 11, 2002

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Section: Guardian Home Pages, Pg. 5

Length: 377 words

Byline: Suzanne Goldenberg

Body

On the northern slopes of Nablus, the family home of Maher Habeishi lies only a few steps away from the city's an-Najah University. The campus is a stronghold of **Hamas** and Islamic Jihad, and has produced six martyrs during this intifada - suicide bombers as well as gunmen - underlining the powerful social pressures that have spawned some of the bombings.

Habeishi, though he worked as a plumber and was not a student, was friends with three of the bombers. All four were part of a group that used to gather at the Abu Hamad mosque, not far from an-Najah, a meeting place for **Hamas** and Islamic Jihad supporters.

Last December 2 Habeishi paid his fare on a Haifa bus, and then pressed a detonator, hurling the vehicle 20 metres down a slope and killing 15 people: pensioners, Russian immigrants and workers like himself.

Hamas, which sent him on his mission, erected a wooden arch at the foot of the long cement stairway that leads to the family home. It reads: "Your faith has created miracles."

I asked his older sister, Maya, what she thought about her brother's act, and the morality of killing old people, **women** and children. How could the killing of civilians ever be considered a miracle? She said: "He got killed and he killed and I think that was much better than being killed in your bed."

On April 22 last year, Habeishi's friend and fellow **Hamas** member, Imad Zbeidi, turned himself into a bomb, killing an Israeli doctor and peace activist at a bus stop in Kfar Sava, and injuring more than 60. That same day, Jamal Nasser, another member of their circle, sat down to write his will. A part-time taxi driver and an architecture student at an-Najah, Nasser asked his brother, Rashid, to settle his debts, and apologised for other misdeeds that might sit uneasily in paradise: he ran over four cats during his year at the wheel of the family cab.

Elsewhere in his highly stylised handwriting "The Will of the Living Martyr Jamal Nasser" sets out the guiding principles for his short life: "If you can conquer yourself, you can conquer the devil inside" and "Whoever fails to rule himself will fail to rule otherwise".

Then, on April 29, he drove into a bus packed with Israeli troops near the Jewish settlement of Shavei Shomron. No one else was killed.

Load-Date: June 11, 2002

Special report: Friends and martyrs: Social pressures to kill

End of Document

Suicide bomb injures 30 in Israel

The Columbian (Vancouver, WA.)

March 31, 2003, Monday

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Section: World/Nation; Pg. a7

Length: 591 words

Byline: JASON KEYSER, Associated Press writer

Body

NETANYA, Israel -- A Palestinian suicide attacker wounded 30 people outside a packed cafe in northern Israel on Sunday a blast the Islamic Jihad called "Palestine's gift to the heroic people of Iraq." The violence raised Israeli fears of more bombings as the war in Iraq intensifies.

The militant group said a vanguard of Palestinians has arrived in Baghdad ready to kill American and British soldiers in suicide missions. The claim came a day after a noncommissioned Iraqi army officer driving a taxi detonated explosives at a U.S. checkpoint in Iraq, killing himself and four American soldiers.

The blast in the coastal town of Netanya was the first suicide bombing in Israel in nearly a month and involved five pounds of explosives studded with nails. It occurred during lunchtime outside the popular Cafe London on the downtown pedestrian mall.

Ten of the wounded were Israeli soldiers, including one who stopped the attacker as he tried to enter the cafe, police and the army said. The attacker detonated a nail-studded explosive strapped to his body as panicked customers ran, overturning chairs and tables and shouting, "Terrorist! Terrorist!"

Islamic Jihad identified the attacker as Rami Ghanem, 20, from a West Bank village just across the porous line with Israel. The bombing affirmed "the unity of battle from Palestine to Baghdad in confronting the American-Zionist invasion which targets the entire Arab and Islamic nation," the group said in a statement.

The militants' support for Iraq appeared be a departure from pledges not to get involved in other conflicts. In the past 30 months of fighting with Israel, Islamic Jihad and its sister group **Hamas** have sent dozens of young men and a few **women** into Israeli cities, where they've killed hundreds with bombs and bullets.

Hamas also appeared to link the battle against Israel with the fighting in Iraq. Masked **Hamas** activists at a pro-Iraq march in the West Bank city of Nablus on Sunday posed before a large placard showing bloodied maps of Palestine and Iraq with a black-clad man strapped with explosives standing between them.

Meanwhile, **Hamas** leaders met in Gaza City with the Palestinian prime minister-designate, Mahmoud Abbas. One of Abbas' main challenges will be to rein in the militant groups.

Hamas, which opposes peace talks with Israel, had earlier criticized Abbas' appointment and said the militant Islamic group would not take part in his government.

Suicide bomb injures 30 in Israel

Abbas, in Gaza to form a new Cabinet, also met Sunday with representatives of the militant Popular Front group and the Iraq-backed Arab Liberation Front.

Arriving at the scene of Sunday's attack, police found the attacker's mangled body on the blood-spattered pavement. Detectives wearing plastic gloves fingerprinted his severed hand and sifted through detritus that included broken plates, food, shredded clothing, bits of flesh, and a baby's pacifier.

"There were pieces of bodies," said Alberto Sciunnach, 37, who owns a nearby ice cream parlor. A wounded teenage girl trying to flee collapsed in front of his shop, he said.

Israeli officials have warned that Palestinians could step up attacks during the U.S.-led war in Iraq.

"The motivation to harm Israel and to help the Iraqi struggle is well-known to us, and it comes across in all the intelligence reports," said the internal security minister, Tzachi Hanegbi.

Tens of thousands of Palestinians have taken to the streets in recent days to show support for Iraq and call on Saddam's forces to fire Scud missiles at Israel, hit by 39 Iraqi rockets in the 1991 Gulf War.

Load-Date: March 31, 2003

End of Document

***A day of carnage in Mideast: 18 die in five separate terrorist attacks;
Suicide bomber kills nine, Hamas claims responsibility***

Ottawa Citizen

August 5, 2002 Monday Final Edition

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Section: News; Pg. A1; News

Length: 1395 words

Byline: John Ward Anderson , Molly Moore and Greg Myre

Dateline: JERUSALEM

Body

JERUSALEM -- A Palestinian suicide bomber blew up a bus in northern Israel during the morning rush hour yesterday, killing himself and nine passengers on a day punctuated by violence from the rolling hills of Galilee to Jerusalem's Old City to the Mediterranean beach front.

The militant group **Hamas** claimed responsibility for the bus bombing, which left charred remains -- and a child's drawing of two hearts in crayon -- strewn across a highway. The attack, near the town of Tsfat, was the militant group's second deadly bombing in five days.

Through the day yesterday and into early this morning, 18 people were killed and dozens were wounded in two bombings and five shootings.

Hamas said the the bus attack was part of the continuing retaliation against Israel for the July 22 bombing of a Gaza City neighbourhood that killed a senior leader of its military wing and 14 other people, including nine children. The Washington Post; with files from The Associated Press and Reuters

"Palestinian terrorism continues to strike at the very heart of Israel," said David Baker, an official in the office of Prime Minister Ariel Sharon. "Palestinian terrorists view terrorism against innocent Israeli civilians as a feeding frenzy, and their appetite for murder is never quite satisfied."

U.S. President George W. Bush, speaking from Kennebunkport, Maine, said: "There are a few killers who want to stop the peace process that we have started. We must not let them."

Israeli police investigating the bombing near a remote bus stop eight kilometres from the Lebanese border near the northern Israeli town of Safed said the bus probably was targeted because of the large number of Israeli soldiers who use the line on Sunday mornings to return to their bases after weekend leaves. Three soldiers were among the people killed and 23 were injured.

Other victims who died included two Philippine workers, two Israeli **women** and a 24-year-old Israeli man. One young woman believed to be a Palestinian also was killed.

The bomber apparently warned two Arab students of the impending attack, and they got off the bus shortly before it blew up, a police source said. The two students have been detained, the source added.

A day of carnage in Mideast: 18 die in five separate terrorist attacks; Suicide bomber kills nine, Hamas claims responsibility

Oshrat Amram, 17, was waiting for the bus at the Meron Junction stop when "suddenly the front of the bus blew up and the bus started going up in flames," she said. "I saw soldiers flying out of the bus, I saw soldiers lying on the road, I saw one soldier with pieces of flesh stuck on him and I saw another soldier on the road shouting, 'Am I dead? Am I alive? Tell me!'"

The explosion, which occurred in the centre of the bus, blew out all of the windows, tore huge holes in the floor, buckled the ceiling and ripped off much of the right side of the vehicle, leaving a twisted, mangled carcass. Inside, seats and floors were splattered with blood and flesh. Outside, the road was littered with glass and plastic from the bus, weapons and uniforms from the soldiers, and personal items from the civilians such as lipstick tubes, keys and high-heeled shoes.

Oren Rabinovich, 23, a soldier on his way back to base after a weekend with his family in the coastal town of Nahariyya, said the bus was packed, mostly with soldiers, when he boarded.

"There was a boom and shouts and lots of blood. I couldn't move," he said, adding that rescuers pulled him out a window of the bus.

The bus driver, Shmuel Ronen, escaped with light wounds -- just as he did six years ago when the bus he was driving in Jerusalem was bombed.

Several survivors said they detected no one who appeared to be suspicious aboard the bus, which made stops in Jewish towns and Arab villages along its route through Galilee.

Motti Ozer, 26, was on his way home to Safed after visiting his girlfriend, and had dozed for most of the trip. In the seconds after the explosion, he said, "I felt my hair burning. The windows were breaking. The ceiling was bent. People were screaming. I saw a girl flying out one of the windows."

Hamas said it would not release the name of the bomber as part of a new policy to prevent Israeli military forces from punishing relatives of bombers by destroying their houses or exiling them to Gaza.

The Palestinian Authority condemned the bus attack, but issued a statement that said Israel's policy of "mass detentions, repressive measures and home demolitions" was responsible for the violence.

UN Secretary-General Kofi Annan urged Israelis and Palestinians yesterday to stop the cycle of attacks and retaliation, saying this only fed "anger and hatred of the other."

Palestinian militants resorted to "indiscriminate terror" while Israeli retaliation was "equally devastating in its effects on ordinary people," Mr. Annan said in a statement.

"Does it need saying, yet again, that these attacks on civilians are immoral and illegal, as well as politically counter-productive?," he asked.

Just three hours later, in the blistering Jerusalem midday heat, a Palestinian man walked up to an Israeli telephone company truck parked across the street from the Damascus Gate entrance to the Old City, witnesses said. He leaned into the passenger window and fired a pistol point-blank at the 32-year-old security guard sitting inside, witnesses and police said.

"He opened the door, pulled the man out, then shot at the driver," said Alaa Sublaban, 25, who said he watched the incident from about 20 metres away in a cigarette and snacks shop where he works.

Mr. Sublaban said the gunman then dashed a few yards to the front of a nearby restaurant where he was changing the clip in his pistol when Israeli police and security officials sprayed the area with gunfire.

"They were shooting randomly at the whole area," Mr. Sublaban said. "They paid no attention who they were shooting."

A day of carnage in Mideast: 18 die in five separate terrorist attacks; Suicide bomber kills nine, Hamas claims responsibility

The gunman, later identified as a 19-year-old Palestinian from Hebron, was shot and collapsed behind a small warming stove stacked with fresh rounds of bread in front of the Al Omal Cafe, a few yards from the telephone company van.

Bullets fired by Israeli forces raked the interior of the packed restaurant where men were playing cards and eating sandwiches, according to witnesses.

A 50-year-old Arab from East Jerusalem was killed and four other men inside the cafe were injured in the shooting, according to police and witnesses. Afterward, dozens of playing cards floated in a vast pool of blood on the restaurant floor. A total of 17 people were reported injured.

It was unclear whether the gunman had shot any victims in addition to the two telephone company employees.

"When there are exchanges of fire between Palestinian terrorists and police officers in a crowded area, it is very likely that innocent bystanders will be wounded," Jerusalem's police chief, Mickey Levy, told reporters.

The al-Aqsa Martyrs Brigades, a militant group associated with Palestinian leader Yassar Arafat's Fatah movement, asserted responsibility for the shooting.

Following yesterday's attacks, Israeli spokesman Raanan Gissin said the government had suspended talks due this week with Palestinians on security and easing hardships in West Bank cities under Israeli curfew.

In other violence yesterday, Palestinian security officials said a truck driver was shot and killed in the West Bank town of Hebron while violating the curfew. An Israeli military spokesman said the incident is under investigation.

In the northern part of the Gaza Strip, Israeli military officials said soldiers shot and killed a Palestinian man in a scuba diving suit after he emerged from the Mediterranean Sea near the Israeli settlement of Elei Sinai. A military spokesman said a Kalashnikov assault rifle with four magazines of bullets and eight grenades were found on his body.

In the West Bank town of Nablus, where Israel launched a large military incursion two days ago, three Israeli soldiers were injured yesterday, one seriously, when a booby trap exploded near them, the military spokesman said. He said soldiers discovered another weapons laboratory -- the fourth uncovered in two days -- and destroyed it in a controlled blast.

Meanwhile, the Israeli military continued its policy of destroying the homes of family members related to Palestinians who have launched attacks on Israel and its settlements. A military spokesman said nine Palestinian houses were destroyed yesterday near the West Bank cities of Jenin, Hebron and Nablus.

Load-Date: August 8, 2002

Wages of War

New York Sun (Archive)

July 24, 2002 Wednesday

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Section: EDITORIAL & OPINION; Pg. 6

Length: 299 words

Body

The Bush administration has rushed to label the targeting of the military leader of Hamas, Sheikh Salah Shehadeh, "heavy-handed," as criticism comes from the usual suspects at the United Nations and Europe. That's a fine phrase from a commander in chief whose generals are squatting on mats in Afghanistan, apologizing for civilian deaths caused by American bombings. The White House spokesman, Ari Fleischer, tried to draw a distinction yesterday, saying that while America sometimes drops an errant bomb, Israel targeted an apartment building, "knowing that innocents would be lost in the consequences of the attack." Such a distinction is ludicrous. The fact is that President Bush himself, at the outset of America's own expedition against terrorist enemies, cautioned of the inevitability of civilian casualties. Every civilian killed in war is an infinite tragedy, one that every decent commander carries with him to his own grave. The administration's choice of words yesterday leaves him open to the charge that he is not serious, that he is second-guessing an ally who is prosecuting one of the most complex and dangerous of wars and has shown extraordinary care with respect to enemy civilians, often at the cost of exposing its own forces to considerable additional peril. The fact is that Sheikh Shehadeh was one of the bloodiest terrorists on the planet. The military wing of Hamas has been one of the architects of the campaign of so-called "suicide" bombings, a campaign that makes it Hamas's business specifically to target Jewish civilians, including women, old people, and children. It has killed them by the hundreds for the purpose of sowing terror. He hid in the apartment building where he died because he maintained no regard for civilian life, not even that of his neighbors.

Load-Date: December 3, 2003

Arafat's cabinet supports Israeli cease-fire plan

The Philadelphia Inquirer

August 8, 2002 Thursday CITY-D EDITION

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The Philadelphia Inquirer

Found on Philly.com

Section: Pg. A02; news

Length: 743 words

Byline: Sudarsan Raghavan Inquirer Staff Writer

Dateline: GAZA CITY, Gaza

Body

Palestinian leader Yasir Arafat's cabinet endorsed an Israeli cease-fire proposal yesterday even as Israel killed six Palestinians, including a leader of the militant Islamic group **Hamas**, which vowed revenge.

The Palestinian approval could open the door for Israeli troops to pull out of Gaza and later from other West Bank towns in exchange for Palestinian assurances of a crackdown on militants. But the deal appeared to flounder later in the day when Palestinian officials said Israel had changed the terms.

After Palestinian security officials and members of Israel's Shin Bet security services met to map out the details of the plan, Palestinian officials accused Israel of changing its offer. They declared the session a failure.

Calls to Israeli officials were not returned.

Regardless, the cabinet approval had been provisional pending the outcome of the meeting, and obstacles were still likely even if it were finished.

The Islamic militant group **Hamas** rejected the plan, virtually guaranteeing that its attacks against Israelis would continue.

"It all depends on the political will [of the Palestinians] and on deeds on the ground," said Jonathan Peled, an Israeli Foreign Ministry spokesman.

Israeli troops have occupied parts of the Gaza Strip since this Palestinian uprising began in September 2000. In June, troops reoccupied seven of eight major West Bank towns, a move that was followed by several suicide bombings that killed dozens of Israelis.

The tentative agreement came as senior Palestinian officials arrived in Washington for meetings today and tomorrow with Secretary of State Colin L. Powell and national security adviser Condoleezza Rice. They will be the highest-level talks since President Bush called for Arafat to give up power.

Arafat's cabinet supports Israeli cease-fire plan

Hamas' vows of revenge for the killing of Hussam Hamdan, 26 - himself the son of a senior **Hamas** leader - could scuttle the diplomatic moves. A sniper shot Hamdan as he stood on the roof of his house in the Gaza refugee camp of Khan Younis. Israeli security officials said Hamdan had operated several terrorist cells and had been responsible for planting hundreds of explosives and firing mortars at Israeli soldiers and civilians.

"This new terror action from the side of the Israelis will not pass without revenge," said Abdel Aziz al Rantissi, a **Hamas** spokesman. "Retaliation and revenge is the only way now in the hands of Palestinians to stop the Israeli aggression."

Rantissi warned that **Hamas** could target leaders, including Prime Minister Ariel Sharon.

"Why not?" Rantissi asked. "As they are targeting our leaders, I think their leaders should not be safe."

Israeli commandos also raided the West Bank town of Tulkarm yesterday and surrounded the house of Ziad Daas, a local leader of the Al Aqsa Martyrs' Brigades. Israel blamed Daas for the execution-style killing of two Israeli restaurateurs and for a shooting at a banquet hall in Hadera in which six Israelis were killed.

In the Israeli raid, a firefright broke out and a sniper shot Daas. An army representative said three members of his militia also were killed.

In Bethlehem, Israeli soldiers apprehended Yehiyeh Daamseh, a local Al Aqsa chief wanted for allegedly manufacturing the explosives for suicide bombings, including one in Jerusalem that killed 11. Israeli army bulldozers demolished his home after an explosives belt was found inside, according to Palestinian security officials.

On Tuesday, Israel's Supreme Court ruled that the military had the right to demolish the houses of Palestinian terrorism suspects without warning.

Israel's government sees the demolitions as a deterrent to suicide bombers; human-rights groups say they violate international law.

U.S. officials are critical of Israel's demolition policy.

Also yesterday, Israeli tanks, backed by helicopters, rolled into the village of Beit Lahiye, a few miles north of Gaza City, firing shells and guns, according to residents. A Palestinian police officer was killed, apparently by a stray bullet, according to hospital officials. Israel's army said troops were shot at and returned fire.

Two Israeli Arab nursing students were arrested yesterday for allegedly failing to inform authorities of an impending suicide bombing. Israeli authorities said the **women** stepped off a bus Sunday after the bomber warned them. The bus exploded 20 minutes later, killing 11.

Contact Sudarsan Raghavan at sraghavan@krwashington.com. This article contains information from the Associated Press.

Load-Date: August 8, 2002

**Sharon hails 'successful' Gaza attacks: Israeli leader says more strikes
coming;
regrets civilian deaths**

Ottawa Citizen

October 9, 2002 Wednesday Final Edition

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Section: News; Pg. C19; News

Length: 550 words

Byline: Molly Moore

Dateline: JERUSALEM

Body

JERUSALEM -- While expressing regret for civilian deaths, Prime Minister Ariel Sharon yesterday described an Israeli military operation that left 15 Palestinians dead in the Gaza Strip as "successful" and warned that his troops will conduct more attacks in the populous Palestinian-controlled area.

Mr. Sharon's characterization of the operation, in which a helicopter gunship fired a missile into a crowded street early Monday in the city of Khan Younis, contrasted sharply with international condemnation that arose yesterday over the bloodshed.

A White House spokesman said U.S. President George W. Bush was "deeply concerned" by the incident. The Arab League termed the military action "barbaric." The head of the International Committee of the Red Cross cautioned Mr. Sharon against what he called the "disproportionate use of force" in civilian neighbourhoods.
The Washington Post

The death toll in Monday's pre-dawn assault in the southern Gaza Strip city climbed to 15 with the deaths of two wounded Palestinians aged 16 and 35, according to hospital officials.

Israeli officials said the Khan Younis community targeted was a stronghold for militants in the Islamic Resistance Movement, called **Hamas**, which has claimed responsibility for a large percentage of the suicide bombings in Israel and attacks against Israeli soldiers and Jewish settlers in the West Bank. They said the missile was aimed at a group of Palestinian gunmen firing on Israeli troops and tanks withdrawing after a raid into the neighbourhood in search of **Hamas** militants.

"I think that the operation was a success," Mr. Sharon told reporters. "We have to take into consideration that the Israeli forces are making every effort to contain raids and attacks by terrorist organizations. Most of the casualties there were terrorists and are terrorists, but still there were some civilians," Mr. Sharon said. "Therefore, I express my sorrow for that."

He added, "There will be more operations in the Gaza Strip."

The Israeli military failed to capture or kill two armed militants it had targeted in Monday's raid, but shot dead one militant's mother and arrested an unrelated Palestinian caught with an explosives belt, a mortar and some munitions, according to Israeli officials.

Sharon hails 'successful' Gaza attacks: Israeli leader says more strikes coming; regrets civilian deaths

"**Hamas** is under a lot of stress lately because of our operations," Brig. Gen. Israel Ziv, the Israeli military's commander in Gaza, said yesterday. The main objective of the Khan Younis operation was to undermine the confidence of **Hamas**, he said.

A young Palestinian girl was shot and killed yesterday by Israeli soldiers when they opened fire at youths throwing rocks at tanks near the Rafah refugee camp on the southern Gaza border with Egypt, according to Palestinian media reports. The child, who reportedly was between 10 and 12 years old, had been playing outside her house when the troops fired into the refugee camp, the reports said.

The Israeli military said it was unaware of any deaths in connection with the shooting.

Scattered violence was also reported throughout the West Bank. Palestinian gunmen opened fire on a vehicle near the southern city of Hebron, wounding four Israelis, at least one of whom was in critical condition, according to Israeli officials. Jewish settlers are frequent targets of attacks on West Bank roads.

Graphic

Photo: Loay Abu Haykel, Reuters; An Israeli soldier stops a **female** Jewish settler who tried to attack Palestinians in the West Bank city of Hebron yesterday. Monday's attack by Israel targeted **Hamas**, which has claimed responsibility for many suicide bombings in Israel and attacks against soldiers and settlers.

Load-Date: October 9, 2002

End of Document

**DRAFT FATAH STATEMENT URGES END TO ATTACKS ON CIVILIANS;
ISRAELIS DISMISS DECLARATION, PALESTINIANS OPPOSE IT**

St. Louis Post-Dispatch (Missouri)

September 11, 2002 Wednesday Five Star Lift Edition

Copyright 2002 St. Louis Post-Dispatch, Inc.

Section: NEWS ; Pg. A6

Length: 452 words

Byline: From News Services

Dateline: JERUSALEM

Body

A draft statement by senior leaders of Yasser Arafat's Fatah movement calling for a halt to attacks against Israeli civilians was leaked to news organizations Tuesday and was immediately met by dissension among Palestinians.

The disclosure threatened to sideline support for a plan seeking to halt attacks against Israeli civilians. The plan is being pushed by U.S. and European representatives.

The draft statement, which was approved by Fatah's central committee in a meeting with Arafat on Friday, said, "We call on all Palestinian organizations to stop targeting Israeli civilians" but stressed that "we will continue our resistance."

Israeli officials dismissed the statement as giving tacit approval for attacks on Israeli soldiers and settlers in the West Bank and Gaza Strip.

"There can't be any acceptance of divisions of terrorism," said Raanan Gissin, spokesman for Israeli Prime Minister Ariel Sharon. "In other words, if you attack in Israel that's bad terrorism, but if you attack in the territories, that's good terrorism."

U.S. and European intermediaries have spent weeks struggling to persuade Palestinian factions to stop suicide bombings and other attacks inside Israel. Their efforts have been stymied by the competing interests of divergent Palestinian organizations, the Israeli occupation of West Bank cities and Israel's targeted attacks against militant leaders.

An agreement by Palestinian groups to halt attacks was derailed in July when the Israeli military bombed a neighborhood in Gaza City, killing a leader of the military wing of the Islamic extremist group Hamas and 15 others, many of them women and children. At that time, a range of Palestinian organizations, including Hamas, were prepared to sign the declaration, say U.S. and European intermediaries involved in the process.

Several Fatah members expressed anger that the central committee had taken action without consulting the organization's rank and file.

"Maybe we will agree to this statement, but we have not signed it, and no one has consulted us on the matter," said Fares Qadura, a Fatah member attending the Palestinian Legislative Council session in the West Bank city of

DRAFT FATAH STATEMENT URGES END TO ATTACKS ON CIVILIANS; ISRAELIS DISMISS
DECLARATION, PALESTINIANS OPPOSE IT

Ramallah. Hussein al-Sheik, secretary-general of Fatah, said: "This version is Arafat's and the Europeans'. We still want to continue the dialogue with **Hamas** and (Islamic) Jihad. The statement is our position, but we wanted to publish it differently."

The declaration has not been approved by other Palestinian groups. The **Hamas** leader, Sheik Ahmed Yassin, told reporters in the Gaza Strip on Tuesday, "We will continue our holy war in the land of Palestine, despite the ongoing aggression and all conspiracies to end the intefadeh," or uprising.

Load-Date: September 12, 2002

End of Document

Gaza airstrike that killed 14 criticized

Deseret News (Salt Lake City)

July 24, 2002, Wednesday

Copyright 2002 The Deseret News Publishing Co.

Section: WIRE;

Length: 1112 words

Byline: By Ibrahim Barzak Associated Press writer

Body

GAZA CITY, Gaza Strip -- Foreign Minister Shimon Peres said Wednesday that Israel would withdraw troops from some West Bank cities and had released millions of dollars in frozen tax money in concessions to Palestinians after striking criticism of an airstrike that killed 14 civilians as well as a **Hamas** leader.

The gesture came as Israeli officials defended the bombing and dismissed reports that a cease-fire declaration had just been signed by militant groups before the attack. However, those officials also acknowledged military intelligence that led to Israel's raid was flawed.

The army said it would investigate.

"It's quite clear that those (assessments) are not as accurate or as fail-safe as we would like and clearly there are going to be lessons that have to be learned from this operation," said Daniel Taub, a Foreign Ministry spokesman.

Nine of the dead from the pre-dawn raid on Gaza City were children, including one 2-month-old baby who was borne aloft by angry mourners Tuesday in a funeral procession that brought out tens of thousands of Palestinians in Gaza.

The militant group **Hamas** vowed revenge for the killing of Salah Shehadeh, the leader of **Hamas**' military wing who Israel says was responsible for dozens of attacks in the past 22 months of fighting.

Prime Minister Ariel Sharon called the killing "one of our biggest successes." Israeli civilian and military leaders, however, said the loss of civilian life was a grave error.

Israeli media largely reflected those views Wednesday. "The assassination and the embarrassment," read the headline in the Maariv daily. Haaretz said the army would investigate what it called the "Gaza bombing disaster."

Yediot Ahronoth quoted Sharon as saying that if he had known that civilians were with Shehadeh, he would have postponed the assassination.

Israeli Defense Minister Binyamin Ben-Eliezer told Israel's Cabinet, "according to the information which we had there were no civilians near him and we express sorrow for the injuries to them."

President Moshe Katsav told Army Radio that it appeared the army's intelligence was "not complete" but that responsibility for the "mishap" rested with Israeli politicians.

Gaza airstrike that killed 14 criticized

Sharon, Ben-Eliezer, Peres and Finance Minister Silvan Shalom met Wednesday morning to discuss resuming talks with the Palestinians and easing the hardships in the Palestinian territories.

Palestinian Information Minister Yasser Abed Rabbo said the Palestinian leadership had not decided whether talks could continue after the strike and with Israeli troops holding seven major West Bank towns and cities.

Peres told reporters after the meeting that the army still intended to withdraw from areas of Hebron and Bethlehem occupied last month, if they remained calm and if the Palestinians assumed control. The army would also consider leaving Ramallah, where Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat has been holed up for much of the last few months, if there was a plan guaranteeing law and order there, he said.

Peres also said he had called the Palestinian finance minister Wednesday morning to tell him that about \$45 million was being transferred -- about 10 percent of the total amount Israel has withheld in tax revenues, and that Israel had forgiven about \$31 million in debt.

In addition, 4,000 work permits had been issued of a promised 7,000, and the total number would reach 30,000, he said.

Before fighting broke out in September 2000, an estimated 125,000 Palestinians crossed daily into Israel for jobs, but Israel has since blocked most of them, fearing attacks.

Maj. Gen. Giora Eiland, the military planning director, told The Associated Press that the operation to kill Shehadeh had been canceled several times because of civilians.

Eiland said Israel had intelligence that Shehadeh was planning several large-scale terror attacks, including setting off a huge bomb under a bridge used by Israeli settlers in Gaza and landing suicide bombers on an Israeli beach by boat.

Some Israelis warned that the killing would backfire, leading to an upsurge in revenge attacks by Hamas.

World condemnation of the air strike was scathing.

U.S. President George W. Bush's spokesman called the bombing "heavy-handed," Swedish Foreign Minister Anna Lindh called it "a crime against international law and morally unworthy of a democracy like Israel."

Arafat called it a "disgusting, ugly crime, a massacre, a massacre no human being can imagine."

Arafat aide Nabil Abu Rdenah said the Palestinians were considering bringing the matter before the newly formed International Criminal Court.

Palestinians said Arafat was close to an agreement with Hamas to stop the attacks when the Israelis sent their air force into action.

A senior Palestinian official, who spoke on condition of anonymity, said that the Palestinian Authority still stood by a proposal for a cease-fire that was presented to Israeli officials in a meeting last weekend.

According to the proposal, a copy of which was made available to The Associated Press, Israel would end its occupation of Palestinian cities and towns, withdraw to the lines that existed before violence erupted in September 2000, release prisoners and stop killing terror suspects.

In exchange, the Palestinians would restructure their security services, resume security cooperation with Israel, collect illegal weapons and arrest militants.

Ismail Abu Shanab, a leading Hamas official in Gaza, confirmed that the group had held meetings with Palestinian officials in recent weeks in which Hamas had agreed that if Israel withdrew from the Palestinian towns it occupies "we will stop these operations."

Gaza airstrike that killed 14 criticized

Yediot Ahronot published what it said was a document that the Arafat-linked Al Aqsa Brigades approved just hours before the strike in which they agreed to "end all attacks against innocent men, women and children who are not fighters" and urged other Palestinian groups to follow suit.

It was not clear what that group's reaction to the Gaza attack would be.

An official from Arafat's Fatah movement, Hatem Abdel Kader, said European Union officials were involved in the intra-Palestinian talks and had informed Israel about an emerging cease-fire declaration earlier this week.

Shalom, the finance minister, did not deny those reports when questioned, but dismissed the seriousness of the effort. "It's not the first time that after an action of this kind a report appears saying that an hour before it there was a desire to end the violence."

Abdul Aziz Rantisi, a Hamas spokesman, said there now would be no cease-fire.

"After yesterday's heinous massacre in Gaza, there will be no more respect for a Zionist child or the so-called Zionist civilians," he said in an interview Wednesday.

Load-Date: July 24, 2002

Israeli troops hit three towns in revenge for rocket attacks

Times Colonist (Victoria, British Columbia)

February 14, 2002 Thursday Final Edition

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Section: World; Pg. A10; News

Length: 439 words

Byline: Ibrahim Barzak

Dateline: BEIT HANOUN, Gaza Strip

Body

BEIT HANOUN, Gaza Strip -- Israeli troops raided three Palestinian towns and a refugee camp Wednesday in the most extensive military operation in the Gaza Strip in 16 months of fighting, launched in reprisal for Palestinian rocket fire on Israel.

Four armed Palestinians and a civilian were killed.

Tanks withdrew from two towns and the refugee camp after several hours, but troops set up positions in the third town, Beit Hanoun, pitching tents in a girls' high school and the town square. In house-to-house searches, troops arrested at least 27 suspected Islamic militants.

The Associated Press

Ali Shabat, 41, a farmer, said he witnessed the arrest of two neighbours. During a two-hour search of the neighbour's house, women and children were forced to stand in pouring rain, Shabat said.

After daybreak, Palestinian gunmen battled Israeli troops firing tank-mounted machine-guns. Several dozen Palestinian youngsters who were throwing stones at the tanks were in the line of fire. One youngster was wounded in the leg.

Israeli cabinet minister Ephraim Sneh said soldiers would remain in Palestinian-controlled areas of Gaza for days, until rocket factories had been found, and that the military would carry out more large-scale, long-term raids if rocket fire persists.

"This is a threat we cannot tolerate," Sneh, an ex-general, told Israel army radio.

The Israeli incursions were in response to the firing of two homemade rockets by the Islamic militant group Hamas at southern Israel on Sunday. The rockets, called the Qassam-2, landed in open fields and caused no injuries. However, Israel is concerned that the Qassam-2, which has a range of five to eight kilometres and is very inaccurate, can reach Israeli population centres.

"The United States must put an end to this Israeli policy," said Nabil Abu Rdeneh, an adviser to Palestinian President Yasser Arafat.

Hamas leader Mahmoud Zahar threatened revenge, telling Al-Manar television that Hamas would continue firing Qassam-2 rockets.

Israeli troops hit three towns in revenge for rocket attacks

"**Hamas** does not differentiate between settlements in the Palestinian territories and cities in the so-called Israel," he said. The Islamic militant group does not accept the presence of the Jewish state.

Meanwhile, the Palestinian security chief in the West Bank pledged his loyalty to Arafat on Wednesday, a day after witnesses said the Palestinian leader threatened him at gunpoint during a heated argument. Arafat's aides declined comment on the incident. But one Palestinian official said on condition of anonymity that Arafat accused Jibril Rajoub of failing to prevent the release of militants from Palestinian prisons.

Graphic

Color Photo: Charles Dharapak, Associated Press; A Palestinian youth hurls rocks at Israeli tanks near Beit Hanoun in the Gaza Strip Wednesday.

Load-Date: February 14, 2002

End of Document

Hidden bomb rocks Hebrew University

Prince George Citizen (British Columbia)

August 1, 2002 Thursday

Final Edition

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Section: WORLD; Pg. 14

Length: 908 words

Byline: Associated Press

Dateline: JERUSALEM

Body

JERUSALEM (AP) -- A bomb hidden in a bag ripped through a busy cafeteria at Hebrew University, killing seven people and wounding more than 80 Wednesday in an attack that shattered the peace in one of the few places where young Jews and Arabs still mixed freely.

Media reports said two of those killed in the second bombing to hit Jerusalem in two days were Israelis and the others were foreign nationals, including one American. A U.S. official said three other Americans may have been killed and four wounded.

The injured included Jews and Arabs, but no overall breakdown was available. A Foreign Affairs spokesman said it doesn't appear any Canadians were among the casualties.

Hamas claimed responsibility for the bombing and said it was revenge for Israel's air raid last week on Gaza City that killed the organization's military chief, Salah Shehadeh, and 14 civilians, including nine children.

Israel has tried to end Palestinian attacks by sending troops to impose a curfew in most West Bank cities and towns for the last six weeks. After a lull, there's been an outbreak of shootings and bombings in the past week.

Israel's Security Cabinet, meeting after Wednesday's blast, decided Israel would retaliate within hours, Israel Radio said. The report could not be independently confirmed.

U.S. President George W. Bush condemned the bombing "in the strongest possible terms," and said it was perpetrated by "killers who hate the thought of peace."

UN Secretary-General Kofi Annan also condemned the attack and again urged Israelis and Palestinians "to end the cycle of violence, revenge and retaliation."

The lunchtime blast in the university's Frank Sinatra International Student Centre struck a popular student hangout at a school that's been an island of tolerance throughout the nearly two years of Mideast fighting.

Alastair Goldrein, 19, from Liverpool, England, said the cafeteria was a gathering place for students of all backgrounds.

Hidden bomb rocks Hebrew University

"I was on my way to lunch. There was a huge, huge explosion. Everything shook and then there was this deathly silence," said Goldrein, who has been taking courses in Jewish studies for the past year. "I ran in, there were people lying around wailing, covered in blood. Scenes that are indescribable, clothes and flesh torn apart."

The bag with the bomb was placed on a table in the centre of the cafeteria, police said. "It was not a suicide bomber," said police spokeswoman Sigal Toledo. The blast brought down part of the ceiling and blew out windows.

The attack marked a departure from the suicide bombings that have rocked Israel throughout 22 months of Mideast fighting. It was not clear, however, whether it marked a change in tactics, or a one-time attack aimed at exploiting a weakness in the university's security.

Spencer Dew, 26, an American student from Owensboro, Ky., who was lightly wounded by flying glass, said he had worried about such attacks in Israel, "but it didn't deter me from coming. I assume I'll come back next year."

The explosion occurred at the university's Mount Scopus campus, a Jewish enclave surrounded by Palestinian neighbourhoods in the eastern part of the city. The student centre was named for Sinatra, who attended the 1978 dedication of the building.

Money for the student centre was raised by members of the Friends of Hebrew University from the West Coast of the United States, many of whom had connections in the entertainment industry.

Police maintain heavy security at the university, with student backpacks checked thoroughly by guards at entrances, students said.

However, Benny Vered, deputy editor of the school newspaper, said the perimeter fence is easy to cross. In April, the newspaper predicted such an attack, he told Israel Radio.

"I held a sign that said 'Terrorist' and crossed back and forth over the fence for 40 minutes," he said, adding that no one stopped him or even appeared to notice.

The university said 23,000 students attend the school, about 5,000 of them Arabs and 1,500 from abroad.

Hamas, which has carried out the largest number of Palestinian bombings, claimed responsibility for the bombing during a rally in Gaza City that drew some 10,000 supporters into the streets following evening prayers in the mosques.

"This operation today is a part of a series of operations we will launch from everywhere in Palestine," said a masked **Hamas** militant, dressed in a green military uniform.

At the request of the masked **Hamas** speaker, the entire crowd knelt to pray that future **Hamas** attacks "would succeed against the enemy of God."

Shortly before Wednesday's attack, Rev. Jesse Jackson met Yasser Arafat at the Palestinian leader's West Bank headquarters in Ramallah. Palestinian authorities were "continuing our efforts, and will continue, from every aspect, to stop the violence," Arafat said at a joint news conference.

Jackson was to go to Gaza to meet **Hamas** spiritual leader Sheikh Ahmed Yassin, but cancelled after the bombing. In a statement, Jackson said he called off the meeting "to show proper respect for the victims" of the attack. He said the bombings are "horribly merciless" and "will not help move toward establishing a Palestinian state."

Even before **Hamas** claimed responsibility, Yassin had linked the bombing to last week's Gaza air strike and said Israel should have expected a revenge attack.

"When Israel bombs a civilian building full of **women** and children, and kills 15 people, this is the response they should expect," he said.

Graphic

Photo: Associated Press; An injured woman waits for medical attention at the scene of an explosion at the Hebrew University in Jerusalem on Wednesday. A bomb was detonated in a crowded cafeteria at the Frank Sinatra International Student Center during lunchtime, killing at least seven people. ;

Load-Date: February 17, 2006

End of Document

Palestinians add next-generation rockets to their arsenal

Charleston Gazette (West Virginia)

February 11, 2002, Monday

Copyright 2002 Charleston Newspapers

Section: News; Pg. P6A

Length: 641 words

Byline: Tim Johnson Knight Ridder Newspapers

Body

SAAD, Israel - Palestinian militants in the Gaza Strip fired what appeared to be two next-generation rockets into Israel on Sunday, marking a strategic shift in warfare that is likely to heighten fears in Israeli border cities.

The rockets, which may have carried up to 22 pounds of explosives, landed harmlessly and were overshadowed by violence in the Negev Desert city of Beersheba, where gunmen linked to the militant **Hamas** organization killed two Israelis and wounded four others.

Israeli F-16 jets responded to the deadly attack by firing missiles at several targets in the Gaza Strip, including a base used by Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat's private security detail.

But the launches may prove significant in a region where tensions are already the highest in decades.

Israeli military sources said Palestinian militants in the West Bank and Gaza Strip now have the Kassam-II rockets in their arsenals, exposing tens of thousands of Israeli civilians to attack.

"If they were to use these rockets to hit a city, that would bring the war to a new phase," said an Israeli Defense Forces spokesman who spoke on condition of anonymity.

The homemade rockets lack a guidance system and are much less powerful than those used by Iraq during the Gulf War, but they travel three times as far as their first-generation cousins and are "precise enough to hit a metropolitan target," according to an army statement.

"Israel has warned the Palestinian Authority on more than one occasion that if the Kassam-II is fired into Israeli territory, into Israeli towns, this will be considered a new game with new rules," Israel Radio's military correspondent, Alan Ben Ami, told listeners Sunday night.

A senior Israeli security official, speaking on condition of anonymity, said **Hamas** leaders boast that they can load the rockets "with non-conventional warheads," meaning chemical payloads.

Israeli soldiers captured eight of the rockets at a roadblock between Nablus and Jenin in the West Bank last week, signaling that **Hamas** militants are attempting to distribute them to key border points.

"They can produce a lot. The explosives they need for propulsion are very simple to produce as well," the senior security official said.

Palestinians add next-generation rockets to their arsenal

One of the rockets landed near a communal village, or kibbutz, four miles from the Gaza border in Saad. Another fell at a nearby cooperative farm, nearly five miles from the border.

Witnesses near the Saad Kibbutz said they heard three launches around 11 a.m. but found only one two-yard-wide crater, where a rocket slammed down near a tractor. Israeli soldiers later found three launchers in the Gaza Strip.

"It was large diameter and fired from a long range," said Uri Ya'ari, security officer at the kibbutz, one of the communal villages that dot Israel.

Hours after the launches, Palestinian officials said their security agents had arrested Adnan al-Ghoul, considered **Hamas** top engineer. They said al-Ghoul helped develop the Kassam rockets.

The senior security official said the government of Prime Minister Ariel Sharon believes Palestinian militants are trying to escalate conflict with Israel, hoping to increase international pressure on the Sharon government to come to the peace table.

In the separate attack in Beersheba, the Palestinian gunmen opened fire with assault rifles near an army base, killing two **female** soldiers and wounding four others.

Security forces quickly killed the two gunmen.

"The two men got out of the car and started firing in all directions," said army Capt. Guy Shaham, who hit one of the gunmen.

Hamas, an acronym for the Islamic Resistance Movement, took responsibility for the shootings, the latest in a spate of suicide bombings and drive-by shootings.

Israel Radio said the F-16s that flew over Gaza destroyed a base of Arafat's security detail. Security sources in Gaza City said 10 people were wounded.

Load-Date: February 12, 2002

FOURTEEN DIE AFTER ISRAELIS LAUNCH MISSILE INTO CROWD

The Independent (London)

October 8, 2002, Tuesday

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Section: FOREIGN NEWS; Pg. 12

Length: 741 words

Byline: Justin Huggler In Khan Younis, Gaza Strip Angry mourners carry the bodies of victims of the Israeli helicopter's missile attack on a Palestinian crowd in Khan Younis refugee camp yesterday Reuters/AP

Body

FOURTEEN PEOPLE were killed yesterday when an Israeli helicopter fired a rocket into a crowd of Palestinians, including women and children. As the wounded were arriving in hospital, Israeli guns opened up on the hospital, killing one man and wounding three others.

And within hours, four more Palestinians were dead after fighting between Hamas militants and Palestinian security forces loyal to Yasser Arafat flared. Palestinian police last night held 60 Hamas gunmen under siege in Nusseirat refugee camp in the Gaza Strip. Onlookers were attacking the police with stones.

The violence between Hamas and Palestinian Authority security forces began after a senior Palestinian police commander was kidnapped and killed by 13 Hamas gunmen yesterday. Hamas leaders said the killing was part of a private blood feud and had nothing to do with the organisation. The Palestinian Authority accused Hamas of being behind it.

In the helicopter attack, Palestinians said it fired a rocket unprovoked at a crowd that had come out of their houses in Khan Younis, thinking one Israeli raid was over.

The Israelis said Palestinian gunmen shot at them as they retreated, and they were returning fire. The Palestinians said the dead were civilians; the Israeli army said all but one were militants.

This was the heaviest death toll in an Israeli raid for months, just as Javier Solana, the EU's foreign policy chief, flew in to talk peace. The US state department stepped up its criticism of Israel, saying Washington was "deeply troubled" by the raids.

The trouble began with the sort of incursion that happens regularly in the Gaza Strip these days. Tanks swept into the town of Khan Younis, and Israeli soldiers searched houses, apparently looking for militants. Then, it seems, they left, and 15 minutes later the helicopter rocket ploughed into the crowd.

There were women and children there, who were taken to Nasser hospital. That came under Israeli fire early yesterday, as it was thronged with emergency cases. The Israeli army said the gunshots were not aimed at the hospital but at mortar fire from nearby.

But the Israeli soldiers must have known they were firing in the direction of a hospital. Mohammed abu Shaluli, who worked there, died from a bullet in the head.

FOURTEEN DIE AFTER ISRAELIS LAUNCH MISSILE INTO CROWD

In an upstairs ward, 10-year-old Fawzi Aqqa was lying in shock, a metal brace newly wired into his shattered leg. His mother, Sheida al-Fara, described what had happened.

"After midnight, the Israelis came to our house. I went and opened the door. They were looking for something, I don't know what. Then they left the house, around 2am.

"They took my husband's ID, they took them from all the men in the house. After the Israelis left, all the men went to look for their IDs. My son followed his father. I was standing on the balcony with my daughter. I saw a light in the sky, and suddenly, there was a big explosion. I heard my son saying, 'I don't want to die'. I went to help. When I saw my son, his leg was covered with blood."

Mrs al-Fara said there were many armed men in the crowd, some of them militants, some legitimately armed members of the Palestinian police, which still operates in Gaza. "No one was shooting at the Israelis." She added that they were shooting in the air to celebrate the Israeli soldiers leaving.

Nine-year-old Yusra Astal was also in the crowd. She was hit in the hip. Her 17-year-old brother Ahmad was killed, and a second brother, Mohammed, who is 24, was also wounded.

"I left my house because we believed the Israelis had left," Yusra told me. She said men in the crowd were firing guns but she did not know what they were shooting at.

Twelve-year-old Hassan Astal, a distant relative, was in the opposite bed. He, too, was hit in the leg by shrapnel. He said there were many children in the crowd. We found Khadiye Wafi, a 17-year-old girl, in another ward. She and her mother Bashira were in the crowd and both were wounded.

She said there were only a few women there, but many children. She said some of the men had thrown pipe bombs into the street to make sure the Israeli soldiers had left but had not attacked the Israelis.

Of the dead, the youngest was 17. One woman, Rahima Salaami, was 50. The rest of the dead were men. More than 100 people were wounded. The Israeli army said yesterday it had film of the rocket attack, taken by a pilotless drone flying over Khan Younis, but it had not yet decided whether they should release it.

Load-Date: October 8, 2002

Stalemate in Mideast After Deadly Bombing

The New York Times
July 28, 2002 Sunday
Late Edition - Final

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Section: Section 1; Column 1; Foreign Desk; Pg. 12

Length: 1539 words

Byline: By JAMES BENNET

Dateline: JERUSALEM, July 27

Body

Last weekend, Palestinian officials were secretly working in the West Bank and Gaza Strip to achieve an agreement that some of those involved described as a unilateral cease-fire, others as a lessening of the conflict.

At the same time, Israeli officials were making secret preparations of their own, for a very different kind of unilateral action: killing a man they considered one of the most dangerous Palestinians, a founder of the military wing of *Hamas*.

The two paths crossed before dawn on Tuesday, when Israel dropped a laser-guided, one-ton bomb on the *Hamas* leader's house in Gaza City as the Palestinian negotiators were working on a text of their announcement.

To some Palestinian and Arab leaders, the Israeli action -- which killed not only Sheik Salah Shehada, the man who was the target, but 14 other people, including 9 children -- represented not a missed opportunity but an opportunity deliberately foreclosed.

Israeli officials scoffed at the accusation that they wanted to snuff out progress toward peace and Palestinian statehood. While they knew of the Palestinian talks, they said, they also knew from bitter experience that the talks would go nowhere.

That explanation underscored a hard truth that was left in plain sight by the bombing: Israel has lost confidence, or even interest, in any short-term Palestinian efforts to ensure Israeli security.

In the view of Western diplomats here, that virtually guarantees a stalemate in the conflict in the coming months. Palestinian militants have vowed to retaliate for the bombing before they will consider a truce. For their part, the Israelis have concluded there is no point in discussing substantive security matters until Yasir Arafat is replaced.

"As long as Arafat is the Palestinian leader," a top Israeli military official said, "there is no legitimacy to doing anything to reduce the violence -- even if a miracle happens, and tomorrow Arafat changes completely."

But it is not clear how Mr. Arafat might be replaced any time soon. Like the Bush administration, the Israelis are expressing qualms about possible Palestinian elections, fearing that Mr. Arafat might be strengthened.

Stalemate in Mideast After Deadly Bombing

It is impossible to know if the intra-Palestinian talks would have led to a durable truce. But facing tremendous military pressure from Israel, diplomatic pressure from abroad and despair at home, some Palestinians have been searching for a way back to political negotiations.

The bombing came as Israelis and Palestinians were also engaged in what both sides called their most serious bilateral talks in months. Israeli officials said that they were impressed with two new ministers appointed by Mr. Arafat who are involved in these talks: Ahmed Razak Yehiyeh, the interior minister, who has responsibility for overseeing security forces, and Salam Fayad, the finance minister.

The Palestinians want the talks to progress toward security arrangements and Israel's withdrawal from the West Bank cities it has seized in the last month. But the government of Prime Minister Ariel Sharon regards the talks as intended to alleviate Palestinian suffering while the Israeli operation continues.

On July 20, during a meeting in Tel Aviv that lasted almost three hours, Mr. Yehiyeh submitted a Palestinian proposal to take back security control in exchange for an Israeli withdrawal, Palestinian and Israeli officials said.

The Israeli military official called the proposal unacceptable because it imposed too many conditions on Israel. But he said that Mr. Yehiyeh had a "sincere will to try to change the situation."

"He basically is a very positive man, though he was nominated by Arafat," this official said, but then expressed the Israeli leadership's central reservation. "We consider him a very sincere and honest person. Unfortunately he is very weak, and we don't think he will have the power to force anything on the Palestinians."

With the support of President Bush, Mr. Sharon has made Mr. Arafat's replacement a condition for resuming substantive peace negotiations. Experts from a number of election monitoring groups are here now, advising the Palestinian Authority on setting up a credible balloting process.

But there is little prospect of elections any time soon, Israeli, Palestinian and Western officials said. The problem for the Americans and Israelis is that elections, the vehicle that might hold out hope of replacing Mr. Arafat, promise to give him new legitimacy as a democratically chosen leader precisely because he is under such American and Israeli pressure.

Indeed, Israel opposes holding elections now for the Palestinian Authority, the governing body for territories the Palestinians control. "It is going to be a very bad idea," the Israeli military official said. "An election should be after a reform is made, and new institutions are made, and after new clarifications about who can be elected and who can't be elected, and then an election can be a first phase toward a Palestinian state."

That appears to be Bush administration policy as well. In a speech on June 24, Mr. Bush demanded Palestinian elections, but he demanded also that only certain people be chosen: "leaders not compromised by terror."

Two Western diplomats here said this week that the Bush administration was now resisting the idea of Palestinian elections, fearing that Mr. Arafat would run for re-election as president and would win handily. In addition, one of the diplomats said, the Americans feared that the militant group **Hamas** would gain ground in local elections.

Given Mr. Bush's demand that Mr. Arafat be replaced, one of these diplomats said, "everything else is irrelevant." He said there was "not one single glimmer of hope" of an end to the impasse here in the near term. He spoke a few hours before the bombing Tuesday morning.

From the descriptions of people involved in the intra-Palestinian truce talks, there were two overlapping discussions. One began at the initiative of a European diplomat and proceeded with the help of an American political activist. The diplomat, Alistair Crook, represented the European Union in talks with the Tanzim, the militia of Mr. Arafat's Fatah movement, according to Israeli and Palestinian officials. Mr. Crook, identified by Israeli officials as a former British intelligence agent, did not answer messages left at his hotel here.

Mr. Arafat was aware of these talks but not involved in them, said the American political activist.

Stalemate in Mideast After Deadly Bombing

Hatem Abdel Khader, a Palestinian legislator and Fatah leader from Jerusalem who was involved in the discussions, said, "The Europeans wanted the Tanzim to lead the process, because the Tanzim have more influence on the street and on the Palestinian factions."

Fatah leaders in Ramallah negotiated a joint statement with local Tanzim leaders in the northern West Bank, particularly in Jenin and Nablus, people involved in the talks said. They said that Muhammad Dahlan, formerly the chief of Palestinian preventive security in the Gaza Strip, went to Gaza to present the announcement to **Hamas** leaders there.

People involved in the talks said that representatives of the negotiators also contacted **Hamas** leaders in Syria to put pressure on the local leadership to sign on to the agreement.

Mr. Abdel Khader said that Al Aksa Martyrs Brigades, the most violent Tanzim group, had agreed to respect the decision, and that **Hamas** had as well, though "not openly and publicly." He said that another Islamist group, Islamic Jihad, had not approved the agreement, and that Fatah representatives were prepared to go to Damascus to discuss the matter with Islamic Jihad leaders there.

On an overlapping track, Nabil Shaath, a Palestinian Authority minister, had been deputized recently by Mr. Arafat to work out some sort of cease-fire agreement with **Hamas**, Palestinian and Israeli officials said. That cease-fire was to be conditional on an Israeli withdrawal from West Bank cities, said a Palestinian official involved in those talks.

The text of the Tanzim statement was unconditional. "From this moment forward, we will end attacks on innocent, noncombatant men, **women** and children," the text read. "We call on all Palestinian political organizations, factions and movements to end all such attacks, immediately, and to do so without hesitation or precondition." The text also said that "the continued Israeli military occupation of the West Bank and Gaza will be resisted."

Israeli officials dismissed the Palestinian offer that was in the works, saying the people involved had no real influence with organizations that promoted violence. They noted that in recent interviews, the spiritual leader of **Hamas**, Sheik Ahmed Yassin, had said only that **Hamas** might consider an end to suicide attacks if Israel first made numerous concessions.

Further, Sheik Shehada, the militant killed Tuesday, had rejected previous cease-fires, Israeli officials noted. The timing of their attack, they said, had nothing to do with the Palestinian discussions. They said that they had initiated missions to kill Sheik Shehada before, only to abort them for fear of harming civilians.

There was risk to Palestinian civilians in attacking him, the officials said, but there was also a substantial risk to Israeli civilians in not doing so.

<http://www.nytimes.com>

Graphic

Photo: A Palestinian woman denounced Israel last week at the site of a Gaza City bombing that killed a **Hamas** leader. (Getty Images)

Load-Date: July 28, 2002

Israeli troops attack, kill 12 Palestinians

The Columbian (Vancouver, WA.)

May 2, 2003, Friday

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Section: World/Nation; Pg. a4

Length: 453 words

Byline: IBRAHIM BARZAK, Associated Press writer

Body

GAZA CITY, Gaza Strip - Israeli troops stormed a **Hamas** stronghold on Thursday, setting off the most intense gunbattle in the Gaza Strip in 21½ years of fighting, just a day after mediators presented a Mideast peace plan.

Twelve Palestinians were killed, including two children and a top bombmaker.

Also Thursday, a Palestinian opened fire on a guard post outside a Jewish settlement in the West Bank, and soldiers killed the attacker, the military said.

The Israeli incursion pitched more than 200 Palestinian gunmen with anti-tank missiles, grenades and homemade explosives against Israeli soldiers who fired machine guns and tank shells. Sixty-five Palestinians were wounded, including 15 critically.

The Gaza City attack came a day after **Hamas** carried out a suicide bombing in a Tel Aviv pub that killed a woman worker and two musicians. However, Israeli military officials did not link the raid to the bombing, saying they were after three top **Hamas** fugitives in Gaza brothers Yousef, Mahmoud and Ayman Abu Hein.

About 2 a.m. Thursday, tanks and jeeps drove into Gaza City's Shijaiyah neighborhood. Troops surrounded a four-story apartment building that was home to 60 members of the Abu Hein family.

Dr. Fadel Abu Hein, a prominent child psychologist and a brother of the wanted men, said the apartment building came under intense fire.

"We are sitting in full darkness. Children are screaming. We are trying to calm them down, but bullets are coming from all directions," he said.

The Israeli commander of the operation, Brig. Gen. Gadi Shami, said the three wanted men tried to keep their relatives in the building as a buffer, and that soldiers broke in to rescue the civilians.

However, members of the Abu Hein clan said soldiers used several civilians, including **women**, as human shields in their search of the building.

Once only the three fugitives were left in the building, troops blew it up. Doctors said the three brothers were already dead by the time of the explosion, noting their bodies were riddled with bullets. Yousef Abu Hein was a top **Hamas** bombmaker.

Israeli troops attack, kill 12 Palestinians

In addition to the Abu Hein brothers, five other gunmen were killed. The other dead were two adult civilians, including a mentally handicapped man, and two boys, ages 2 and 13.

The 2-year-old, Amer Ayad, was hit by a bullet to the head while he was near a window in his home, said his father, Ahmed Ayad. "Is this the new peace President Bush promised?" Ayad said. "They wrote the answer using the blood of my son."

An Associated Press reporter saw two boys, ages 12 and 14, hit by Israeli fire as they tried to run away from a burst of shooting.

The 14-year-old was struck by a bullet in the neck, and doctors later said he was paralyzed from the neck down.

Graphic

Palestinian residents of Gaza City's Shijaiyah neighborhood embrace Thursday after an attack by Israeli soldiers left a dozen people dead and an apartment building blown up.

Load-Date: May 2, 2003

End of Document

Most Killed in Gaza Strip Attack Were Armed Gunmen, Israel Says

New York Sun (Archive)

October 8, 2002 Tuesday

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Section: FOREIGN; Pg. 5

Length: 644 words

Byline: By MARGOT DUDKEVITCH

Dateline: JERUSALEM

Body

Defense Minister Benjamin Ben-Eliezer said that most of the 14 Palestinian Arabs killed in the IDF raid on Khan Yunis were armed gunmen who fired on Israeli troops and not civilians as the Palestinian Arabs reported.

Soldiers backed by tanks and helicopters raided a **Hamas** stronghold in the Gaza Strip town of Khan Yunis yesterday morning, killing 14 Palestinian Arabs and wounding 136, in the deadliest Israeli strike in three months.

Mr. Ben-Eliezer made the comments during a telephone conversation with EU foreign policy chief Javier Solana. The Defense Minister also defended the action, saying that the move was necessary to prevent attacks and arrest **Hamas** terrorists.

Prime Minister Sharon also met with Mr. Solana where he dismissed international criticism of the IDF incursion into Khan Yunis in the Gaza Strip, saying that it was a necessary operation.

Twenty-five of the wounded were listed in critical condition, doctors said. Most suffered shrapnel wounds in the head, chest, and abdomen. The dead ranged in age from 14 to 52.

In one incident, a helicopter fired a missile into a crowd, killing eight people, Palestinian Arab sources said.

Military sources said the helicopter fire was aimed at a group of Palestinian Arabs near a mosque, and that armed Palestinian Arabs were hit. However, the sources acknowledged there were civilian casualties as well.

The target of the predawn raid, the Amal neighborhood, was not chosen randomly but pinpointed as a known **Hamas** hotbed, and was targeted in response to a growing number of Kassem rocket firings and mortar attacks on Israeli communities in Gaza's Gush Katif.

Palestinian Arab doctors and witnesses said all the dead, including two cousins ages 14 and 15, were civilians.

An IDF commander said many of those killed were gunmen, but acknowledged there may have been civilian casualties.

Khan Yunis resident Abedi Ashour, 24, said he was emerging from his apartment after Israeli ground forces left the area when he heard a loud explosion.

Most Killed in Gaza Strip Attack Were Armed Gunmen, Israel Says

"I saw the ugliest picture of my life. People were bleeding, many of them lying on the ground. Women were screaming and blood covered the ground," he said.

Later, Israeli troops fired assault rifles and machine guns into Nasser Hospital in Khan Yunis, where hundreds of people had gathered to learn about the fate of relatives.

Eight more people were wounded by army fire at the hospital, including a 14-year-old boy hit in the neck and a paramedic wounded in the chest.

The military said troops opened fire after Palestinian Arabs fired mortar shells from within or near the hospital.

The director of Nasser Hospital, Haidar al Kidreh, said that among the wounded were 20 in critical condition. Doctors trying to handle the large number of casualties performed several operations in the same room. Mr. Kidreh said the wounded ranged in age from eight to 75.

Deputy defense minister Weizman Shiri, said he was sorry if civilians were hurt. "But what can we do?" Mr. Shiri told Israel Army Radio. "It's war."

Javier Solana, the European Union's foreign policy chief, who is visiting the region, said he was shocked by the number of casualties. "I think that it is even more dramatic because of the efforts that the Palestinian people were making in order to get out of the way of violence in recent weeks," he said.

Both Hamas and Arafat's Fatah movement threatened revenge.

"We will make the Zionist enemy swallow the bitter drink very soon," a masked Fatah activist, armed with a machine gun and grenades stuffed into a belt, told mourners.

Abdel Aziz Rantisi, a Hamas leader, said: "Everyone should know that as our people were not safe in Khan Younis, so Israelis will not be safe in Tel Aviv. We will strike everywhere."

Palestinian Cabinet Minister Saeb Erekat denounced the Israeli raid as a massacre and called on the international community to protect the Palestinian Arabs.

Load-Date: March 25, 2004

'Rivers of blood will be stanchied': Palestinian militants to renew plan to end suicide attacks

Ottawa Citizen

July 30, 2002 Tuesday Final Edition

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Section: News; Pg. A6; News

Length: 948 words

Byline: Matthew Kalman

Dateline: JERUSALEM

Body

JERUSALEM -- Palestinian militant groups said yesterday they planned to renew their offer to end terror attacks against Israeli civilians despite last week's Israeli air strike that killed an extremist leader and more than a dozen civilians in Gaza City.

The proposed moratorium on attacks against civilians in Israel and the occupied territories was due to be announced last week, but was put on hold because of the Israeli bombing that killed Salah Shehadeh, leader of the terrorist wing of the Hamas resistance movement, a senior aide and 15 civilians, including nine children.

Hatem Abdel Kader, a leader of the Fatah Tanzim militia in Jerusalem, said in an interview that he was one of the Palestinian officials involved in hammering out a declaration calling a unilateral halt to armed attacks on Israeli civilians, including settlers.

"We call on all Palestinian political organizations, factions and movements to end all such attacks immediately, and to do so without hesitation or precondition," said the draft declaration.

The Ottawa Citizen; with files from The Associated Press

The call was due to be published last week in The Times of London, followed by publication in Israeli and Arab newspapers, but was cancelled in the aftermath of the Gaza bomb attack.

"We will do everything in our power to end attacks on Israeli civilians, on innocent men, women and children, in both Israel and in the occupied lands of the West Bank and Gaza," the Fatah leaders wrote in an essay accompanying the declaration. "We make this declaration without seeking or demanding any prior conditions.

"The rivers of blood that have so embittered our peoples will be stanchied," they said. "The suicide bombings will be brought to an end. By us. Now."

The draft had been agreed to by militia leaders all over the West Bank and Gaza Strip on July 22. As midnight approached, former Palestinian security chief Mohammed Dahlan was meeting with Hamas leaders in Gaza to secure their tacit agreement.

"Our efforts had nearly succeeded," said Mr. Abdel Kader. "We in Fatah felt that we had to do something to change the situation. That's why we began a dialogue with Hamas and Islamic Jihad."

'Rivers of blood will be stanchied': Palestinian militants to renew plan to end suicide attacks

Mr. Abdel Kader said he travelled to Tehran three months ago to try and persuade Hamas and Islamic Jihad to join the moratorium on terror attacks.

"There were signs that they would agree," said Abdel Kader. "These were positive signs.

"I personally support resuming the efforts and they have indeed been resumed, but very quietly and gently," he said. "The problem is that Hamas has officially told us that they are now against it after the assassination of Shehadeh last week. Despite that, we are continuing with our dialogue and we will continue to put pressure on our brothers in Hamas and Islamic Jihad. We feel there is a need for change. The ball is in (Israeli Prime Minister Ariel) Sharon's court."

Mark Perry, a Washington political activist with close connections to the Palestinian leadership for 20 years, said he was also involved in the talks.

"It was without prior conditions, it didn't ask the Israelis to do anything," Mr. Perry said. "Basically, the Palestinians said they were going to lay down in front of their tanks. That was going to be hard for them to do, but they knew they had to convince the Israelis of the credibility of their call, and they were willing to do that."

Mr. Perry said that by 10 p.m. on July 22, two hours before the Gaza bombing, all the factions affiliated to Yasser Arafat's Fatah movement had agreed to the wording of the declaration, including the terrorist wing, the Al-Aqsa Brigades.

West Bank Fatah leader Marwan Barghouti also approved the call from inside the Israeli jail where he is being held for terrorist offences.

"The only thing that really needed to be done at that point was to get Hamas to come on board in principle," said Mr. Perry. "We never knew whether they would actually sign the declaration or whether that would be necessary, but as of midnight it sounded to us as if we were within minutes of getting their approval."

Mr. Perry said the militia leaders decided on the moratorium for "moral and political" reasons. "On the moral side, they were beginning to understand that they were raising a generation of children whose lives would be lost in hatred," he said. "On the political side, they saw the continuing political disintegration of their society and both of these taken together were intolerable."

Mr. Perry said Mr. Arafat was aware of the moves and approved them, but was not personally involved. He said there was still a chance the moratorium would go ahead.

"There are still a large number of groups who are willing to go forward even after last week, but it's not at all clear now whether that will actually be possible," said Mr. Perry.

He said the militia leaders he spoke to were committed to the plan, even at the cost of their own lives.

"There was actually an agreement among the Tanzim leaders and Fatah leaders that if one of them were assassinated, the others would not take revenge," said Mr. Perry. "When I heard that, that was the moment at which I thought: they're very serious about it."

But Israeli Defence Minister Benjamin Ben-Eliezer said yesterday he did not believe the efforts to achieve a moratorium were serious, and he did not believe the assassination of Mr. Shehadeh had ruined them.

Meanwhile, thousands of Palestinians poured onto the streets of Nablus yesterday in defiance of a 40-day-old curfew, the strongest challenge yet to the Israeli army restrictions on West Bank cities. Israeli soldiers in armoured vehicles ringing the city stood by without response, in contrast to tough reactions to earlier violations.

Load-Date: July 30, 2002

'Rivers of blood will be stanchd': Palestinian militants to renew plan to end suicide attacks

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4 Israeli soldiers killed in raid by 2 Palestinians

Deseret News (Salt Lake City)

January 9, 2002, Wednesday

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Byline: Associated Press

Body

JERUSALEM -- In the first deadly Palestinian attack on Israelis in nearly a month, two Palestinians stormed an Israeli army post near the Gaza Strip early Wednesday, killing four soldiers before being shot dead in a gunbattle, the military said.

The attack, claimed by the Islamic militant **Hamas** group, dealt a severe blow to U.S. truce efforts. Earlier this week, a U.S. mediator had left the region on a hopeful note, saying both sides were working toward a truce after a lull of several weeks.

The four soldiers killed Wednesday were members of the Israeli army's Desert Reconnaissance Battalion, made up almost entirely of Bedouin Arabs.

Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat said he was sticking to the truce, and the Palestinian Authority issued a statement condemning the attack.

However, Israeli army chief Lt. Gen. Shaul Mofaz held Arafat's government responsible, saying the incident proved "beyond any doubt that the Palestinian Authority is not fighting against the infrastructure of terrorism."

Israel's security Cabinet met for three hours Wednesday morning, and Israel TV quoted Prime Minister Ariel Sharon as telling the ministers that Israel would stick to the principle of retaliating for every attack.

Hassan Yousef, a **Hamas** leader in the West Bank, said the group resumed attacks -- despite a public pledge last month to observe a truce -- because of what he said was continued Israeli aggression against Palestinians.

The drop-off in violence had encouraged Zinni to launch his latest mission. The last deadly Palestinian attack on Israelis was Dec. 12 when a **Hamas** member opened fire on an Israeli bus, killing 10 passengers and wounding 30. Four days later, acting under growing international pressure, Arafat declared a halt to all attacks.

Since then, there has been a sharp drop in Palestinian violence. Mortar fire stopped, and there were only sporadic shootings. The Palestinian security forces also rounded up dozens of members of **Hamas** and the Islamic Jihad group. Since Arafat's call, 20 Palestinians have been killed -- including seven who died in clashes with Palestinian police cracking down on militants -- and troops have entered Palestinian areas nine times to arrest militants.

Wednesday's attack began at around 4 a.m. when attackers cut through the fence between Israel and the Gaza Strip, near the Israeli farming village of Kerem Shalom.

4 Israeli soldiers killed in raid by 2 Palestinians

The attackers stormed an army outpost, throwing grenades and firing assault rifles. One assailant fired at two soldiers in a jeep, while the second charged a nearby observation post, seriously wounding the sentry, said Maj. Gen. Doron Almog, head of the army's Southern Command. After the initial attack, an army patrol rushed to the scene, but also drew fire. A major, two sergeants and a fourth soldier were killed in the attack. Two soldiers were wounded, one of them seriously.

The two assailants, both dressed in Palestinian police uniforms, were killed.

The assailants were identified as Mohammed Abu Jamous and Emad Rizek, residents of the Rafah refugee camp. Abu Jamous was a member of the Palestinian naval police. Clutching a photograph of her husband of only three months, Andalib Abu Jamous, 20, said her husband did not return home the night before the attack.

"He said he was going to spend the night praying at the mosque," she said, tears streaming down her face. She was sitting on cushions in between female relatives who held green Hamas flags in their hands.

Both men were well-known Hamas supporters, camp residents said.

Despite the Palestinian arrests of militants, Israel has said the crackdown has not targeted the masterminds of terror attacks. Sharon has said Arafat has not abandoned violence, and that the lull was temporary to allow the Palestinians to regroup.

The Israeli allegations were fueled by Israel's interception last week of a weapons shipment allegedly intended for the Palestinian Authority.

Israel has sent intelligence officials to the United States and Europe to press its claim that the Palestinian Authority was responsible for the ship carrying 50 tons of weapons, including rockets that could have threatened Israeli cities.

On Wednesday, Israel demanded that the Palestinian Authority arrest Fuad Shobaki, head of the finance department in the Palestinian security services, for allegedly funding the arms purchases, Israeli officials said. Israel has said four crew members, including the captain, were members of the Palestinian naval police.

The Palestinian Authority has denied it was behind the smuggling attempt and has promised to investigate whether any of its officials were involved in it.

Arafat on Wednesday dismissed the Israeli charges. "They are inventing a new issue every time. The last was the ship," Arafat said. "I don't know why we should go buy weapons from the outside, while the Israeli mafia has these weapons at a cheaper price."

Sharon said the captured arms shipment showed Iran and the Palestinians were closely collaborating to strike at Israel. The Palestinian captain of the ship has said that the weapons were loaded near Iran's coast and intended for the Palestinians.

Load-Date: January 9, 2002

Israel also entitled to avenge acts of terrorism

USA TODAY

July 30, 2002, Tuesday,

FINAL EDITION

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Section: NEWS;; DEBATE

Length: 679 words

Body

USA TODAY said in an editorial that a tragic outcome of Israel's deadly strike against the head of the military wing of the Hamas terrorist group was that Hamas "vowed to kill Israeli children and target bus stops, restaurants and other public places" ("Sharon goes too far, again," Thursday). But Hamas has been doing exactly that for more than two years.

If Hamas said it would "consider" halting such attacks if Israel withdrew, it must be remembered that just a week earlier, this terrorist Palestinian group joined in a bomb and grenade attack on a civilian bus packed with women and children.

The editorial also said Israel's presence in many West Bank cities is another indication that Israeli Prime Minister Ariel Sharon is an "impediment to peace."

However, before the re-occupation, dozens of civilian Israeli men, women and children were intentionally killed and injured in several attacks.

Should we only expect Palestinian terrorists to get angry when Palestinian civilians accidentally are affected, but somehow Israelis can't get angry when their men, women and children are repeatedly and deliberately killed and maimed for two years?

Ben Klein

Brooklyn, N.Y.

Don't fault the Palestinians

USA TODAY reader Rodney Guyton, who seems to ignore the facts, wrongly blames the Palestinian community for the recent Israeli action. And he asked what the British or Swedish governments' response to suicide bombing attacks would be ("Europeans show selective indignation over Israeli attack," Letters, Friday).

Since 1969 the British people have been subject to a bombing campaign by the IRA and other Catholic and Protestant paramilitary organizations, both in Northern Ireland and in mainland Britain.

I don't recall the British government ever dropping a one-ton bomb on an entire city block of Dublin because it suspected an IRA leader lived there with his family.

I think that no matter what the provocation, the inhumanity of such an act would have rightly drawn worldwide condemnation.

Israel also entitled to avenge acts of terrorism

Jess Muir

Niantic, Conn.

Can't have it both ways

Everyone is acting as if Ariel Sharon is the only prime minister Israel has had. The fact is that most of Israel's prime ministers have tried to make peace with their Arab neighbors and help establish a Palestinian State.

It is Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat who has been the one stonewalling the peace effort -- and that started long before the 1967 war.

Israel has fought wars for its existence almost every decade since it was established. Where are the editorial voices when Israelis are being bombed and terrorists blow up a bus and then shoot the passengers?

Violence on both sides is unacceptable, and certainly innocent bystanders are the ones who pay the ultimate price. But where is the condemnation of a terrorist mastermind who hides in civilian areas and dares retaliation for his acts? Where is the condemnation of countries that condone and excuse Palestinian violence and complain about Israel?

You cannot have it both ways.

Rosemary Klein-Robbins

Austin

Blame both Arafat and Sharon

USA TODAY reader Glenn Woiceshyn said that Israel is a "peaceful, freedom-loving country." Then, in the same sentence he says, "it has a moral obligation to destroy the terrorists and their sponsors -- even at the risk of killing innocent people" ("Condemn Palestinians and United Nations, but not Israel," Letters, Thursday).

I don't support the brutal and senseless tactics used by some Palestinians who have killed hundreds of innocent people in suicide bombings and other terrorist acts. However, to drop a one-ton explosive on a densely populated area in the morning hours to kill one person is a destructive, terrorist act.

Israel may very well be a peaceful, freedom-loving country, but Prime Minister Ariel Sharon is a violent and unreasonable leader whose policies will bring Israelis neither peace nor freedom. Sharon and Yasser Arafat are two peas in a pod, both unwilling to take any step toward peace. It's horrifying to imagine how many innocent people have lost their lives because of their unbending stances.

Derek Williams

Cincinnati

Graphic

PHOTO, b/w, Mohammed Saber, AFP; Revenge: Supporters of the radical Palestinian group **Hamas** demonstrate in the Gaza Strip, vowing to take revenge for Israel's killing of their military leader.

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Israel also entitled to avenge acts of terrorism

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