

Date and Time: Thursday, May 2, 2024 6:07:00PM EEST

Job Number: 223357768

Documents (100)

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

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language - Expanded Results

Narrowed by:

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News

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

2. [*ANGER REACHES TO OUR SHORES FUNDING RESTS ON ARAFAT ACTION*](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language - Expanded Results

Narrowed by:

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News

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

3. [*Arafat Warning Fundamentalists On Violence in Occupied Lands*](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language - Expanded Results

Narrowed by:

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4. [*BOMBERS ARE MADE, NOT BORN; HAMAS BREWS ITS SUICIDE CANDIDATES WITH A MIX OF RELIGION, HOPELESSNESS*](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language - Expanded Results

Narrowed by:

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News

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

5. [*Palestinian Believed to Be Bombing Mastermind Is Killed*](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language - Expanded Results

Narrowed by:

Content Type
News

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

6. [7 DIE IN ISRAEL SUICIDE BOMBINGS](#)

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, 1987 to Dec 31, 1997

7. [Israel to release 1,200 Palestinians](#)

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, 1987 to Dec 31, 1997

8. [GRIEF AND RAGE MINGLE IN ISRAEL AFTER ATTACK; NETANYAHU VOWS TO 'DO WHATEVER IS NECESSARY TO PROTECT MY PEOPLE'](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language - Expanded Results

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9. [Hostage killed; Soldier slain as Israeli troops storm West Bank house](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language - Expanded Results

Narrowed by:

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News

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

10. [PLO-ISLAMIC CLASHES LEAVE 13 DEAD ARAFAT'S POLICE FIGHT YOUTHS AT MOSQUE](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language - Expanded Results

Narrowed by:

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News

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Dec 31, 1997

11. [*Palestinians Seize 100 Militants Who Oppose Talks With Israel*](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language - Expanded Results

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Narrowed by
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Dec 31, 1997

12. [*ISRAEL BEGINS THE FREEING OF JAILED PALESTINIANS*](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language - Expanded Results

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

13. [*TERRORISTS KILL YOUNG ISRAELI HOSTAGE*](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language - Expanded Results

Narrowed by:

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News

Narrowed by
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Dec 31, 1997

14. [*TERRORISTS KILL YOUNG ISRAELI HOSTAGE*](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language - Expanded Results

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News

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Dec 31, 1997

15. [*Voters defy boycott call to give Arafat ballot box triumph*](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language - Expanded Results

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16. [The war without an end](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language - Expanded Results

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17. [Suicide bombers kill 6 Israelis](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language - Expanded Results

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News

Narrowed by
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18. [Extremists benefit from the bombs](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language - Expanded Results

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19. ['First wave' of Palestinians freed; Move intended to smooth peace process](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language - Expanded Results

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

20. [ISRAELI POLICE SHOOT TWO PALESTINIANS AT ROADBLOCK](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language - Expanded Results

Narrowed by:

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News

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21. [BOMBER, 3 OTHERS KILLED, 46 INJURED IN ISRAELI CAFE](#)

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, 1987 to Dec 31, 1997

22. [Muslim gunmen kill two, wound 14](#)

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, 1987 to Dec 31, 1997

23. [BLASTS CALLED ISRAEL 'S WORST SINCE '93 PACT< THE TWO ATTACKS KILLED 25, INCLUDING TWO AMERICANS, AND INJURED 82. THEY< CAST DOUBT ON WHETHER THE PRO-PEACE GOVERNMENT OF PERES CAN WIN REELECTION.](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language - Expanded Results

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News

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24. [Rocks, bullets fly as Hebron heats up](#)

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, 1987 to Dec 31, 1997

25. [Israel blames latest bombing on suicide attack](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language - Expanded Results

Narrowed by:

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News

Narrowed by
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26. [*Hit team beauty saves victim*](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language - Expanded Results

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27. [*Two Palestinians shot by Israeli troops: Deadly day as Mideast crisis grows*](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language - Expanded Results

Narrowed by:

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News

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

28. [*Israel on terror alert after call to reject peace*](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language - Expanded Results

Narrowed by:

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News

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

29. [*SUICIDE BOMBS KILL 7 IN JERUSALEM / 200 HURT*](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language - Expanded Results

Narrowed by:

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

30. [*Palestinians play with fire in dire game of duplicity*](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language - Expanded Results

Narrowed by:

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News

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

31. [*20 Jailed Arab Women Say No to Israeli Offer of Freedom*](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language - Expanded Results

Narrowed by:

Content Type
News

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

32. [HOSTAGE KILLED AS ISRAELIS RAID HIDEOUT; MILITANTS HELD SOLDIER, 19, TO BROKER A SWAP](#)

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, 1987 to Dec 31, 1997

33. [Suicide bombers kill seven Israelis, injure 50 more](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language - Expanded Results

Narrowed by:

Content Type
News

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

34. [MUSLIM MILITANTS DECLARE WAR](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language - Expanded Results

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35. [Terrorist attacks 'approved by Arafat' * MIDDLE EAST](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language - Expanded Results

Narrowed by:

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News

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

36. [ARAFAT PRAISES END OF SIEGE, SAYS ISRAELIS MUST DO MORE](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language - Expanded Results

Narrowed by:

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News

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

37. [YOUTH'S KILLING RENEWS TENSIONS AMONG PALESTINIANS](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language - Expanded Results

Narrowed by:

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News

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

38. [BOMBING IN JERUSALEM: THE OVERVIEW; 3 BOMBERS IN SUICIDE ATTACK KILL 4 ON JERUSALEM STREET IN ANOTHER BLOW TO PEACE](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language - Expanded Results

Narrowed by:

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News

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

39. [Blast scatters precious support for peace effort](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language - Expanded Results

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News

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40. [Palestinians Express Doubts But Don't Reject Egypt 's Plan](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language - Expanded Results

Narrowed by:

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News

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

41. [Mutual mistrust, from leaders to soldiers](#)

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, 1987 to
Dec 31, 1997

42. [*Kidnapping of Soldier Leads Israel to Halt P.L.O. Talks*](#)

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, 1987 to
Dec 31, 1997

43. [*U.N. weapons inspectors continue standoff at Iraqi ministry building*](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language - Expanded Results

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

44. [*Cellular phone bomb kills Palestinian terrorist blamed for 67 deaths; Israeli agents credited with killer's death*](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language - Expanded Results

Narrowed by:

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News

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

45. [*Israel suspends peace talks after bus bomber kills 5*](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language - Expanded Results

Narrowed by:

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News

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

46. [*World digest*](#)

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, 1987 to Dec 31, 1997

47. [THE DANCE OF THE KLUTZES](#)

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, 1987 to Dec 31, 1997

48. [Suicide bombers kill 13 in market](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language - Expanded Results

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Content Type
News

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

49. [JAIL TIME, BROOKLYN LINK 2 ACCUSED IN BOMB PLOT; BUT PALESTINIANS HAD LITTLE ELSE IN COMMON](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language - Expanded Results

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

50. ['Jews have no place here'](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language - Expanded Results

Narrowed by:

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News

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

51. [BOMBINGS IN ISRAEL KILL 7, HURT 192](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language - Expanded Results

Narrowed by:

Content Type
News

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

Dec 31, 1997

52. [BOMBINGS IN ISRAEL KILL 7, HURT 192](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language - Expanded Results

Narrowed by:

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News

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

53. [PALESTINIANS KILLED IN CLASH, BOMB EXPLOSIONS; SUICIDE ATTACKS WENT WRONG, ISRAELIS CLAIM](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language - Expanded Results

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Dec 31, 1997

54. [SUICIDE BOMBERS DIE IN ATTACKS OUTSIDE SETTLEMENTS settlements](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language - Expanded Results

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55. [Is Netanyahu determined to wreck the peace process, or has he lost his way?; The Israeli view](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language - Expanded Results

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56. [Israel braced for further suicide attacks](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language - Expanded Results

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

57. [*Writing's on the wall*](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language - Expanded Results

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58. [*BRIEFS*](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language - Expanded Results

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

59. [*Israeli Troops Dynamite Family Home of Bomber*](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language - Expanded Results

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

60. [*"Quote...UnQuote"*](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language - Expanded Results

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61. [*SUICIDE BOMB WOMAN STRIKES AT RUSH HOUR*](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language - Expanded Results

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

62. [*Angry, grieving, Israelis bury bombing victims*](#)

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, 1987 to Dec 31, 1997

63. [REVENGE BOMBING KILLS 8 IN ISRAEL , IMPERILS TALKS](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language - Expanded Results

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64. [Blast kills 3 Israeli women](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language - Expanded Results

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65. [No Security, No Peace](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language - Expanded Results

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News

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66. [SUICIDE BOMBERS KILL 13 IN ISRAEL](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language - Expanded Results

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67. [Everyone in Mideast must pick peace or war](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language - Expanded Results

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68. [*Israel sets free low-risk prisoners*](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language - Expanded Results

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Dec 31, 1997

69. [*PRAY FOR HER; TINY VICTIM OF CAFE SUICIDE BOMB; ARAB SUICIDE BOMBER KILLS TWO IN TEL AVIV*](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language - Expanded Results

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Dec 31, 1997

70. [*'Rhetoric' and Risk in the Mideast; Q&A / Robert Pelletreau*](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language - Expanded Results

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

71. [*To Some in Gaza, the Peace Process Isn't Good News*](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language - Expanded Results

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

72. [*6 ISRAELIS KILLED IN GAZA BOMBINGS BY ARAB MILITANTS*](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language - Expanded Results

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73. [*Celebration turns to mourning, anger; Patrons of a Tel Aviv cafe, many wearing costumes for the Jewish holiday of Purim, become targets of a bomber - and three women die.*](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language - Expanded Results

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

74. [*Arabs ponder thinking behind US 'terror' list*](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language - Expanded Results

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75. [*Jordan 's king tells Albright of fears if Mideast peace talks lead nowhere*](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language - Expanded Results

Narrowed by:

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

76. [*In Gaza, Fashion Models Break Tradition*](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language - Expanded Results

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77. [*TERRORIST BOMB RIPS TEL AVIV*](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language - Expanded Results

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

78. [*U.S. , Israel see Arafat as coddling terrorists; Palestinian leader was warned that he was letting extremists get out of hand.*](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language - Expanded Results

Narrowed by:

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

79. [*Netanyahu suspends key talks with Arafat*](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language - Expanded Results

Narrowed by:

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

80. [*'Let's have the flag and the years can take care of the rest'*](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language - Expanded Results

Narrowed by:

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

81. [*REVENGE BOMBING KILLS 8 IN ISRAEL , IMPERILS TALKS*](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language - Expanded Results

Narrowed by:

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

82. [*ISRAELIS BLAST HIZBOLLAH BASES, RAID GAZA STRIP*](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language - Expanded Results

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

Dec 31, 1997

83. [Israel concedes PLO help in terror search](#)

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, 1987 to Dec 31, 1997

84. [Israel takes steps to implement West Bank accord](#)

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, 1987 to Dec 31, 1997

85. [SIX PALESTINIANS KILLED BY TROOPS](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language - Expanded Results

Narrowed by:

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

86. [CHILDREN IN BOMB HORROR; Victims 'burning like torches' after suicide attack on Israeli pupils](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language - Expanded Results

Narrowed by:

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

87. [Israelis quell Palestinian rioting](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language - Expanded Results

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

88. [Opponents get together to swoop on terror group](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language - Expanded Results

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

89. [Islamist leaders flee Gaza sweep](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language - Expanded Results

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Content Type
News

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

90. [ISRAEL UNDER SEIGE](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language - Expanded Results

Narrowed by:

Content Type
News

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

91. [NATION IN BRIEF; MEDICINE; Puberty at earlier age](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language - Expanded Results

Narrowed by:

Content Type
News

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

92. [Islamist leaders flee Gaza sweep](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language - Expanded Results

Narrowed by:

Content Type
News

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

93. [Arab kills Israeli soldier with axe](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language - Expanded Results

Narrowed by:

Content Type
News

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

94. [Arafat faces dilemma at every turn](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language - Expanded Results

Narrowed by:

Content Type
News

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

95. [ISRAELI GUNS KILL 6 PEOPLE IN LEBANON](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language - Expanded Results

Narrowed by:

Content Type
News

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

96. [BORDER FIGHT THREATENS BOSNIA CEASE-FIRE](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language - Expanded Results

Narrowed by:

Content Type
News

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

97. [NYC: A 'Bomb' Ticks in a Cell Downtown](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language - Expanded Results

Narrowed by:

Content Type
News

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

98. [MRS. ARAFAT REJECTS WEARING VEIL](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language - Expanded Results

Narrowed by:

Content Type
News

Narrowed by

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

99. [World Within a Fence: A special report.; Palestinians in Gaza Find Freedom's Joy Has Limits](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language - Expanded Results

Narrowed by:

Content Type
News

Narrowed by

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

100. [SUICIDE BOMBER KILLS EIGHT; KIDS DIE IN BUS ATTACK; BOMB ATTACK IN ISRAEL - 8 KILLED](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language - Expanded Results

Narrowed by:

Content Type
News

Narrowed by

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

Palestinian police arrest 112 militants Arafat cracks down in the wake of bombings that killed 8

The Gazette (Montreal, Quebec)

April 11, 1995, Tuesday, FINAL EDITION

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Section: NEWS; Pg. A1/FRONT

Length: 966 words

Byline: YOUSSEF M. IBRAHIM; NEW YORK TIMES; AP

Dateline: GAZA CITY, Gaza Strip

Body

Palestinian police confirmed yesterday that they had arrested 112 members of **Hamas** and Islamic Jihad, the militant groups that took responsibility for two suicide bombings in the Gaza Strip on Sunday.

The death toll among victims of the anti-Israeli bombings rose to eight yesterday.

Yesterday morning, a new military-style court set up by the Palestinian Authority to crack down on militants issued its first sentence: a 34-year-old member of Islamic Jihad was sentenced to 15 years in jail on charges of training youths to attack Israelis.

The actions indicated a stiffening of Yasser Arafat's resolve to deal forcefully with the radical Palestinians who are challenging his authority in Gaza and in Jericho, on the West Bank. Senior Palestinian officials said that they would widen their crackdown against militants, but that they remained persuaded that the only way to curb the violence would be to improve the economic situation in Gaza.

Despite the crackdown, there was defiance yesterday from the militants.

Mahmoud Zahar, the most senior member of **Hamas** in Gaza, said in an interview in his office at the Islamic University that the official moves were "empty gestures" and that similar tactics by the Israeli army when it occupied Gaza had failed to end resistance.

Zahar, a physician and university professor who wields great influence, contended that Arafat would pay a heavy price in popularity for the arrests, but would not stop attacks by Islamic fundamentalists against Jewish settlements in Gaza and targets in Israel.

With the deaths of an American tourist and an Israeli, the toll in Sunday's bombings rose to eight yesterday, from six. The seven Israelis who died, five men and two **women**, were soldiers. More than 40 people were wounded, and two bombers also died.

The American who died was Alisa Flatow, 20, a Brandeis University junior from West Orange, N.J., who had been on spring break. She had been travelling to a beach resort at a Jewish settlement in the Gaza Strip and was wounded in the head in the first of the bombings. Her father, Steve, said some of her organs would be given to transplant patients.

Palestinian police arrest 112 militants Arafat cracks down in the wake of bombings that killed 8

Israel barred Palestinians from a 10-kilometre stretch of Gaza's main north-south road between Kfar Darom and Netzarim, the Jewish settlements where the attacks occurred, Israeli security officials said yesterday. Two east-west roads linking the settlements with Israel were also closed.

In Khan Yunis, in the south of the Gaza Strip, the police exchanged fire with Hamas gunmen before arresting two of them, Palestinians said. There were no reports of injuries.

Nabil Abu Irdeina, Arafat's spokesman, said in an interview on Sunday that the Palestine Liberation Organization knows the "peace process is facing a real danger."

He contended that the "main danger to the whole process is Israel's constant search for excuses to delay its withdrawal from the West Bank and the rest of Gaza, and the economic strangulation of Gaza and the Palestinians."

A number of countries have committed funds to help the Palestinian Authority improve conditions in the Gaza Strip and Jericho, but most of the funds have not been delivered.

In addition, from time to time Israel has barred Palestinian workers from entering Israel.

Abu Irdeina said blocking the workers had aggravated the tensions in Gaza, where more than one million Palestinians live in a narrow strip of land.

Still, yesterday's sentencing by the special court and the roundup of suspects were meant to send a message both to Israel and to Islamic militants that the Palestinian Authority is serious about its efforts to stop attacks on Israeli targets.

The court, which has three judges, who have not been publicly identified, sentenced the militant, Samir Ali Jedi, after an all-night trial that was closed to the public. Jedi had been charged with training young Palestinians, including teenagers, for suicide missions against Israelis, a copy of a judgment said. He is the first Palestinian sentenced to prison by the Palestinian Authority for anti-Israeli activities.

Yesterday, spokesmen for Hamas and Islamic Jihad, which oppose peace talks with Israel, said that they would continue to attack Israelis and that senior militants and their supporters in Gaza were going into hiding.

"Arresting people will not solve the problem," said Zahar, the Hamas official. "The Israelis have tried that before. The PLO is doing the same thing now and getting the same reception. When they show up at homes to arrest our people, their cars are stoned and children spit at them."

Zahar said Hamas was determined to avoid a confrontation with the PLO and with Arafat, who is the group's chairman.

"Why should we have a confrontation with him? He is losing his popularity every time he uses the word 'terrorists' to describe Palestinians fighting against Israeli occupation."

There are indeed increasing signs that the PLO is losing support.

On Friday, in what amounted to the first open election under the Palestinian Authority, Hamas adherents in the nurses' union won all 11 seats on the governing board. The Hamas supporters had run against a bloc of PLO supporters and candidates from the leftist Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine.

Israel has argued that the suicide bombings and other attacks against its civilians and soldiers could lead it to reconsider whether self-rule will be expanded beyond Jericho to the rest of the West Bank. Sunday's killings brought to 64 the number of Israelis killed in attacks since October for which Hamas and Islamic Jihad have taken responsibility.

The PLO contends that it is under siege both by Islamic militants and by Israeli hard-liners.

Palestinian police arrest 112 militants Arafat cracks down in the wake of bombings that killed 8

ADDITIONAL REPORTING: ASSOCIATED PRESS

Graphic

AP Israeli soldiers in Holon weep at funeral of Sgt. Yuval Regev, killed in bomb attack.

AP Laura Sloan (right), Brandeis roommate of bombing victim Alisa Flatow, is comforted by Lara Woolf at news conference in Waltham, Mass.

Load-Date: April 12, 1995

End of Document

ANGER REACHES TO OUR SHORES FUNDING RESTS ON ARAFAT ACTION

Daily News (New York)

March 05, 1996, Tuesday

Copyright 1996 Daily News, L.P.

Section: News; Pg. 22

Length: 333 words

Byline: By JOE NICHOLSON and DONALD BERTRAND

Body

Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat must ratchet up the pressure on Islamic terrorists or risk losing funds and international support, Mideast experts said yesterday.

"It is not as if Arafat is capable of pulling the plug on every terrorist, but he can do more and he must do more," said Mark Rosenblum, Middle East director for Queens College's Harrington Center.

If he doesn't, Arafat may see \$ 1.2 billion in international aid dry up and dreams of a burgeoning Palestinian state fizzle, he added.

Jonathan Adelman, director of the Center for Israeli Studies at the University of Denver, said, "Arafat and his intelligence chiefs could probably name more than 50% of them [Hamas members] right now because the terrorists are in a very small place. If they want to cripple Hamas, they probably have the capacity to do most of the job."

But he said Arafat hesitates out of fear he "will be seen as a running dog of Israel and the U.S."

Other experts say Hamas wants to undermine Arafat and Israeli Prime Minister Shimon Peres so the peace process they have been building will collapse.

Factions of the group want to continue battling Israel for control of the entire Jewish state.

"These people have taken the initiative not only from Peres, they have taken the initiative from Arafat," said Dr. Rasheed Khalidi, a Palestinian-American professor and director of the Center for International Studies at the University of Chicago.

"Hamas does not accept that Arafat is the anointed leader of the Palestinians," said Richard Bulliet, professor of history and director of the Middle East Institute at Columbia University.

The experts said the terrorists' attempts to undermine Arafat coincided with their desire to prevent Peres from winning the May 29 election, which would enable him to continue the peace process. Peres' opposition is much more hard-line.

However, Peres may crush the terrorists or the peace process may survive because negotiators on both sides decide there is no good alternative, said the experts.

Graphic

AP BAD NEWS: With grief all around them, two women hug each other at Tel Aviv hospital yesterday after learning a relative was hurt in blast.

Load-Date: March 5, 1996

End of Document

Arafat Warning Fundamentalists On Violence in Occupied Lands

The New York Times

November 10, 1992, Tuesday, Late Edition - Final

Copyright 1992 The New York Times Company

Distribution: Foreign Desk

Section: Section A;; Section A; Page 6; Column 3; Foreign Desk; Column 3;

Length: 318 words

Byline: By YOUSSEF M. IBRAHIM,

By YOUSSEF M. IBRAHIM, Special to The New York Times

Dateline: PARIS, Nov. 9

Body

Yasir Arafat, chairman of the Palestine Liberation Organization chairman, strongly criticized the Palestinian Islamic fundamentalist movement today, warning the group of unspecified retaliation if its acts of violence, including the killing of Palestinians in the Israeli-occupied territories, were to continue.

In an interview published today, Mr. Arafat acknowledged for the first time the dimension of the fundamentalist Palestinian challenge to his organization and its widespread presence in the occupied Gaza Strip and West Bank. But he warned: "There are limits to our patience. One cannot be patient over the use of weapons against the Palestinian people."

Known by its acronym, **Hamas**, the fundamentalist Palestinian movement is particularly strong in the Gaza Strip, where its operatives exercise near-total political control over the refugee camps that are home to most of the territory's 900,000 inhabitants. It has imposed Islamic social codes on the residents, banning alcohol and forcing **women** to wear veils in public.

Hamas has steadfastly opposed the Middle East peace talks, which resumed today in Washington, and has threatened Palestinian participants in the talks who live in the Israeli-occupied territories. **Hamas** fighters, believed to number in the hundreds, are behind scores of killings of Palestinians accused of cooperating with the Israeli occupation authorities.

Hamas, which is known to have received funds from Iran as well as weapons and military training, has also engaged in armed clashes with followers of the Tunis-based P.L.O.

"We are not about to accept Iranian tutelage over us," Mr. Arafat said.

He reiterated his demand that the United States resume direct contacts with his organization, which were interrupted in 1989 after a raid on Tel Aviv by a P.L.O. faction. He said he had sent a letter of congratulations to President-elect Bill Clinton outlining Palestinian positions.

Arafat Warning Fundamentalists On Violence in Occupied Lands

Load-Date: November 10, 1992

End of Document

**BOMBERS ARE MADE, NOT BORN;
HAMAS BREWS ITS SUICIDE CANDIDATES WITH A MIX OF RELIGION,
HOPELESSNESS**

Pittsburgh Post-Gazette (Pennsylvania)

March 24, 1996, Sunday,

TWO STAR EDITION

Copyright 1996 P.G. Publishing Co.

Section: WORLD,

Length: 1943 words

Byline: NEIL MACFARQUHAR, THE NEW YORK TIMES

Dateline: AL FAWWAR, West Bank

Body

Just two days before he boarded a Jerusalem bus and ignited a satchel packed with TNT, blowing himself up and killing 25 passengers, Majdi Abu Warda spent an hour quietly arguing with his mother about going on a family picnic.

His mother, Intisar, loved those short excursions to a nearby scrub-covered hillock, away from the cloistered concrete warrens of the refugee camp where they lived. She prepared little triangles of pastry filled with meat, cucumbers in yogurt, rice - an extended feast to fill the gaggle of 20 children, cousins, aunts, uncles and grandparents coming along.

"He kept talking about going up to Ramallah to get a job, and I told him he had to finish his studies first," Mrs. Abu Warda said, turning the day over and over in her mind, seeking some elusive hint of what was to come.

Majdi skipped the Friday picnic. Mrs. Abu Warda never saw her 18-year-old son again. The next Sunday, Feb. 25, he climbed aboard a No. 18 bus to carry out the first of four bombings that sent the Israeli-Palestinian peace accords reeling toward an uncertain future.

"He seemed normal," Mrs. Abu Warda said. "There was just nothing, and we never sensed he had such feelings. But from a religious point of view we have to accept he is a martyr and thank God."

The dozen **women** encircling her murmured their approval. "Thanks be to God," they echoed.

Though they are praised at home as God's most devout servants, and pigeonholed by outsiders as madmen, suicide bombers are made, not born. They are nurtured through a training system that grafts the ecstasy of absolute religious devotion onto the despondency common among teen-agers raised under occupation, say experts who study the phenomenon.

Their stunted horizons create a volatile mix of hopelessness and anger. The humiliations of Israeli-controlled checkpoints, work permits and curfews give focus to their frustration. Then politicized Islamic militants step in and

BOMBERS ARE MADE, NOT BORN; HAMAS BREWS ITS SUICIDE CANDIDATES WITH A MIX OF RELIGION, HOPELESSNESS

offer an out: die for the cause and enter the fast lane to Paradise. In the process you get revenge, you get glory and your family gets a stipend.

"They have all the tools," said Dr. Mustapha al-Masri, a Gaza Strip psychiatrist. "They have the history of the occupation during which the Israelis were dehumanized, seen only as repressing people. They have the history of Islam as a glorious, victorious faith and the promise of Paradise after death. All they need is a young man ready to make the idea central to his own life."

There is no shortage of recruits, even though Palestinian public approval of the holy war against Israel seems to be waning. Aim Ayalon, the head of Israel's internal security agency, warned recently that hundreds more Palestinians were willing to become suicide bombers.

Should too many more fulfill their wish, they could destroy the attempt by Israel and the Palestinians to reach a settlement.

The portrait

Psychiatrists, political scientists and army intelligence officers who have studied the phenomenon are hesitant to say they know the mind of the suicide bomber, but a crude psychological portrait has emerged from the 20 or so attacks in the last two years.

And from interviews with thwarted bombers, contrite recruiters and family members, they have learned a fair amount about the process of indoctrination and training.

It often starts with members of the military cells of Hamas, the Islamic Resistance Movement, or the even more militant Islamic Holy War, who circulate among the organizations' schools and mosques during religious instruction.

The recruiter will drop the idea of dying for God into the conversation and gauge the students' reactions, one expert said. The trainers zoom in on those who discuss the idea seriously.

Almost invariably, potential bombers have a relative who was killed, wounded or jailed during the occupation. Majdi Abu Warda had watched his younger brother hauled out of bed by Israeli soldiers last year; the boy served 10 months in jail for throwing stones, and was released a month before Majdi blew up the bus in Jerusalem.

Bombers are also likely to have some longstanding personal frustration. Some have reportedly had trouble finding a bride; others have been shamed by friends for fearing to throw stones at Israeli jeeps.

Most of those who have carried out attacks have been between 18 and 24, unmarried, childless and unemployed.

"They are young, very enthusiastic, reliable enough not to go tell everyone on the street," said a senior Israeli army officer, speaking on condition that his name not be used. "These groups don't want some lunatic who will not know how to pull the trigger at the very last moment."

In Al Fawwar, Majdi's family and teachers said he had tremendous self-discipline. One of 11 children, his father an elementary school teacher, Majdi would spend hours in the hills sitting stock-still next to a special net, waiting for a nightingale to land. Eventually he captured three of them in cages, and would erupt in a rage if anyone tampered with them.

"He cared more for the birds than for any member of the family," said a sister, Ghada Abu Warda.

The entire Abu Warda family read the Koran with devotion, and relatives said Majdi was pious, but hardly a zealot. He would sometimes skip the first prayer of the day, which requires arising before dawn.

BOMBERS ARE MADE, NOT BORN; HAMAS BREWS ITS SUICIDE CANDIDATES WITH A MIX OF RELIGION, HOPELESSNESS

But he focused mostly on religion, going to bed by 8 every night and never watching television. If he was interested in politics, family members say, he kept it to himself.

It was the same story at the Vocational Training Center in downtown Hebron, where Majdi enrolled last November in a tile-laying class. His teachers said he was polite, quiet and punctual and seemed uninterested in joining political discussions.

The theology

Islam forbids suicide and inveighs against killing civilians. But in lengthy study sessions, bomber recruits focus on all the verses referring to the glory of dying for God in the Koran and the Hadith, the sayings of the Prophet Mohammed that form the basis of Islamic law.

The Koranic verse that is perhaps the most popular with them reads: "Think not of those who are slain in God's way as dead. Nay, they live, finding their sustenance in the presence of their Lord."

The religion emphasizes that life on earth is a transition. The next life is the real one. Scriptures and sermons idealize the afterlife as a carefree garden replete with gold palaces, scrumptious food and scores of even-tempered women.

A suicide bomber's death is described by Muslim militants as "the martyr's wedding," an occasion of joy and celebration.

Aside from religion, the indoctrination includes a heavy dose of anti-Israel diatribes. Students are assigned various tasks, like delivering a gun, to test their commitment. Some have said they were buried in mock graves to see if the idea of death spooked them.

It is at this stage that the recruits, organized in groups of 5 to 10, start resembling cult members, mentally isolated from family and friends.

"Islam is an appealing new identity because Arab nationalism has been defeated," said Dr. Eyad Sarraj, program director for Gaza's community mental health program. "Islam gives you a sense of hope and moral victory, especially when you come from an environment of despair and defeat."

The attackers leave for their missions right from their mosques, having spent two or three days chanting the relevant scriptures aloud with a cleric. The chanting is said to create an unshakable and even pleasurable conviction that they are about to sit next to God.

The conviction is strong enough that the bombers move in crowded places among Israelis without exhibiting any anxiety that might expose them, experts say.

"At the last moment he is thinking only of heaven," said a Palestinian religious scholar in Hebron.

The generally poor recruits know their families will be helped for life. The Israeli army officer said the stipends handed out by Hamas included \$ 800 a month to the families of activists, plus things like scholarships for their siblings and subsidized rice.

Bombers are also promised that if the family houses gets knocked down by the Israeli army in retribution, the organization will pay for a replacement.

Mousa Ziadah, 15, a trainee, was arrested last year in Gaza. His father said he was initially oblivious to the indoctrination, happy with his son's blossoming faith. Mousa told reporters that his brainwashing had started when he was about 10 and sweeping the mosque floors.

BOMBERS ARE MADE, NOT BORN; HAMAS BREWS ITS SUICIDE CANDIDATES WITH A MIX OF RELIGION, HOPELESSNESS

"They taught me about the heroes of Islam who were killed as saints and how they are now in heaven beside God," said Mousa, adding that the lessons emphasized the number of Palestinians killed and jailed during the occupation. "I also learned that the Jews have no right to exist on this land, which belongs to Muslims," he said.

In Al Fawwar, such politics pervade the Abu Warda household.

An open sewage gutter bisects the five-foot-wide alleyway where the family's four-room, concrete bunker of a dwelling sits jammed between similar houses.

Just 18 miles west lies the farmland their grandparents fled during the 1948 Arab-Israeli war. In those days it was called Irak al Manshiyeh. Today it is Qiryat Gat, an Israeli town.

"On cold winter days we would gather around the brazier to hear grandmother tell us stories about how half the land in Irak al Manshiyeh belonged to our family," said Fatima Abu Warda, a cousin. "We always regretted that loss. She would tell us about the oranges, about the cows, how no butter ever tasted as sweet, and about the grapes."

The fame

No one is sure where the ultimate orders for a bombing come from. But the bombers are given explosives training only in the days before the attack, the specialists say.

When the attacks began, **Hamas** and Islamic Holy War released wills, some even videotaped.

"The life of this world is just a game and an accumulation of possessions and children," wrote Hisham Hamad, a bomber from Islamic Holy War who killed three Israeli soldiers in the Gaza Strip in November 1994. "What God has is better for me than all this."

The wills stopped, because they gave the security services a handle to track down the others involved. Now sometimes the name of the bomber is not even announced.

But the fame of those already dead plays a role in finding new recruits. Eight-year-olds skip down Gaza alleyways shouting their names. Their posters hang on barbershop walls among the Western or Egyptian movie stars. Their pictures adorn key chains and the equivalent of baseball cards.

"The Martyrs," a teen-age doo-wop group in fatigues and slicked-back hair, is just one of dozens of bands praising bombers in song.

To youngsters whose main outdoor activity from an early age consisted of stoning Israeli army jeeps, bombers are the ultimate heroes.

"For just one day they make us feel strong," said a 26-year-old in Hebron.

After Majdi and another young man from Al Fawwar blew themselves up on the same day, **Hamas** organized a mandatory celebration featuring candy and high praise. There was none of the bitter dark coffee of a normal wake.

Then Israeli troops arrested the immediate male relatives of the bombers and imposed a strict curfew.

Majdi's relatives said that even before the crackdown, they had had trouble stomaching the fevered congratulations of their neighbors.

Majdi's grandfather, the only close male relative not jailed, bellowed his pain at the boy's gruesome exploit: "If we had known, we would have cut off his legs." And his mother acknowledged a deep ambivalence about accepting his death as a festive occasion for the faithful.

"Even if they gave me back all of Palestine, I would not want him to become such a martyr," she said.

BOMBERS ARE MADE, NOT BORN; HAMAS BREWS ITS SUICIDE CANDIDATES WITH A MIX OF
RELIGION, HOPELESSNESS

Graphic

PHOTO, PHOTO: Brian Hendler/Associated Press: Israeli soldiers inspect the; wreckage of the bus destroyed in the bomb explosion in Jerusalem Feb. 25.

Load-Date: April 21, 1996

End of Document

Palestinian Believed to Be Bombing Mastermind Is Killed

The New York Times

January 6, 1996, Saturday, Late Edition - Final

Copyright 1996 The New York Times Company

Distribution: Foreign Desk

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

Length: 979 words

Byline: By SERGE SCHMEMANN

By SERGE SCHMEMANN

Dateline: JERUSALEM, Jan. 5

Body

The man most wanted by Israel, a Palestinian known as "The Engineer" who was believed to be behind a series of suicide bombings targeting Israelis in recent years, was killed today in the Gaza Strip, according to some reports with a booby-trapped cellular phone.

There was no official confirmation of the death either from Israel or from the Palestinian Authority, but officials on both sides privately confirmed the death. So did **Hamas**, the Islamic opposition movement in whose name "The Engineer," Yahya Ayyash, operated.

Mr. Ayyash, who was about 32 years old and who was a native of the West Bank, was believed to be responsible for introducing suicide bombings as a terror weapon against Israel. A graduate in chemistry from Bir Zeit University near Ramallah, he was regarded by Israel as the mastermind behind terror attacks that have taken at least 60 lives and have wounded 300 people since 1992.

Captured Palestinians described how he would prepare young Islamic zealots, teaching them how to build and detonate portable bombs.

Capturing or killing him was known to have the highest priority for the Israeli secret service.

Though no one claimed responsibility, the first reports appeared in Jerusalem and the first announcement came from the Israeli state radio, citing "informed Israeli sources," indicating that the killing was the work of Israeli secret agents.

A handwritten statement thrown to reporters in Gaza, bearing the signature of the Qassam Brigades, the military wing of **Hamas** to which Mr. Ayyash belonged, declared that he had been killed by the Israeli secret service, the Mossad, and vowed revenge.

"This morning, Jan. 5, 1996, the Israeli Mossad assassinated the Engineer of the Generations, Yahya Ayyash," it declared. "Israeli security forces managed to kill him after four years of pursuit."

Palestinian Believed to Be Bombing Mastermind Is Killed

After Israeli radio reported the death, calls for a three-day strike were heard from minarets in Nablus and other West Bank cities.

The **Hamas** declaration seemed intended to avert any suspicion that the Palestinian Authority might have collaborated in the assassination. Neither Yasir Arafat nor the Authority issued any statement in the first hours after the killing, and there was every indication that they were not aware of it until it was reported by the Israeli radio.

One immediate question was what effect the death could have on the campaign for Palestinian elections on Jan. 20 and on the future of Israeli-Palestinian negotiations.

Inside the Palestinian-controlled areas, a widespread strike or violent demonstrations could seriously disrupt the campaign and turn people against Mr. Arafat. Any retaliatory attack within Israel, after a lull of almost five months, could well change the indulgent mood that has prevailed in Israel since the assassination of Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin in November.

There was also no telling how the killing would affect Mr. Arafat's tenuous truce with the Islamic opposition.

Hamas, a movement that embraces a broad range of Palestinians from relatively moderate Muslims to violent zealots, declared in late December that it would not participate in the elections for a Palestinian legislative council. But Mr. Arafat was said to have won a commitment that **Hamas** would not call for a boycott and would not mount terrorist actions inside Palestinian-controlled areas.

Mr. Arafat was reported to have paid a condolence visit today to the Gaza home of Mahmoud al-Zahar, a **Hamas** spokesman.

After the radio's first report that Mr. Ayyash had been killed by a bomb in the Jabaliya refugee camp, in the northern Gaza Strip, Palestinian security men fanned out through the area in search of confirmation. But nobody in the neighborhood had heard a bomb blast or rifle fire.

It was only after about an hour that police surrounded a building in the village of Beit Lahia, north of Gaza City, and soon officials privately confirmed that they had recovered the body of Mr. Ayyash. There were reports that another person, a woman in some versions, was also found dead, but these were not confirmed.

People in the neighborhood all said they heard nothing. **Hamas** officials in Gaza and Palestinian officials in Jerusalem told reporters that the assassination weapon was a cellular phone rigged with an explosive. "It was a quiet explosion, and they got what they desired -- his head," said the **Hamas** official.

In many parts of Gaza, cell phones are the primary means of communication.

Though the Israeli Government would never publicly acknowledge a political assassination of this sort, it also made no effort to block speculation or leaks from "informed Government sources" about a secret service operation. The Government acted much the same way last October after the assassination in Malta of the head of Islamic Jihad.

If Mr. Ayyash's killing was an Israeli hit, there was also little doubt that it was approved by Prime Minister Shimon Peres, since the secret service would not conduct so sensitive a mission on its own. But Israel's policy for decades has been firm that any terrorist responsible for taking Israeli lives will be hunted down.

Israeli officials interviewed on television and radio were uniformly jubilant. "I can only say one thing, we certainly breathe easier from the fact that Yahya Ayyash is no longer," declared Internal Security Minister Moshe Shahal.

Benjamin Netanyahu, the head of the opposition Likud party, said "If the announcement is true, I welcome it, because that degenerate murdered many innocent people, children, old people, **women**, tourists, Arabs, Jews," said Benjamin Netanyahu, the head of the opposition Likud party.

Palestinian Believed to Be Bombing Mastermind Is Killed

Mr. Ayyash's death, however, was not expected to end Palestinian terrorism, if **Hamas** chose to continue it. The explosive techniques he used were not especially sophisticated, and Israeli security officials said he had prepared many young Islamic militants in the Qassam Brigades.

Graphic

Photos: Abdelatif Ayyash the father of a Palestinian suspected by Israel of planning terrorist attacks, mourned the death of his son. There were calls in West Bank communities for a three-day protest over the killing. (Agence France-Presse); Yahya Ayyash known as "The Engineer," was killed in Beit Lahia in the Gaza Strip, apparently by Israeli secret agents. (Reuters)

Map of Israel (The New York Times)

Load-Date: January 6, 1996

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7 DIE IN ISRAEL SUICIDE BOMBINGS

Pittsburgh Post-Gazette (Pennsylvania)

September 5, 1997, Friday,

SOONER EDITION

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Section: WORLD,

Length: 861 words

Byline: CHARLES M. SENNOTT, BOSTON GLOBE

Dateline: JERUSALEM

Body

Three nail-studded bombs carried by suicide bombers ripped through a crowded pedestrian shopping mall yesterday, killing four other people and themselves, wounding nearly 200 others and striking yet another blow at efforts to resuscitate the peace plan.

The armed wing of the militant Islamic organization **Hamas** claimed responsibility for the attacks in the Ben Yehuda shopping area, which is frequented by tourists to the Holy Land. Just moments after the attack, victims lay bleeding on cobblestone streets lined with shattered glass from blown-out souvenir shops and American fast-food restaurants.

Hopes for peace in the region were dealt a further setback early today as at least 12 Israeli soldiers were killed during a failed commando raid north of Israel's self-declared security zone in southern Lebanon, security officials in Lebanon said.

It was not clear whether Israel's attack, in which several Lebanese fighters also were injured, was ordered in response to the Jerusalem bombings.

The carefully synchronized bombings in Jerusalem came just five days before a planned visit to the Middle East by Secretary of State Madeleine Albright. President Clinton, calling the bombings an "outrageous and inhuman act," said Albright's diplomatic mission now has "added urgency."

"It is clear that the perpetrators . . . intended to kill both innocent people and the peace process itself," Clinton told reporters on Martha's Vineyard. "They must not be allowed to succeed. Everything possible must be done to stop them."

After visiting bandaged and burned victims of the blasts in a Jerusalem hospital, Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu lashed out at the Palestinian leader, Yasser Arafat, and at Palestinian Authority Cabinet members for recently embracing members of **Hamas**. He said those actions encouraged terrorism.

Netanyahu, who called a Cabinet meeting for this morning to decide what actions to take, promised that Israel would "consider all the steps" it deems necessary to protect its citizens. He said there will be no peace process until Palestinian leaders crack down on terrorism.

7 DIE IN ISRAEL SUICIDE BOMBINGS

"Arafat personally hugs and kisses Hamas leaders. His security adviser has said, 'We are partners in the same struggle.' What struggle?" asked Netanyahu. "The struggle to blow up innocent women and children?"

Palestinian sources confirmed that Arafat had been scheduled to meet with political leaders of Hamas last night, but canceled the meeting after the bombings.

Arafat quickly condemned the bombings as "terrorist activities" and vowed to immediately work in cooperation with Israeli authorities to find the perpetrators. But he insisted that extremists of the sort Israel wants captured are operating from abroad, rather than from areas under Palestinian control.

Arafat nevertheless vowed to clamp down on extremists and initiate arrests, but added that "the closures are giving a good background for terrorism." Last night, Palestinian security forces arrested two Hamas leaders in the West Bank, taking them from their homes for interrogation.

Israel yesterday moved immediately to reimpose its strict closures of the West Bank and Gaza Strip, which have been crippling the Palestinian economy by preventing tens of thousands of residents from going to work in Israel. The areas were sealed after the last bombing in Jerusalem, on July 30, but the sanctions had slowly been eased in recent days.

Yesterday's three explosions came a few seconds apart, a quick succession of blasts that ripped through a beautiful, sunny afternoon of tourists and Israelis sitting in cafes, shopping, and strolling Ben Yehuda Street, one of the most popular shopping areas in the heart of West Jerusalem. At least a dozen Americans were among those who suffered minor to moderate injuries, hospital officials said.

Israeli radio quoted police officials as saying that one of the suicide bombers was disguised as a woman, another as an old man before they detonated the nail-packed bombs believed to have been strapped to their bodies.

Hamas has taken responsibility for or is believed to have carried out 13 bombings during the four years of Israeli-Palestinian peace talks. In claiming responsibility yesterday, the group threatened more attacks unless Israeli-held Hamas prisoners are freed by Sept. 14.

Within minutes after yesterday's 3:10 p.m. blasts, there was chaos. Victims with bloodied faces were screaming in the streets as emergency workers moved quickly to rush the injured to hospitals.

The victims of the blasts, apart from the three bombers, were reportedly three young females and a man in his 20s.

Orthodox members of the Jewish burial society meticulously gathered blood and human fragments. They acted in accordance with Jewish tradition that the entire body is sacred and all remains must be buried within 24 hours.

Abie Mendelson, 18, a Los Angeles resident studying in Jerusalem, was sipping a cool drink under an umbrella at an outdoor cafe about 15 feet from where one of the bombs exploded.

"I was just sitting with a friend talking, I heard three loud bangs, and the next thing I knew I was on the ground in a fetal position," said Mendelson.

Graphic

PHOTO (2), PHOTO: Nati Harnik/Associated Press: A woman is consoled by a soldier; after yesterday's bomb blast in Jerusalem's Ben Yehuda mall.; PHOTO: Nati Harnik/Associated Press: Israelis cry at the Ben Yehuda mall after; yesterday's bomb attack.

7 DIE IN ISRAEL SUICIDE BOMBINGS

Load-Date: September 5, 1997

End of Document

Israel to release 1,200 Palestinians

The Gazette (Montreal, Quebec)

October 7, 1995, Saturday, FINAL EDITION

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Byline: AP; WASHINGTON POST

Dateline: JERUSALEM

Body

Israel says it will release 1,200 Palestinian prisoners over the next few days, signaling its intention to swiftly honor a key commitment under the newly ratified accord with the PLO.

Palestinians called yesterday's announcement too little too late, and said Israel's refusal to free at least two of 27 female detainees broke promises made at the negotiating table.

Israeli Foreign Minister Shimon Peres meets Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat at the Erez crossing between Israel and the PLO-ruled Gaza Strip tonight, apparently to work out final details of the accord's implementation.

Talks were scheduled next week between Israeli and Palestinian officials to work out the takeover that will end 28 years of Israeli occupation in West Bank cities.

In a possible boost for the accord, Palestinian officials said the militant Islamic Hamas movement, which vehemently opposes peace with Israel, has tentatively agreed to stop attacking Israelis from PLO-run areas.

A four-man delegation left for Sudan to seek approval from Hamas leaders based there, officials said, speaking on condition of anonymity. If the non-violence pact is approved, it would remove a major threat to Israel-PLO peace.

The pact would be a crucial part of an agreement between the Muslim militants and the PLO to include Hamas in Palestinian politics, but it was not clear whether the group's hard-line leaders abroad would approve an end to attacks on Israel.

Hamas has carried out a series of suicide bombings that have killed dozens of Israelis since Israel and the PLO made peace two years ago.

The latest pact, on expanding West Bank autonomy, barely won the approval of Israel's parliament early yesterday, squeaking by with a 61-59 vote.

The agreement, signed last week at the White House, calls for an Israeli troop withdrawal from Palestinian cities by the end of the year, the deployment of 12,000 armed Palestinian police in the West Bank and Palestinian general elections by spring.

"Within two weeks we should be in charge of all the civil authorities in the West Bank," said top Palestinian negotiator Jamil Tarifi.

Israel to release 1,200 Palestinians

Other Palestinian officials were less optimistic about the transition and criticized Israel's decision not to release all 27 Palestinian women prisoners.

Israel said four women convicted of homicide will remain behind bars.

ADDITIONAL REPORTING: WASHINGTON POST

Load-Date: October 8, 1995

End of Document

**GRIEF AND RAGE MINGLE IN ISRAEL AFTER ATTACK;
NETANYAHU VOWS TO 'DO WHATEVER IS NECESSARY TO PROTECT MY
PEOPLE'**

St. Louis Post-Dispatch (Missouri)

August 1, 1997, Friday, FIVE STAR LIFT EDITION

Copyright 1997 St. Louis Post-Dispatch, Inc.

Section: NEWS, Pg. 12A

Length: 716 words

Byline: Compiled From News Services

Dateline: JERUSALEM

Body

Mourners screamed at Cabinet members over the grave of a bombing victim Thursday, crying out for tough action against Palestinian militants for the suicide bombing of a market in Jerusalem.

"You lied to us!" a grieving man shouted to Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu's finance minister at one of 11 funerals that turned Israel's capital into a city of grief.

Netanyahu promised to "do whatever is necessary to protect my people" and threatened to send troops into Palestinian territories to stop any new terror attacks. A Palestinian negotiator said that would amount to a "declaration of war."

Israel's government struck out at Palestinians - leaders, militants and citizens - over Wednesday's twin suicide-bombing, which killed 15 people and wounded more than 150. Israeli security forces arrested dozens of Palestinians, Israeli planes hovered over Yasser Arafat's headquarters and the Gaza Strip, and Israeli guards closed the nation's borders to all Palestinians.

Netanyahu accused Arafat of having done "damn all" to tackle violence and said the international community had an obligation to demand action. "I believe that peace can move forward only if the Palestinian Authority and Yasser Arafat undertake what he hasn't done so far, and that is a full court press against the terrorists. They must live up to their obligations," he said.

At the funeral of one bombing victim, David Nasco, 43, a shoe store owner, Israeli mourners turned on members of Netanyahu's government.

"You lied to us!" one man cried to Finance Minister Yaacov Neeman over Nasco's grave. "We voted for you because you said you'd be strong, but you're just like the Labor government - weak, in the hands of Arafat."

Hundreds of people - sobbing women in head scarves and men singing psalms - attended Nasco's funeral. "Death to the Arabs and Arafat!" some shouted. Others focused their anger on Public Safety Minister Avigdor Kahalani, calling: "You promised us peace! We want action!"

GRIEF AND RAGE MINGLE IN ISRAEL AFTER ATTACK; NETANYAHU VOWS TO 'DO WHATEVER IS NECESSARY TO PROTECT MY PEOPLE'

Kahalani promised: "We will do everything possible to hurt these murderers. We didn't fail. We'll figure it out."

Israel suspended peace talks immediately after Wednesday's blasts, which occurred just days after the two sides had agreed to return to the negotiating table after a four-month deadlock. And the Israeli army said its forces had detained 28 Palestinians overnight in connection with "hostile terrorist activities."

Palestinian security officials said they had arrested at least 10 activists of the militant groups Islamic Jihad and **Hamas** in the Palestinian-ruled Bethlehem area. They said they also had made arrests in other areas under their control but gave no details.

In the Gaza's Khan Younis, Palestinian forces arrested Abdel Aziz Rantisi, a **Hamas** political leader, his brother said. Rantisi is the No. 2 official of **Hamas** in Gaza, Palestinian media sources said.

A leaflet signed by **Hamas** took responsibility for the attacks.

A second **Hamas** leaflet, cited by the Israeli daily Haaretz, said the attack was carried out in response to an Israeli woman's distribution of a flier depicting the Muslim prophet Mohammed as a pig. It said **Hamas** would carry out more attacks if Palestinian prisoners were not released by Sunday.

Israel also ordered the arrest of the Palestinian police chief - whom it accuses of organizing attacks against Jewish settlers - and asked the United States and other foreign donors to suspend aid to Arafat's Palestinian Authority. It stopped the flow of tax revenues to the Palestinians and jammed Palestinian radio and television stations, as well.

Overnight, an Israeli military helicopter hovered over Arafat's headquarters in Gaza City and a military plane circled the Gaza Strip, said Ahmed Qureia, the Palestinian council speaker.

David Bar-Illan, an adviser to Netanyahu, said Israel did not rule out going back into autonomous Palestinian cities, handed over as part of the landmark Israel-Palestinian peace accords. "We are not going to respect any lines," he said. "The whole world recognizes the right of governments to protect their citizens."

In Jericho, Nabil Abourdeineh, Arafat's spokesman, condemned what he called Israel's "dangerous decisions," saying they "will destroy the peace process."

"We consider this a declaration of war," he said, urging Israel to "come back to negotiations."

Graphic

PHOTO, Photo from AP - Tikva Nasco mourns at a Jerusalem cemetery Thursday for her husband, David Nasco, one of the victims in Wednesday's suicide bombing.

Load-Date: August 15, 1997

Hostage killed;
Soldier slain as Israeli troops storm West Bank house

Pittsburgh Post-Gazette (Pennsylvania)

October 15, 1994, Saturday,

REGION EDITION

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Section: WORLD,

Length: 1120 words

Byline: Ron Kampeas, The Associated Press

Dateline: BIR NABALA, West Bank

Body

Israeli commandos stormed an isolated safe house where Islamic militants were holding a soldier hostage yesterday, but the raid ended in tragedy when the soldier was killed along with three of his kidnappers.

One Israeli commando was killed and eight others were wounded in the raid, which occurred about 90 minutes before the 9 p.m. deadline kidnappers had set for killing Cpl. Nachshon Waxman, a 19-year-old Israeli-American.

One of the kidnappers was captured along with an accomplice who rented the hideout for the radicals just north of Jerusalem in the village of Bir Nabala, part of the Israeli-occupied West Bank and only two miles from Waxman's home.

The Islamic group **Hamas** had kidnapped Waxman on Sunday, demanding the release of their jailed spiritual leader, Sheik Ahmed Yassin, and 200 other prisoners.

Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin, who won a share of the Nobel Peace Prize earlier in the day, said that Waxman had been killed by his captors.

Rabin said he ordered the operation after he got firm word yesterday morning that the hostage was being held in this West Bank village.

Until then, he said Israel was certain the soldier was held in Gaza, a Palestinian self-rule area, and he had put intense pressure on PLO leader Yasser Arafat to win his release.

"I would say that I would be happy to give back the Nobel Peace Prize to bring back to life both of the soldiers who fell," Rabin told reporters at a late night news conference at the Defense Ministry.

The raid came even though Dr. Mahmoud Zahar, a top **Hamas** political leader, had just agreed to postpone the execution deadline by 24 hours. When he received news of the raid, a grim-faced Zahar stormed out of his Gaza City home, brushing aside reporters.

Lt. Gen. Ehud Barak, the chief of staff, said Waxman had been shot in the neck and chest after his hands and legs were tied -- either during the raid or just before.

Hostage killed; Soldier slain as Israeli troops storm West Bank house

The kidnapping had snarled the peace process and spoiled the award of the Nobel Peace Prize yesterday to Rabin, Foreign Minister Shimon Peres and Arafat for last year's peace treaty.

Rabin angrily condemned the fundamentalists and reaffirmed his government's policy of refusing to negotiate with terrorists. He said he had sent an emissary to discuss the demands when he thought he had no military option.

"Whoever wants to advance peace must fight the radical, murderous terrorists of Hamas and Islamic Jihad and the rejectionists because they are the murderers of peace," he said.

Barak said that soldiers blew open the door of the house with explosives and charged inside to find that Nachshon had been killed by his kidnappers.

Before going in, they offered the kidnappers a chance to surrender, but the Islamic militants shouted back that the soldier was dead.

Killed along with Waxman was an Israeli officer, identified at the scene as Capt. Nir Poraz, along with three captors.

Residents said that the army commandos entered the village of 7,000 people about 7:30 p.m. and that the operation lasted about one hour.

The commandos fired rockets and anti-tank shells at the house, a two-story white building in a newly constructed area, Israeli sources said. The kidnappers responded with automatic rifle fire.

News of the raid was held back by Israeli military censors for several hours until relatives of the victims could be notified. Israeli television reported that friends and neighbors streamed to the Waxman home, many of them reciting Psalms.

The raid followed negotiations between an aide to Rabin and Zahar. An Arab member of Israel's parliament, Talab al-Sanaa, and the head of the Islamic movement in Israel, Raid Salah, acted as intermediaries.

Zahar had announced that Hamas would delay the deadline by 24 hours when Israel indicated it was willing to release Sheik Yassin and other prisoners.

"There was hope, but Rabin killed the hope and the soldier," said Sanaa. "There were chances to bring out the soldier alive."

Rabin said that at one point he had been willing to "seriously consider" any offer to trade Yassin for the soldier but said this was never a serious option.

Israel previously said Waxman was being held somewhere in the Palestinian autonomy zone, and both Rabin and U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher had warned Arafat that it was his responsibility to secure Waxman's release.

"We have to draw our lessons from this harsh experience," the PLO's observer at the United Nations, M. Nasser al-Kidwa, said in New York late yesterday. "Most important of which is to avoid jumping to conclusions and holding your partners in the peace process responsible for something for which you don't have proof. ... "

"We have to have the courage and the determination now to go on and resume the (peace) process," he said.

The Israelis had suspended the peace talks after the kidnapping.

Arafat was "saddened" by the news of Waxman's death, said his spokesman Marwan Kanafani.

Kanafani said Arafat was calling on Rabin to immediately lift the closure of the Gaza Strip, imposed Tuesday.

Hostage killed; Soldier slain as Israeli troops storm West Bank house

Arafat had previously avoided cracking down on Hamas. But more than 160 Hamas activists were rounded up by Palestinian police in a two-day sweep in the Gaza Strip that was launched as a result of mounting Israeli and U.S. pressure.

Hamas' Zahar had demanded their release and warned of street violence if the raids continued.

Hamas staged a show of strength at the three-story Palestine Mosque, the largest in Gaza city, where 10,000 worshippers gathered for Friday noon prayers.

Mocking Palestinian police efforts to catch the kidnappers, Zahar told the congregation that "if the Israeli soldiers didn't succeed in capturing the Izzedine fighters, the Palestinian police will not do so either."

Hamas activists held in Israel's tent prison camp in the southern Negev Desert had urged the kidnappers not to be hasty in killing Waxman. "Don't waste the winning card in your hand after this heroic operation," said a prisoners' leaflet.

Before dawn yesterday, Palestinian police using night-vision equipment and spotlights fanned out across Gaza, searching orange groves and fields. Some 9,500 Palestinian police officers were involved in the search.

In a video released by the kidnappers, a fearful Waxman had pleaded with Rabin to release the Palestinian prisoners, saying he would be killed otherwise.

In Jerusalem, Waxman's despondent mother asked Jewish women around the world to light a Sabbath candle for her son as the deadline drew near.

Esther Waxman, an immigrant from New York, made a moving appeal for her son to be strong.

"Nachson, the Sabbath is a day of serenity, peace and joy. We will say our normal Sabbath prayers with extra devotion. You are in our hearts every second. Be strong and courageous," she said.

Graphic

PHOTO, MAP, Associated Press: The fundamentalist group Hamas released this videotape of Nachson Waxman in captivity.; The Associated Press

Load-Date: October 18, 1994

PLO-ISLAMIC CLASHES LEAVE 13 DEAD ARAFAT'S POLICE FIGHT YOUTHS AT MOSQUE

The Philadelphia Inquirer

November 19, 1994 Saturday FINAL EDITION

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Byline: Alan Sipress, INQUIRER STAFF WRITER

Dateline: GAZA CITY, Gaza Strip

Body

In the worst violence since the start of Palestinian self-rule six months ago, at least 13 Gazans were killed yesterday and more than 150 injured during clashes between thousands of youths and PLO police.

The running battles, which erupted after police opened fire on worshipers leaving a mosque affiliated with the fundamentalist group **Hamas**, represented the most alarming threat yet to the standing of PLO Chairman Yasir Arafat and his increasingly unpopular peace talks with Israel.

But the nature of the violence was not new - it bore a chilling resemblance to the intifadah, the six-year Palestinian uprising against Israel.

Once again, Gaza's streets swelled with thousands of rock-throwing youths, and the stone walls echoed with volleys from automatic weapons. Once again, the air was cut by the wail of ambulance sirens and grief-stricken **women**. And once again, mosque loudspeakers blared the chanting of Koranic verses to mourn the death of "martyrs" and appealed for blood donors.

"It's begun an intifadah again - against Arafat," said one youth, as he ran toward the helmeted riot police with a chunk of cement clasped in his throwing hand.

Arafat called a meeting late last night with leaders of the Islamic opposition in a bid to defuse the conflict, which spread the length of the Gaza Strip before ebbing at nightfall. Although as many as 300 youths supporting the militant Islamic movements **Hamas** and Islamic Jihad were arrested during the afternoon clashes, PLO officials said they had no plans to crack down on the leadership.

"There is an interest in making negotiations with them to reach a solution," said Riad Zaanoun, the Palestinian health minister. "Some of them are doing their best to try to calm their people down."

PLO-ISLAMIC CLASHES LEAVE 13 DEAD ARAFAT'S POLICE FIGHT YOUTHS AT MOSQUE

The violence was the latest step in a dangerous dance between Arafat's government and the Islamic opposition. For weeks, the two sides have alternated between dialogue over limited power sharing and confrontation, with more than 100 Islamic Jihad members arrested just in the last week. Both sides had diligently avoided armed clashes until yesterday, warning that civil war would be the Gaza Strip's worst possible fate.

The latest trouble began after midday prayers when thousands of worshipers confronted about 200 police who had surrounded the Palestine Mosque, one of Gaza City's largest mosques and a prime pulpit for Hamas preachers. Angered by previous displays of defiance, the police deployed in riot gear to head off a Hamas rally planned after the main weekly prayer.

The exact cause of the violence remains unclear. In an official statement, the police command said militants had raised banners and slogans against the Palestinian authority before suddenly opening fire on the officers. One police officer was killed and 10 injured, according to the official statement. Only then did the police move against the worshipers, the statement said.

But witnesses said the confrontation began after police tried to dismantle a loudspeaker used in broadcasting Hamas slogans and to intimidate the worshipers by firing into the air.

As the worshipers uttered the last words of the prayer, witnesses said, they heard the gunshots outside. They raced into the street, grabbing the shoes they had left by the door and chanting "Allahu Akbar!" - God is great. Some of the worshipers began throwing stones and bottles, prompting the police to shoot into the crowd, witnesses said. At least two people were killed in front of the mosque and dozens injured.

"The Palestinian authority wanted to show they are strong because they discovered the Islamic movements are increasing," said Mahmoud Haniyah, who had been standing on the steps of the mosque beside his neighbor's 13-year-old son when the boy was wounded in the abdomen by a police bullet.

Islamic leaders quickly arranged funeral marches for those killed. When they paraded past the central jail and a main police station, new clashes erupted between the marchers and security officers. Word of the shootings spread, sparking more demonstrations in the towns of Rafah and Dair Al Balah as well as several refugee camps in the central Gaza Strip, officials said.

Even Shifa Hospital became a battleground. Outside, a mob chanted, "Arafat, you are a killer" and "Arafat, you are a traitor," while militants and PLO police exchanged gunfire in the street. Ambulances became backed up at the emergency-room door. Doctors were forced to attend to victims on muddy, blood-splattered floors because of a shortage of beds.

Many Palestinians were visibly shaken by the violent response of the police. Only last spring the officers had been joyously welcomed home by the public when they returned to the Gaza Strip after years of exile; they were offered kisses and coffee and flowers.

"These are our brothers. I don't know how our brothers can shoot at us," said Hamed Ali, 28, standing beside a bloodstain on Gaza's main street. "Everyone in Gaza prefers that the Israelis were here now. To be a martyr fighting our enemies is one thing. But to be a martyr at the hands of our brothers is forbidden."

He anxiously watched the surging crowd. A mass of stone-throwers, some not even in their teens yet, swelled through a main market street. Blasts of gunfire sent them scurrying. Moments later, they surged forward again, trying to tear down the chain-link fence around a central police station. Hundreds screamed slogans for Izzedine al-Qassam, the armed wing of Hamas responsible for recent attacks inside Israel, including the bombing of a bus in Tel Aviv last month. Another blast of gunfire again cleared the street, briefly. Another ambulance screeched off for the hospital.

"The soldiers of Palestine are shooting the people of Palestine," said one distraught man.

During the clashes, militants burned at least two police jeeps and set fire to two theaters and several shops in downtown Gaza City before drifting home, quieted in part by appeals from Hamas leaders. In addition, the police

PLO-ISLAMIC CLASHES LEAVE 13 DEAD ARAFAT'S POLICE FIGHT YOUTHS AT MOSQUE

responded with unprecedented security measures, placing part of the Gaza Strip under curfew for the first time during self-rule. Key roads were closed, checkpoints erected and officers took up position on downtown rooftops.

Still, the sound of gunfire continued into the night and tires burned in back streets for the first time in months.

Some Palestinians feared that the funerals planned for today could provoke a new round of street battles. In effort to reassert control, Arafat convened a meeting last night of civic leaders from across the Gaza Strip. His advisers said he would explain the disturbances, seeking help in calming the public. Arafat also met during the afternoon and evening with several ministers and top security officers.

"This is a very dangerous situation and we are studying it hard," said Planning Minister Nabil Shaath, a top adviser. "We will take a decision that preserves security and peace in this place."

Arafat has been squeezed between the demands of Israelis to crack down on militant Muslims and the sentiment of the street, which sees Hamas and Islamic Jihad as legitimate opposition movements. Israeli officials said yesterday that the violence demonstrated the hazards of tolerating the militants.

"Yasir Arafat is beginning to understand the threat of Islamic fundamentalists," said Nissim Zvilli, head of Israel's ruling Labor Party.

But a Hamas spokesman in Jordan echoed the feelings of many Palestinians, who believe Arafat is doing Israel's bidding by confronting the militants. Ibrahim Ghosheh swore Hamas would avenge the deaths yesterday.

"We'll confront the authority the same way we've confronted the Zionist enemy throughout the years," he said.

Graphic

PHOTO;

PHOTO (3)

1. Worshipers pour out of the Palestine Mosque in Gaza City and throw stones

at PLO police, who were trying to head off a Hamas rally. (Associated Press
, NABIL JUDAH)

2. Palestinians hurl stones toward Palestinian police, who respond with
gunfire outside the mosque in Gaza City. More than 150 were wounded. (Reuters
, AHMED JADALLAH)

3. Hundreds of chanting Palestinians accompany one of the victims who was
killed during a battle outside the Gaza City mosque. The victim was being
carried to his grave yesterday.

Load-Date: October 21, 2002

Palestinians Seize 100 Militants Who Oppose Talks With Israel

The New York Times

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Length: 990 words

Byline: By YOUSSEF M. IBRAHIM

By YOUSSEF M. IBRAHIM

Dateline: GAZA, April 10

Body

The Palestinian police announced today that they had arrested more than 100 members of **Hamas** and Islamic Holy War, the militant groups that took responsibility for two anti-Israeli bombings on Sunday in the Gaza Strip.

The death toll among victims of the bombings rose to eight, when an Israeli soldier and an American student died today.

This morning, a new military-style court set up by the Palestinian Authority to crack down on militants also issued its first sentence: a 34-year-old member of Islamic Holy War was sentenced to 15 years in jail on charges of training youths to attack Israelis.

The actions indicated a stiffening of Yasir Arafat's resolve to deal forcefully with the radical Palestinians who are challenging his authority. Senior Palestinian officials said that they would widen their crackdown, but that they remained persuaded that the only way to curb the violence would be to improve the economic situation in Gaza.

Despite the crackdown, there was defiance today from the militants.

Mahmoud Zahar, the most senior member of **Hamas** in Gaza, said in an interview at the Islamic University that the official moves were "empty gestures" and that similar tactics by the Israeli Army when it occupied Gaza had failed to end resistance.

Dr. Zahar, a physician and university professor, contended that Mr. Arafat would pay a heavy price in popularity for the arrests, but would not stop attacks against Jewish settlements in Gaza and targets in Israel.

The death toll among victims of Sunday's bombings rose to eight today with the death of the American student and an Israeli. The seven Israelis who died, five men and two **women**, were soldiers. More than 40 people were wounded. Two bombers also died.

The American student was Alisa M. Flatow, 20, a Brandeis University junior from West Orange, N.J., who had been spending a semester studying in Jerusalem. She had been traveling to a beach resort at a Jewish settlement in the

Palestinians Seize 100 Militants Who Oppose Talks With Israel

Gaza Strip and was wounded in the head in the first of the bombings. Her father, Stephen, said some of her organs would be given to transplant patients.

Israel barred Palestinians from a six-mile stretch of Gaza's main north-south road between Kfar Darom and Netzarim, the Jewish settlements where the attacks occurred, Israeli security officials said today. Two roads linking the settlements with Israel were also closed.

In Khan Yunis, in the south of the Gaza Strip, the police exchanged fire with **Hamas** gunmen before arresting two of them, Palestinians said. There were no reports of injuries.

[The Palestinian police and Islamic militants exchanged fire in Gaza early on Tuesday, Reuters reported, quoting residents and officials. There were no reports of casualties.]

Nabil Abu Irdeina, Mr. Arafat's spokesman, said in an interview on Sunday that the Palestine Liberation Organization knows the "peace process is facing a real danger."

He contended that the "main danger to the whole process is Israel's constant search for excuses to delay its withdrawal from the West Bank and the rest of Gaza, and the economic strangulation of Gaza and the Palestinians."

A number of countries have committed funds to help the Palestinian Authority improve conditions, but most of the funds have yet to be delivered. In addition, from time to time Israel has barred Palestinian workers from entering Israel. Mr. Abu Irdeina said blocking the workers had aggravated the tensions among the million Palestinians living in the narrow Gaza Strip.

Still, today's sentencing by the special court and the roundup of suspects was meant to send a message both to Israel and to Islamic militants that the Palestinian Authority is serious about its efforts to stop attacks on Israeli targets.

The court sentenced the militant, Samir Ali el-Jedi, after an all-night trial that was closed to the public. Mr. Jedi had been charged with training Palestinians, including teen-agers, for suicide missions against Israelis, a copy of a judgment said. He is the first Palestinian sentenced to prison by the Palestinian Authority for anti-Israeli activities.

Today spokesmen for **Hamas** and Islamic Holy War, which oppose peace talks with Israel, said they would continue to attack Israelis.

"Arresting people will not solve the problem," said Dr. Zahar, of **Hamas**. "The Israelis have tried that before. The P.L.O. is doing the same thing now and getting the same reception. When they show up at homes to arrest our people, their cars are stoned and children spit at them."

Dr. Zahar said **Hamas** was determined to avoid a confrontation with the P.L.O. and with Mr. Arafat, the group's chairman. "Why should we have a confrontation with him?" he asked. "He is losing his popularity every time he uses the word 'terrorists' to describe Palestinians fighting against Israeli occupation."

There are indeed increasing signs that the P.L.O. is losing support.

On Friday, in what amounted to the first open election under the Palestinian Authority, **Hamas** adherents in the nurses' union won all 11 seats on the governing board. The **Hamas** supporters had run against a bloc of P.L.O. supporters and candidates from the leftist Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine.

Israel has argued that the suicide bombings and other attacks against its civilians and soldiers could lead it to reconsider whether self-rule will be expanded beyond Jericho to the rest of the West Bank. Sunday's killings brought to 64 the number of Israelis killed in attacks since October for which **Hamas** and Islamic Holy War have taken responsibility.

The P.L.O. contends that it is under siege both by Islamic militants and by Israeli hard-liners.

Palestinians Seize 100 Militants Who Oppose Talks With Israel

"We consider what happened yesterday to be a challenge against the people of Gaza and their interests," Mr. Abu Irdeina said, referring to the bombings. "We are being squeezed by extremists on both sides. But if we lose, the Israelis will lose too, and everyone will pay the price, which will be the death of the peace process itself."

Graphic

Photo: Israeli soldiers comforted each other yesterday at the funeral of a colleague killed in the Gaza Strip. (Associated Press)

Load-Date: April 11, 1995

End of Document

ISRAEL BEGINS THE FREEING OF JAILED PALESTINIANS

Evening Standard (London)

October 25, 1993, Monday

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Section: Pg. 21

Length: 459 words

Body

ISRAEL committed itself to start releasing hundreds of jailed Palestinians today under its accord with the PLO, despite the kidnap-killing of two soldiers by Moslem militants trying to wreck the pact.

Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin, defending the peace he made with Yasser Arafat's Palestine Liberation Organisation last month in a startling reversal of decades of strife, said it had kept a pledge to avoid violence.

But he said rejectionist Palestinians were doing 'everything they can to heighten terror' and turn Israelis against the peace accord.

The army said gunmen of the Moslem fundamentalist movement Hamas, disguised as Jews, abducted and shot dead two army reservists in the occupied Gaza Strip.

Hamas, the chief Palestinian rival to the PLO, opposes peace moves with Israel and says it will continue to fight to overthrow the Jewish state.

Hamas and Islamic Jihad fundamentalists have killed eight Israelis since news of the PLO-Israeli agreement deal on Palestinian self-rule emerged in early September.

The Israeli army, stating that the release of about 700 Palestinian prisoners would begin as planned, added: 'The army will continue its unrelenting battle against terrorist and extremist elements who are continuing to perpetrate attacks. Members of Hamas and Islamic Jihad will not be released.'

Israel holds a total of about 13,000 Palestinian prisoners and Mr Rabin, in talks with the PLO, has agreed to start freeing them gradually.

The release, initially to include only women, the sick and the old and the young, is intended to shore up Palestinian backing for the peace pact providing for Israeli withdrawal from the Gaza Strip and Jericho on the West Bank.

Angry Israeli hardliners, reacting to the killing of the two kidnapped army reservists, called for the cancellation of the mass release.

Gaza settlers' leader Zvi Hendel said: 'It is certainly impossible to free murderers when terror continues to run wild.'

Mr Rabin stood his ground, however. 'We will support and encourage those (Palestinians) who want to be faithful to their obligation to the agreement,' he said.

ISRAEL BEGINS THE FREEING OF JAILED PALESTINIANS

But a **Hamas** leaflet directed at Mr Rabin said: 'Your soldiers and settlers will be our targets everywhere and we will not let you sleep or move in our land safely. Death will chase you everywhere.'

Mr Rabin said all recent attacks on Israelis were aimed at wrecking the peace process.

'We must, hard as this is, fight against those who want to damage the process, who kill Jews in the hope the Israeli public will turn against the pact,' he said.

He said Arafat's Fatah movement had kept its promise to refrain from attacks on Jews, adding that overall violence in the occupied territories had dropped by about 50 per cent since the peace agreement was signed.

Graphic

RAVIV (RIGHT) PUTS THE FINISHING TOUCHES TO THE FIGURE OF YITZHAK RABIN

Load-Date: November 10, 1993

End of Document

TERRORISTS KILL YOUNG ISRAELI HOSTAGE

Charleston Gazette (West Virginia)

October 15, 1994, Saturday

Copyright 1994 Charleston Newspapers

Section: News; Pg. P1A

Length: 1109 words

Body

By Ron Kampeas BIR NABALA, West Bank (AP) _ Israeli commandos stormed an isolated safe house where Islamic militants were holding a soldier hostage Friday, but the raid ended in tragedy when the soldier was killed along with three of his kidnappers.

One Israeli commando also was killed and eight others were wounded in the raid, which occurred about 90 minutes before the 9 p .m. deadline kidnappers had set for killing Cpl. Nachshon Waxman, a 19-year-old Israeli-American.

One of the kidnappers was captured along with an accomplice who rented the hideout for the radicals just north of Jerusalem in the village of Bir Nabala, part of the Israeli-occupied West Bank and only two miles from Waxman's home.

The Islamic group **Hamas** had kidnapped Waxman on Sunday, demanding the release of their jailed spiritual leader, Sheik Ahmed Yassin, and 200 other prisoners.

Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin, who won a share of the Nobel Peace Prize earlier in the day, said that Waxman had been killed by his captors.

Rabin said he ordered the operation after he got firm word Friday morning that the hostage was being held in this West Bank

TERRORISTS KILL YOUNG ISRAELI HOSTAGE

village.

Until then, he said Israel was certain the soldier was held in Gaza, a Palestinian self-rule area, and he had put intense pressure on PLO leader Yasser Arafat to win his release.

"I would say that I would be happy to give back the Nobel Peace Prize to bring back to life both of the soldiers who fell," Rabin told reporters at a late night news conference at the Defense Ministry.

The raid came even though Dr. Mahmoud Zahar, a top **Hamas** political leader, had just agreed to postpone the execution deadline by 24 hours. When he received news of the raid, a grim-faced Zahar stormed out of his Gaza City home, brushing aside reporters.

Lt. Gen. Ehud Barak, the chief of staff, said Waxman had been shot in the neck and chest after his hands and legs were tied _ either during the raid or just before.

The kidnapping had snarled the peace process and spoiled the award of the Nobel Peace Prize on Friday to Rabin, Foreign Minister Shimon Peres and Arafat for last year's peace treaty.

Rabin angrily condemned the fundamentalists and reaffirmed his government's policy of refusing to negotiate with terrorists. He said he had sent an emissary to discuss the demands when he thought he had no military option.

"Whoever wants to advance peace must fight the radical, murderous terrorists of **Hamas** and Islamic Jihad and the rejectionists because they are the murderers of peace," he said.

Barak said that soldiers blew open the door of the house with explosives and charged inside to find that Nachshon had been killed by his kidnappers.

Before going in, they offered the kidnappers a chance to surrender, but the Islamic militants shouted back that the soldier

TERRORISTS KILL YOUNG ISRAELI HOSTAGE

was dead.

Killed along with Waxman was an Israeli officer, identified at the scene as Capt. Nir Poraz, along with three captors.

Residents said that the army commandos entered the village of 7,000 people about 7:30 p.m. and that the operation lasted about one hour.

The commandos fired rockets and anti-tank shells at the house, a two-story white building in a newly constructed area, Israeli sources said. The kidnappers responded with automatic rifle fire.

News of the raid was held back by Israeli military censors for several hours until relatives of the victims could be notified.

Israeli television reported that friends and neighbors streamed to the Waxman home, many of them reciting Psalms.

The raid followed negotiations between an aide to Rabin and Zahar. An Arab member of Israel's parliament, Talab al-Sanaa, and the head of the Islamic movement in Israel, Raid Salah, acted as intermediaries.

Zahar had announced that **Hamas** would delay the deadline by 24 hours when Israel indicated it was willing to release Sheik Yassin and other prisoners.

"There was hope, but Rabin killed the hope and the soldier," said Sanaa. "There were chances to bring out the soldier alive."

Rabin said that at one point he had been willing to "seriously consider" any offer to trade Yassin for the soldier but said this was never a serious option.

Israel previously said Waxman was being held somewhere in the Palestinian autonomy zone, and both Rabin and U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher had warned Arafat that it was his responsibility to secure Waxman's release. "We have to draw our lessons from this harsh experience," the PLO's observer at the United Nations, M.

TERRORISTS KILL YOUNG ISRAELI HOSTAGE

Nasser al-Kidwa, said in New York late Friday. ""Most important of which is to avoid jumping to conclusions and holding your partners in the peace process responsible for something for which you don't have proof."

"We have to have the courage and the determination now to go on and resume the peace process," he said.

The Israelis had suspended the peace talks after the kidnapping Arafat was "saddened" by the news of Waxman's death, said his spokesman Marwan Kanafani.

Kanafani said Arafat was calling on Rabin to immediately lift the closure of the Gaza Strip, imposed Tuesday.

Arafat had previously avoided cracking down on **Hamas**. But more than 160 **Hamas** activists were rounded up by Palestinian police in a two-day sweep in the Gaza Strip that was launched as a result of mounting Israeli and U.S. pressure.

Hamas Zahar had demanded their release and warned of street violence if the raids continued.

Hamas staged a show of strength at the three-story Palestine Mosque, the largest in Gaza city, where 10,000 worshipers gathered for Friday noon prayers.

Mocking Palestinian police efforts to catch the kidnappers, Zahar told the congregation that "if the Israeli soldiers didn't succeed in capturing the Izzedine fighters, the Palestinian police will not do so either."

Hamas activists held in Israel's tent prison camp in the southern Negev Desert had urged the kidnappers not to be hasty in killing Waxman. "Don't waste the winning card in your hand after this heroic operation," said a prisoners' leaflet.

Before dawn Friday, Palestinian police using night-vision equipment and spotlights fanned out across Gaza, searching orange

TERRORISTS KILL YOUNG ISRAELI HOSTAGE

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In a video released by the kidnappers, a fearful Waxman had pleaded with Rabin to release the Palestinian prisoners, saying he would be killed otherwise.

In Jerusalem, Waxman's despondent mother asked Jewish women around the world to light a Sabbath candle for her son as the deadline drew near.

Esther Waxman, an immigrant from New York, made a moving appeal for her son to be strong.

"Nachson, the Sabbath is a day of serenity, peace and joy. We will say our normal Sabbath prayers with extra devotion. You are in our hearts every second. Be strong and courageous," she said.

Load-Date: January 30, 1995

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Section: News; Pg. P1A

Length: 1109 words

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Load-Date: January 30, 1995

Voters defy boycott call to give Arafat ballot box triumph

The Times

January 22, 1996; Monday

Copyright 1996 Times Newspapers Limited

Section: Overseas news

Length: 903 words

Byline: From Christopher Walker in Jerusalem

Body

Islamic hardliners snubbed as women lead march to the polls in first Palestinian elections

ISLAMIC militants suffered a humiliating defeat in the first Palestinian general elections as voters overwhelmingly ignored their boycott call and gave Yassir Arafat, the veteran leader of the Palestine Liberation Organisation, a sweeping victory.

With most of the ballots counted yesterday, turnout among the one million eligible voters was estimated at 75 per cent, much higher than predicted. Women led the throng at polling booths, often without the male members of their family, to demonstrate their defiance of attempts by the extremists to impose dress and other social codes on them.

This is the biggest defeat that the hardline Muslims have suffered in any Middle Eastern election in recent years and a body blow for countries like Iran which oppose the peace process between Israel and the PLO," a leading European diplomat said. There is real hope tonight that this could be the beginning of a trend that could signify a reversal for the fundamentalists elsewhere in the Arab world."

Election officials declared that, with the Jerusalem votes still to come, 88.1 per cent of Palestinians who voted chose Mr Arafat as their President rather than Samiha Khalil, 72, a grandmother and opponent of the Oslo peace process, who was his only challenger. She received 9.3 per cent of the vote. Senior Israeli defence officials, meanwhile, issued a warning that the high voter turnout had increased frustration within the ranks of Hamas, the Islamic Resistance Movement. They said this had increased the likelihood of new suicide-bomb raids.

Shimon Peres, the Israeli Prime Minister, was one of the first politicians to note the significance of Hamas's setback. He said: The Hamas movement has taken a blow, because it has turned out that a decisive majority of Palestinians are for the Oslo agreements. The rifles and bombs of Hamas can only bring about more catastrophe to the Palestinians. They are remnants of the Mufti, remnants of bygone days."

Despite occasional discrepancies, including alleged Israeli intimidation of Palestinian voters in annexed east Jerusalem, Saturday's historic poll was judged as fair and democratic" by a team of more than 300 European observers who monitored both the vote and the count.

Mr Peres told his Cabinet colleagues that if Yitzhak Rabin, his predecessor who was assassinated by a Jewish opponent of peace, had been alive, the conduct and results of the election would have been one of true joy for him".

Voters defy boycott call to give Arafat ballot box triumph

Attempts by Hamas and Islamic Jihad to enforce a boycott of the poll were so out of tune with the popular mood among ordinary Palestinians that in Gaza many Hamas activists, including some of its leaders, openly went to the polling stations.

Hasan al-Kashef, a political activist and writer in Gaza, said the high turnout pointed to the marginalisation of the two main Islamic extremist groups. He said the people also defied the boycott calls made by left-wing revolutionary groups which were once powerful within the PLO, such as the Damascus-based Popular and Democratic Fronts for the Liberation of Palestine.

"I believe the elections signal the end of the political instruments which played a part in the Palestinian revolution and the intifada," Mr Kashef said. "People are not voting out of political or clannish convictions, but for personalities. New political trends will eventually emerge in the Palestinian arena."

Barry Rubin, a leading Israeli political scientist, noted that, as well as failing to convince people to boycott the vote, the Islamic extremists had also prevented any of their supporters from securing a seat in the 88-member Palestinian National Council, the de facto Palestinian parliament from which body Mr Arafat will select most of his 25-member Cabinet.

"This has been a big failure by Hamas and the Islamic forces," Mr Rubin said. "They have made a serious mistake. There is not a single radical Islamicist in the new council. They have been shut out and the result of that is increasing legitimacy for Arafat ... They were just not able to keep people from going to vote."

The council will meet for the first time at the end of the fasting month of Ramadan which began yesterday.

A delighted Mr Arafat, 66, who defied both Islamic and Jewish death threats to press ahead with the elections, said: "This is a new era. It is the first legislative and presidential elections for the Palestinian people. This is the foundation for our Palestinian state."

Early last night, as the count was continuing, it became clear that the voters had also shown a considerable degree of sophistication by electing a number of key independent candidates. They will be able to act as a foil to what has been described as Mr Arafat's autocratic style of rule.

Two of the most prominent independent victors were Hanan Ashrawi, who stood at one of the reserved Christian seats in east Jerusalem, and Haidar Abdel-Shafi in Gaza. Both members of the PLO delegation to the 1991 Madrid peace conference, they have since campaigned for Palestinian human rights in the autonomous territory.

Palestinian commentators said that, given their domestic and international reputations, their presence would act as a counterweight in the council which will be dominated by supporters of Mr Arafat's Fatah faction of the PLO, and ensure that it will not just be a rubber-stamp organisation.

Load-Date: February 25, 1996

The war without an end

The Daily Telegraph (Sydney, Australia)

March 9, 1996, Saturday

Copyright 1996 Nationwide News Pty Limited

Length: 1567 words

Byline: BRUCE WILSON

Body

Since February 25, 58 people many of them women and children - have been killed in Israel by Islamic suicide bombers. If this is peace, give us war, say some Israelis. We want war, say some Palestinians.

IT SEEMS to rain on Yasser Arafat's parades, and on Thursday an unseasonal deluge fell across the Gaza Strip on what was to have been a landmark in the foundation of the new Palestinian state.

As the dripping diplomatic corps gathered, having driven through bristling Israeli checkpoints and mud-clogged Gaza roads, those listening to a new call for peace from the veteran Palestinian fighter picked up about one word in four.

The Palestinians have not had a state even the bastardised one they now have for very long, and if the ceremony opening the first Palestinian parliament was verbose, who could blame them? President Arafat - for so long Chairman Arafat, of the non-designer stubble and the holstered handgun - was having his day.

It was a nightmare. Traffic, always bad in the narrow, deprived roads of Gaza, was at a standstill. Mud seemed to be everywhere, and the Mediterranean was whipped into cyclonic waves.

Mr Arafat's credibility was shattered. His own people were on the rampage again.

Israeli politicians and academics were holding him responsible. Life was worse for all sides under peace than it had been under war.

Tens of thousands of Palestinians who might have been there were under curfew, confined to their towns and villages by the Israeli security forces. Many of the saturated speculated, with not a little fervour, that those confined were the lucky ones.

And, if there was mud in Gaza there was blood in Israel, where a peace process that was always fragile is now at a point where one wonders with any confidence where it might go. It was two weeks ago that I wrote almost precisely those words under a different dateline - Belfast.

* * * THE grisly truth is that each time the terrorist wing of the Palestinian group Hamas sets off a bomb, curious electoral things occur across this alien and fractious region bundled under "Middle East", not so much geographically as politically.

The war without an end

The frightful bombs - that killed not a single enemy of the Palestinian people, so far as can be seen, but only a bunch of citizens and tourists and children going about their innocent business - have had two political effects physically distant from one another.

Here in Israel, the right-wing opposition party, Likud, has seen its stocks for the elections to be held in late May climb dramatically with each explosion. Prime Minister Shimon Peres, riding on the national grief at the murder of his predecessor Yitzhak Rabin, had been cruising to victory with his Labour Party until Hamas's bombers struck.

Now, Likud, led by Benjamin "Bibi" Netanyahu, is level-pegging in opinion polls, and if it can forge alliances with the Orthodox Jewish parties of powerful Zionist views could form a government dedicated to reroute the peace process, if not actually derail it.

While this is happening, over in Iran where there are parliamentary elections the fundamentalist Islamic parties are also enjoying a surge with each terrorist bomb that kills Israelis. Iran is known to be a major funder of Hamas, and Iran is poised to become a very troublesome power indeed if the "Fundies" win this election and next year's presidential poll there.

One thing Iran may very well do is use its huge military strength - Israeli intelligence sources told me this week that they believe Iran certainly has, or will soon have, a nuclear capacity - to exercise its claim that it historically owns Bahrain.

That in itself could lead to a new Gulf War, since Iran could effectively close all traffic up and down the Arabian Gulf (the Iranians call it the Persian Gulf) strangling petroleum shipping. The Iranians believe they would be protecting the Shi-ite Muslims of Bahrain against the Sunni Muslims of the rest of the Gulf apart from the Saudi Arabians, who are a different sect again. It might seem a long way from a bomb in a bus in Tel Aviv or Jerusalem, but the term "knock-on effect" was invented for the Middle East.

* * * HERE in Israel, they are following the maxim of Hunter S Thompson that when the going gets weird, the weird goes going.

This week I listened to an official briefing by Dr Raphael Israeli, a Research Associate at the Truman Institute for the Advancement of Peace.

He said he thought the bodies of suicide bombers should be buried wrapped in pigskin, so that - as Muslims and the pig being an unclean animal - they would not get to heaven.

Given the nature of suicide bombing - it has been found the bombers are wearing a form of designer belt, built for the job and made, would you have it, in the USA there is not much left to wrap in the old pigskin. Maybe enough, say, for one of those pork sausage wraps.

Dr Israeli said he had learned of this form of psychological warfare from British counter-terrorist operatives in the old guerilla war on the Malaysian-Thai border. The British, he said, had ordered 100,000 pigskins in which to bury Muslim terrorists, thereby ensuring they would not go to heaven.

It is a nice theory, except that all the terrorists in that particular war were Chinese. Give them a pigskin and they would turn it into boots and then, if necessary, a stir-fry. But Dr Israeli was not to be deterred.

He said that it was necessary to use such methods as pigskin burials to counter the Hamas killers because when a suicide bomber is briefed to go out and kill Israelis amazing promises were held out to him.

"He is offered a heaven where there are fine drinks and virgins," Dr Israeli said.

"Ten virgins in heaven every day. And then, the next day, even though he has had them all, they are virgins again. This is what they believe, and what must be countered."

The war without an end

This briefing, of heaven-full Doris Day look-alikes waiting for young Islamic bombers, was quite literally laid on to the world's press by the Israeli government in its official press centre. It indicates, more than anything else, the concern going all the way across the Israeli spectrum.

In particular, there is the fear in the Labour government that Likud will win the elections and suspend the peace process or even declare a form of war on not just the extremist Palestinians but the entire Palestinian state, such as it is.

Indeed, there is a genuine and serious movement within Likud that wants to spend almost a billion dollars on a fence separating Israel from the new Palestine.

Australians, familiar with the dingo fence concept, a long, unpatrollable barrier in a desert separating insoluble factions, might smile.

* * * THE leadership of Hamas - the name is both an Arabic acronym for Islamic Resistance Movement and a pun, since Hamas means "zeal" - is in three places, according to members of its non-violent political wing.

Up front, Hamas throws its weight around in Gaza. This week, Arafat's police arrested and jailed without charge some 400 members in Gaza, if only to keep the Israelis from doing something drastic.

There are two cells in Gaza, Israeli security believes, and others in Hebron and Ramallah.

The bombers recently involved were based in Ramallah, a town only a short drive from Jerusalem.

"We only want these stupid bastards to stop," said Mahmoud Haseem, a Palestinian from Ramallah who has a decent and well-paid job as a waiter in East Jerusalem but who is now sealed off by the Israeli security forces.

In both Gaza and around the West Bank, Palestinians wanted to go on and form their own state in as much peace as could be found with Israel.

The gifted and insightful Jewish writer Hirsh Goodman asked in print this week the crucial question: "What has to be asked is whether we, Palestinian and Jew, can ever live together - whether this peace treaty is a marriage or a divorce, whether it should lead to separation as Rabin saw it or integration as Peres sees it . . ."

"It is whether the Israeli and Palestinian security services can ever work as one, dedicated to ridding us of this evil among us . . ."

This a theme now picked up by the small army of Israeli academics devoted to considering Palestinian-Israeli relations.

They ask if Yasser Arafat is brave enough, strong enough or - and this is sinister really wants enough to destroy Hamas.

"Arafat needed acts of violence," said Professor Hillel Frisch, who lectures in Israeli-Palestinian affairs in Tel Aviv.

"Hamas is cornered. Arafat knows where they are and he can destroy them if he wants to. For his own reasons, he hesitates."

"Somewhere, though, the right Palestinian leader will soon come forward. We should not be gloomy." Yet, he conceded, armed Palestinian peace-keepers cannot work happily with the Israeli army who have been their enemy.

In Hebron, a West Bank town with a tough Israeli settler population, a Palestinian friend of moderate politics told me that Arafat remains the only Palestinian leader. "Hamas is everywhere, though, and it is an alliance," he said.

This alliance, as almost any Palestinian will tell you, is between Iran and Hamas, and a huge money-laundering operation in the Western world.

The war without an end

Streetwise Israelis will tell you that Likud is not unhappy with this alliance, too. A strong **Hamas**, another bad bomb between now and the May elections, and the mad mullahs of Teheran and the Zionist extremists of Israel will have their ultimate desire.

Endless war.

Load-Date: March 4, 2002

End of Document

Suicide bombers kill 6 Israelis

The Gazette (Montreal, Quebec)

April 10, 1995, Monday, FINAL EDITION

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Section: NEWS; Pg. B1/BREAK

Length: 561 words

Byline: YAROSLAV TROFIMOV; SOUTHAM NEWS; REUTER

Dateline: JERUSALEM, Israel

Body

In a double strike yesterday, two Palestinian suicide bombers killed six Israelis and injured 35 more in the autonomous Gaza Strip.

Among the dead were five soldiers, two of them women. They were returning to their posts guarding Gaza's Jewish settlements after a weekend on leave, the Israeli army said.

Yesterday's attacks, blamed on the Islamic fundamentalist groups Hamas and the Islamic Jihad, prompted several Israeli cabinet ministers and the country's president, Ezer Weismann, to call for a suspension of the peace process with the Palestine Liberation Organization.

But Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin assured a government session late last night that Palestinian self-rule talks will continue despite the violence.

"We will not halt the negotiations, but we demand that the Palestinian Authority in Gaza prove its ability to fight terrorism," Rabin said.

The attacks embarrassed PLO leader Yasser Arafat, who had insisted that Hamas does not kill Israelis inside the Palestinian autonomous area.

"We are committed to confronting terrorism. These people are the enemies of peace," Arafat said in a telephone conversation with Rabin after ordering a crackdown on Hamas militants.

Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak, Jordan's King Hussein and U.S. President Bill Clinton have also expressed their condolences and condemned the killings.

"Once more, the enemies of peace have resorted to violence against innocent citizens of Israel," Clinton said. "But those responsible must not and shall not be allowed to deny a better future of hope and reconciliation to the region."

Both bombings happened on a major Gaza Strip road used jointly by the Palestinians and Israelis travelling between Jewish settlements and Israel proper.

In the first attack, a Palestinian driver, Khaled Mohammed Khatib, 24, crashed his booby-trapped car into an Israeli bus near the settlement of Kfar Darom, witnesses said.

Suicide bombers kill 6 Israelis

Khatib's car blew into pieces on impact, instantly killing five soldiers and wounding soldiers and settlers aboard the bus, witnesses said.

Islamic Jihad claimed responsibility.

Two hours later, another Palestinian suicide bomber, identified as Imad Abu Amuna, 22, from the Shati refugee camp, crashed his explosives-filled vehicle into an Israeli Border Police jeep near the isolated settlement of Netzarim, in the north of the Gaza Strip.

One border policeman and the bomber were killed and several were wounded in the blast, according to the Israeli army.

A **Hamas** statement said the attacks were in revenge for last week's death of Kamal Kheil, one of the most wanted leaders of the militant Izzeddine al-Qassam. Kheil died in a blast that shattered a Gaza City apartment block. Israel and the Palestinian police insisted that Kheil died when a bomb he was building exploded prematurely. But a **Hamas** leaflet issued last week accused Israel and the PLO of planting a bomb in Kheil's apartment.

Shortly after yesterday's bombing, hundreds of Palestinian youths converged on Khatib's house in the Nusseirat refugee camp, celebrating "the martyr's heroic deed", shooting in the air and chanting: "The language of bullets is the only one that will chase the occupiers."

The attacks brought to 66 the number of Israelis killed by Palestinian bombers since Palestinian self-rule began.

Additional Reporting: Reuter

Load-Date: April 11, 1995

Extremists benefit from the bombs

Hobart Mercury (Australia)

March 9, 1996, Saturday

Copyright 1996 Nationwide News Pty Limited

Length: 1431 words

Byline: WILSON BRUCE

Body

Since February 25, 58 people _ many of them women and children _ have been killed in Israel by Islamic suicide bombers. If this is peace, give us war, say some Israelis. We want war say some Palestinians.

BRUCE WILSON in Jerusalem wonders if peace has a chance.

IT seems to rain on Yasser Arafat's parades, and on Thursday an unseasonal deluge fell across the Gaza Strip on what was to have been a landmark in the foundation of the new Palestinian state.

As the dripping diplomatic corps gathered, having driven through bristling Israeli checkpoints, mud clogged the Gaza roads and those listening to a new call for peace from the veteran Palestinian fighter picked up about one word in four.

The Palestinians have not had a state _ even the bastardised one they now have _ for very long, and if the ceremony opening the first Palestinian parliament was verbose, who could blame them? President Arafat _ for so long Chairman Arafat, of the non-designer stubble and the holstered handgun _ was having his day.

It was a nightmare. Traffic, always bad in the narrow, deprived roads of Gaza, was at a standstill. Mud seemed to be everywhere, and the Mediterranean was whipped into cyclonic waves.

Mr Arafat's credibility was shattered. His own people were on the rampage again. Israeli politicians and academics were holding him responsible. Life was worse for all sides under peace than it had been under war.

Tens of thousands of Palestinians who might have been there were under curfew, confined to their towns and villages by the Israeli security forces. Many of the saturated speculated, with not a little fervour, that those confined were the lucky ones.

And, if there was mud in Gaza there was blood in Israel, where a peace process that was always fragile is now at a point where one wonders with any confidence where it might go. It was two weeks ago that I wrote almost precisely those words under a different dateline _ Belfast.

The grisly truth is that each time the terrorist wing of the Palestinian group Hamas sets off a bomb, curious electoral things occur across this alien and fractious region bundled under "Middle East", not so much geographically as politically. THE frightful bombs _ that killed not a single enemy of the Palestinian people, so far as can be seen, but only a bunch of citizens and tourists and children going about their innocent business _ have had two political effects physically far from one another.

Extremists benefit from the bombs

Here in Israel, the Right-wing opposition party, Likud, has seen its stocks for the elections to be held in late May climb dramatically with each explosion. Prime Minister Shimon Peres, riding on the national grief at the murder of his predecessor Yitzhak Rabin, had been cruising to victory with his Labour Party until **Hamas** bombers struck.

Now, Likud, led by Benjamin "Bibi" Netanyahu, is level-pegging in opinion polls, and if it can forge alliances with the Orthodox Jewish parties of powerful Zionist views it could form a government dedicated to re-route the peace process, if not actually derail it.

While this is happening, over in Iran _ where there are parliamentary elections _ the fundamentalist Islamic parties are also enjoying a surge with each terrorist bomb that kills Israelis. Iran is known to be a major funder of **Hamas**, and Iran is poised to become a very troublesome power indeed if the "Fundies" win this election and next year's presidential poll there.

One thing Iran may very well do is use its huge military strength _ Israel intelligence sources told me this week that they believe Iran certainly has, or will soon have, a nuclear capacity _ to exercise its claim that it historically owns Bahrein.

That in itself could lead to a new Gulf War, since Iran could effectively close all traffic up and down the Arabian Gulf (the Iranians call it the Persian Gulf) strangling petroleum shipping. The Iranians believe they would be protecting the Shi-ite Muslims of Bahrein against the Sunni Muslims of the rest of the Gulf apart from the Saudi Arabaians, who are a different sect again.

It might seem a long way from a bomb in a bus in Tel Aviv or Jerusalem, but the term "knock-on effect" was invented for the Middle East.

What has to be asked is whether we, Palestinian and Jew, can ever live together _ whether this peace treaty is a marriage or a divorce, whether it should lead to separation as Rabin saw it or integration as Peres sees it . . .

Here in Israel, they are following the maxim of Hunter S. Thompson that when the going gets weird, the weird get going. This week I listened to an official briefing by Dr Raphael Israeli, a Research Associate at the Truman Institute for the Advancement of Peace.

He said he thought the bodies of suicide bombers should be buried wrapped in pigskin, so that _ as Muslims and the pig being an unclean animal _ they would not get to heaven.

Given the nature of suicide bombing _ it has been found the bombers are wearing a form of designer belt, built for the job and made, would you have it, in the USA _ there is not much left to wrap in the old pigskin. Maybe enough, say, for a one of those pork sausage wraps.

He said that it was necessary to use such methods as pigskin burials to counter the **Hamas** killers because when a suicide bomber is briefed to go out and kill Israelis amazing promises were held out to him.

"He is offered a heaven where there are fine drinks and virgins," Dr Israeli said. "Ten virgins in heaven every day. And then, the next day, even though he has had them all, they are virgins again. This is what they believe, and what must be countered." This briefing, of heaven full Doris Day look-alikes waiting for young Islamic bombers, was quite literally laid on to the world's press by the Israeli government in its official press centre. It indicates, more than anything else, the concern going all the way across the Israeli spectrum.

IN particular, there is the fear in the Labour government that Likud will win the elections and suspend the peace process or even declare a form of war on not just the extremist Palestinians but the entire Palestinian state, such as it is.

The leadership of **Hamas** is in three places, according to members of its non-violent political wing.

Up front, **Hamas** throws its weight around in Gaza. This week, Arafat's police arrested and jailed without charge some 400 members in Gaza, if only to keep the Israelis from doing something drastic.

Extremists benefit from the bombs

There are two cells in Gaza, Israeli security believes, and others in Hebron and Ramallah. The bombers recently involved were based in Ramallah, a town only a short drive from Jerusalem.

"We only want these stupid bastards to stop," said Mahmoud Haseem, a Palestinian from Ramallah who has a decent and well-paid job as a waiter in East Jerusalem but who is now sealed off by the Israeli security forces.

In both Gaza and around the West Bank, Palestinians wanted to go on and form their own state in as much peace as could be found with Israel.

The gifted and insightful Jewish writer Hirsh Goodman asked this week the crucial question: "What has to be asked is whether we, Palestinian and Jew, can ever live together _ whether this peace treaty is a marriage or a divorce, whether it should lead to separation as Rabin saw it or integration as Peres sees it . . .

"It is whether the Israeli and Palestinian security services can ever work as one, dedicated to ridding us of this evil among us . . ." This is a theme now picked up by the small army of Israeli academics devoted to considering Palestinian-Israeli relations. They ask if Yasser Arafat is brave enough, strong enough or _ and this is sinister _ really wants enough to destroy **Hamas**.

"Arafat needed acts of violence," said Professor Hillel Frisch, who lectures in Israeli-Palestinian affairs in Tel Aviv. "**Hamas** is cornered. Arafat knows where they are and he can destroy them if he wants to. For his own reasons, he hesitates." IN Hebron, a West Bank town with a tough Israeli settler population, a Palestinian friend of moderate politics told me that Arafat remains the only Palestinian leader. "**Hamas** is everywhere, though, and it is an alliance," he said.

This alliance, as almost any Palestinian will tell you, is between Iran and **Hamas**, and a huge money-laundering operation in the Western world.

Streetwise Israelis will tell you that Likud is not unhappy with this alliance, too. A strong **Hamas**, another bad bomb between now and the May elections, and the mad mullahs of Tehran and the Zionist extremists of Israel will have their ultimate desire.

Endless war.

Load-Date: March 7, 2002

**'First wave' of Palestinians freed;
Move intended to smooth peace process**

Hamilton Spectator (Ontario, Canada)

October 25, 1993 Monday Final Edition

Copyright 1993 Metroland Media Group Ltd

Section: NEWS; Pg. A4

Length: 371 words

Dateline: MEGIDDO, ISRAEL

Body

Israel began freeing Palestinian prisoners today to reinforce its peace deal with the Palestine Liberation Organization.

Up to 700 prisoners, mainly women, the sick, youths and old men, were to be freed.

Buses took prisoners under heavy security from Megiddo prison in central Israel to their homes in the nearby occupied West Bank.

FROM REUTER

Israel has said during talks to implement its accord with the PLO that it would gradually free most of its 13,000 Palestinian prisoners. The talks are to resume tomorrow in Taba, Egypt.

But Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin said he had dropped an initial plan to include loyalists of the Hamas resistance movement after its gunmen, posing as religious Jews, kidnapped and killed two soldiers yesterday.

"As a result it's clear they'll not be released and this is how we will act in principle in future. They will remain in prison," Mr. Rabin told Israel Radio.

The prisoner release is meant to increase confidence among Palestinians in the peace deal signed with the PLO last month.

Mr. Rabin, defending the pact made with PLO chief Yasser Arafat, said Mr. Arafat's organization had kept its promise to shun violence. He said overall unrest in Israeli-occupied lands had dropped by about half since then.

Palestinian rejectionists and extremists, such as Hamas and Islamic Jihad, had a dual purpose, he said -- "to kill Jews because they're Jews and to kill the chance of implementing the (peace) accord."

Hamas, the PLO's chief rival, and Islamic Jihad have killed eight Israelis since news of the PLO-Israeli agreement deal on Palestinian self-rule emerged in early September.

Both Muslim fundamentalist groups seek to overthrow the Jewish state.

The army said Hamas gunmen, apparently wearing skullcaps of religious Jews, abducted the two hitch-hiking reservists, aged 35 and 23, killed them and then abandoned their bodies in the occupied Gaza Strip.

'First wave' of Palestinians freed; Move intended to smooth peace process

Mr. Rabin said Israel's chief response in the face of the Islamic threat was to press ahead in talks with the PLO to implement the deal.

Under the accord to be implemented first in the Gaza Strip and occupied West Bank town of Jericho, Israel will give Palestinians self-rule and transfer internal security matters to a Palestinian police force.

Load-Date: October 4, 2002

End of Document

ISRAELI POLICE SHOOT TWO PALESTINIANS AT ROADBLOCK

St. Louis Post-Dispatch (Missouri)

March 23, 1997, Sunday, FIVE STAR LIFT EDITION

Copyright 1997 St. Louis Post-Dispatch, Inc.

Section: NEWS, Pg. 01A

Length: 864 words

Byline: Compiled From News Services

Dateline: JERUSALEM

Body

Israeli border policemen shot and wounded two Palestinians at an Israeli roadblock between Jerusalem and Bethlehem early on Sunday, police said.

Israeli army radio said the two Palestinians, traveling in a car, apparently had tried to run the roadblock. It said they were moderately wounded.

Meanwhile, the Muslim militant group Hamas claimed responsibility for killing three Israeli women in Friday's suicide bombing of a Tel Aviv cafe. The group threatened to launch further attacks if building continued for a Jewish housing project in Arab east Jerusalem.

In Hebron Saturday, (begin FIVE STAR text) a day after a suicide bomber killed three women in a Tel Aviv cafe, (end text) Israeli troops used bullets and tear gas to quell riots by hundreds of Palestinians in the worst West Bank clash in months.

More than 100 Palestinians were injured from live bullets, rubber bullets, tear gas and stun grenades.

"We don't want peace; we want Hamas," shouted Palestinians, referring to the Islamic militant group that claimed responsibility for Friday's blast.

Tension between the two sides is mounting, and the peace process is paralyzed after Israel's decision to build more Jewish housing in east Jerusalem apparently prompted the suicide attack.

The clashes were the worst Hebron has seen in a long time but mild compared with September's deadly gunbattles elsewhere in the West Bank after Israel's decision to open a tunnel entrance near an Islamic holy site in Jerusalem. That fighting killed 79 people.

Palestinians pelted soldiers and military vehicles with stones, and some threw firebombs at the soldiers. Israel radio reported that firebombs were hurled toward the homes of the 500 Jewish settlers who live in the city among 130,000 Arabs.

Seven Israeli soldiers and several Palestinian police were also injured in the clashes, which took place along the border between the part of Hebron controlled by the Palestinians and downtown, which is controlled by Israeli. A Palestinian policeman was ordered to leave after he joined the stone throwers.

ISRAELI POLICE SHOOT TWO PALESTINIANS AT ROADBLOCK

Israel imposed a curfew downtown, and the clashes quieted at nightfall.

Infant's Mother Among Dead

The clashes broke out one day after Mussa Abu Deiyah Ghneimat, a Hamas supporter from a village near Hebron, set off an explosion at a Tel Aviv cafe that killed himself and three Israeli women.

Israeli authorities Saturday said the baby girl wounded in the cafe lost her mother in the blast. Anat Rosen-Vinter, 31, the infant's mother, was identified as one of the women killed in the attack.

(begin FIVE STAR text)

Television pictures broadcast around the world showed an Israeli policewoman cradling the baby, dressed in a tattered clown costume.

(end text)

The infant was taken to the hospital and was expected to recover.

In reaction to the bombing, Israel barred thousands of Palestinians from entering Israel from the West Bank and Gaza Strip. The army also placed a curfew on the bomber's home village of Zurif. The village streets were deserted and windows closed with iron shutters as Israeli jeeps patrolled the potholed lanes.

Israeli troops had blocked reporters from reaching the bomber's home, but friends and neighbors said he was a father of four who came from a deeply religious home.

The army sealed his house, and witnesses said soldiers were preparing to blow it up. The Israeli army arrested 13 villagers, including some of Ghneimat's family.

Ghneimat, 28, had been arrested repeatedly by Israel on suspicion of Hamas membership, according to Israeli media Saturday. In 1990, his two brothers also were charged with throwing stones and belonging to Hamas.

Friday's blast at the Apropos Cafe in downtown Tel Aviv came after several days of warnings by Israeli intelligence officials that Islamic militants were plotting attacks in Israel.

Palestinians have been furious with Israel for breaking ground last week for a Jewish neighborhood in east Jerusalem, the sector Palestinians claim as a future capital.

Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat denounced the bombing, which also wounded more than 40 people, but his aides were quick to blame Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu, saying Netanyahu's policies had prepared the ground for violence.

Netanyahu, however, accused Arafat of giving militants tacit approval to attack Israel. Netanyahu cited as an example the recent release of Ibrahim Maqadmeh, a leader of the Hamas military wing, from a Palestinian jail.

Palestinian police arrested Maqadmeh late Friday at his home in a Gaza Strip refugee camp after he told a Hamas rally that suicide bombs, not negotiations, would stop Israeli settlement building in Jerusalem.

In Sidon, Lebanon, hundreds of Palestinians burned tires and shouted anti-Israel slogans at Lebanon's largest refugee camp to protest the Jerusalem construction. The camp is home to 75,000 Palestinians.

Arafat said he was "shocked" at Washington's veto of a U.N. Security Council resolution Friday criticizing Israel's decision. He spoke Saturday in Oman en route to an Islamic summit in Pakistan.

ISRAELI POLICE SHOOT TWO PALESTINIANS AT ROADBLOCK

It was the second veto the United States has cast in two weeks to kill a Security Council resolution demanding that Israel shelve the east Jerusalem housing project.

Graphic

PHOTO, Color Photo from AP - Palestinian police officers, in olive uniforms but hatless, rush to shield a rock-throwing Palestinian from an Israeli soldier about to fire a rubber bullet at him, during rioting Saturday in Hebron. The West Bank city was the scene of some of the worst clashes in several months.

Load-Date: March 23, 1997

End of Document

BOMBER, 3 OTHERS KILLED, 46 INJURED IN ISRAELI CAFE

St. Louis Post-Dispatch (Missouri)

March 22, 1997, Saturday, THREE STAR EDITION

Copyright 1997 St. Louis Post-Dispatch, Inc.

Section: NEWS, Pg. 03

Length: 799 words

Byline: Compiled From News Services

Dateline: TEL AVIV, ISRAEL

Body

There had been no lack of warnings that the latest Israeli-Palestinian crisis would bring a new attack on Israeli civilians. On Friday afternoon, the blow came in the streets of Tel Aviv as costumed Israelis prepared for Purim holiday parties.

An Islamic militant carrying nail-studded explosives in a shopping bag blew himself up amid the tables of an outdoor cafe. The blast killed the 28-year-old Palestinian bomber and three Israeli women and injured 46 people.

Hamas, the leading Palestinian Islamic fundamentalist movement, claimed responsibility for the attack, the first of its kind in a year. The bombing took place after weeks of mounting tension in Israeli-Palestinian relations over the Israeli government's decision to build a Jewish settlement in east Jerusalem.

Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu, who earlier this week had proposed accelerating the peace talks, indicated Friday that Israel may respond to the bombing by postponing negotiations. "We are not prepared to go on this way," Netanyahu said after visiting the wounded at a Tel Aviv hospital.

Netanyahu suggested that Yasser Arafat's Palestinian Authority gave Hamas and other militant groups the green light for such attacks by recently freeing some of their leaders from prison. As proof, Netanyahu cited Arafat's decision to free Ibrahim Maqadmeh, head of the military wing of Hamas.

Just after the blast, Maqadmeh spoke to thousands of Hamas supporters rallying in the Gaza Strip. "Jerusalem will not be restored by negotiations, but only by holy war, whatever the sacrifices," he said.

Palestinian leaders denied Netanyahu's assertions, and Arafat telephoned Israeli President Ezer Weizman to express his condolences and condemn the attack.

Arafat's aides quickly pointed the finger at Netanyahu. "The terror of bulldozers led to the terror of explosives," said Ahmed Tibi, an adviser to Arafat.

Israeli intelligence had been warning for a week that Islamic militants were plotting terrorist attacks over the housing project.

BOMBER, 3 OTHERS KILLED, 46 INJURED IN ISRAELI CAFE

The bombing was preceded by two days of Palestinian riots over the construction in Jerusalem. In Hebron on Friday, Israeli soldiers fired tear gas and live bullets to disperse 1,000 stone throwers. At the Jerusalem construction site, police clubbed Palestinians who had been showering them with stones.

In retaliation for the bombing, Israel barred the 2 million Palestinians in the West Bank and Gaza from entering Israel. The army also imposed a curfew on Zurif, the West Bank hometown of the bomber. Israel radio said the assailant had a work permit for Israel and was once employed at a Tel Aviv restaurant.

Netanyahu had campaigned for prime minister last year on the slogan of "peace with security." He may now feel he has to take strong measures against the Palestinians to preserve his credibility - especially if this is the first of a series of new attacks, as many Israelis believe.

Friday's bombing shattered the outdoor patio of the Apropos Cafe at lunchtime on Ben Gurion Boulevard, just yards from City Hall.

"There was a powerful boom, glass flying everywhere, and there was a lot of blood," said the cafe's shift manager, who gave his name as Roi and cried hysterically on the sidewalk.

Children in Purim costumes fled the scene in shock. The holiday celebrates the deliverance of the Jews of ancient Persia from a plot to slaughter them.

A waiter at the coffeehouse said he saw a man walking into the patio with two bags just before the explosion. "He looked strange," said the waiter, Gad Ben-Tsur. "I was trying to pick up an order. A second later, there was a tremendous flash and he blew up."

Twenty to 30 people were near the man at the time.

In a deadly flash, the cafe was a scene of carnage and confusion. Bodies lay amid broken glass and gnarled tables. The restaurant's whitewashed walls were stained with blood.

The explosion left chairs, tables and umbrellas in a jumble. Smoke rose from the scorched piles of wood and cloth, and half-eaten sandwiches were scattered about.

The blackened body of the assailant lay on the patio for several hours, partly covered by a blanket.

Among the injured was a 6-month-old girl in a red-and-blue clown costume. Her head was matted with blood as she was carried away screaming by a policewoman, who was unable to find the baby's mother at the scene.

The girl was in stable condition with leg wounds later in an Israeli hospital, where her mother also was admitted with severe burns and cuts to her face and head, Israeli media reports said.

Hamas followers cheered Friday when news of the attack spread.

"I have good news for you. There is a suicide operation in Tel Aviv," a **Hamas** leader told 10,000 supporters during a rally in the West Bank town of Nablus.

The crowd clapped and responded with shouts of "Allahu Akbar!" (God is great).

Graphic

PHOTO, Color Photos by AP

BOMBER, 3 OTHERS KILLED, 46 INJURED IN ISRAELI CAFE

(1) An Israeli police officer cradles a crying 6-month-old baby who was splattered with blood following a suicide bombing in an outdoor cafe in Tel Aviv.

(2) An Israeli soldier runs as his clothing burns after a Palestinian youth threw a firebomb during a clash in the West Bank town of Hebron. He received only minor burns.

(3) LEFT: Palestinian women at a rally for Hamas activists. ABOVE: Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu saying he may postpone peace negotiations.

Load-Date: March 23, 1997

End of Document

Muslim gunmen kill two, wound 14

Hamilton Spectator (Ontario, Canada)

October 11, 1994 Tuesday Final Edition

Copyright 1994 Metroland Media Group Ltd

Section: NEWS; Pg. A3; News

Length: 227 words

Dateline: GAZA

Body

Two Muslim gunmen who sprayed gunfire into a Jerusalem crowd, killing two people and wounding 14, discussed their mission in a home-made videotape obtained by Reuters yesterday.

Sources in the Islamic Resistance Movement **Hamas** identified the men in the film as Issam Mhana Ismail al-Johari, 24, and Hassan Abbas, 21, the two gunmen who were shot dead Sunday by Israeli security forces after the attack.
FROM REUTER

They spoke about their suicide mission as they brandished Kalashnikov assault rifles and handguns.

Five hand grenades were strapped around the waist of one of the men, who described himself as a resident of Cairo.

The other, who said he was a student at the Islamic University, was draped with ribbons featuring the word **Hamas** and the name of its military wing, Ezz e-Din al-Qassam.

A baby was crying in the background and the sound quality of the tape was poor.

One of the gunmen said he was going on his mission to retaliate against what he called the crimes of Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin, whose government "kills our men, our **women** and our children."

The other cited the killing of Palestinians at Jerusalem's Temple Mount four years ago and at a Hebron mosque earlier this year.

Both sprinkled their comments with Koranic passages promising a place in heaven to those who die in God's name.

Hamas is the PLO's main rival in Palestinian-ruled Gaza.

Graphic

AP Israeli soldiers talk near body of one of two Arab terrorists shot dead.

Muslim gunmen kill two, wound 14

Load-Date: October 13, 2002

End of Document

**BLASTS CALLED ISRAEL'S WORST SINCE '93 PACT< THE TWO ATTACKS
KILLED 25, INCLUDING TWO AMERICANS, AND INJURED 82. THEY< CAST
DOUBT ON WHETHER THE PRO-PEACE GOVERNMENT OF PERES CAN
WIN REELECTION.**

The Philadelphia Inquirer

FEBRUARY 26, 1996 Monday SF EDITION

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The Philadelphia Inquirer

Found on Philly . com

Section: NATIONAL; Pg. A01

Length: 1345 words

Byline: Alan Sipress, INQUIRER STAFF WRITER

Dateline: JERUSALEM

Body

Suicide bombers from the militant Palestinian group **Hamas** killed 25 people yesterday, including two Americans, in two blasts that were the deadliest assault on Israelis since the 1993 peace deal with the PLO.

At least 82 people were wounded.

The attacks in downtown Jerusalem and near the coastal city of Ashkelon shattered nearly half a year of relative quiet and cast the gravest doubt yet over whether the pro-peace government of Israeli Prime Minister Shimon Peres can win re-election in voting scheduled for May 29.

In recent days, both Israeli and Palestinian security services had expected an attack in retribution for the killing last month of **Hamas** bombmaker Yehiya Ayyash, known as "The Engineer." The explosions yesterday came after the traditional 40-day mourning period for Ayyash and also marked the second anniversary of the Hebron mosque massacre, when Jewish settler Baruch Goldstein shot to death more than two dozen Muslims at prayer.

The critical question for Israelis and Palestinians alike is whether yesterday's bombings were an isolated show of strength by **Hamas** or the beginning of a new campaign of violence.

Peres ordered the immediate suspension of peace talks with the Palestinians until after the weeklong Jewish mourning period. But - barring more attacks - negotiations over a final Israel-PLO peace treaty are still expected to begin in May.

Nor is it likely the two blasts alone will seriously undermine the electoral fortunes of Peres, who was holding a 15 percent advantage over right-wing challenger Benjamin Netanyahu, according to an opinion poll published Friday. A

BLASTS CALLED ISRAEL 'S WORST SINCE '93 PACT< THE TWO ATTACKS KILLED 25, INCLUDING TWO AMERICANS, AND INJURED 82. THEY< CAST DOUBT ON WHETHER THE PRO-PEACE GOVE....

string of attacks, however, could prove the prime minister's undoing, especially since many Israelis already question his ability to ensure their security.

"The effort to bring peace to the Middle East is not yet complete," Peres said yesterday. "And the struggle [by those] against peace and against the security of individuals still goes on. It's not over."

The attacks drew quick condemnation from Palestinian President Yasir Arafat, whose security forces had seemingly succeeded in curtailing the so-called "military" activities of Hamas.

"This is not a military operation. This is a terrorist operation," Arafat said. "I condemn it completely. It is not against only civilians, but against the whole peace process."

The first explosion decimated a bus near the central terminal in West Jerusalem shortly before 7 a.m., as Israeli commuters were returning to work after their day off on Saturday. Twenty-three people, including the attacker and two Americans, were killed and 49 injured, police said.

The U.S. Embassy identified the dead Americans as Mattityahu Eisenfeld, 25, of West Hartford, Conn., who was studying at a Jewish seminary in Jerusalem, and Sarah Duker, 22, of Teaneck, N.J., who was studying at Hebrew University.

Less than an hour later, a second blast rocked a hitchhiking station used by Israeli soldiers traveling along a rural highway near Ashkelon. This attack, which an Israeli television station said was carried out by a man disguised in an Israeli military uniform, killed one person besides the bomber and wounded 33 others.

"I saw a ball of fire and a huge explosion," said Yaron Levy, 22, a soldier waiting near the Ashkelon site. "The road was covered with blood."

An anonymous caller to Israeli radio said the bombings had been carried out by the armed wing of Hamas to avenge Ayyash's Jan. 5 assassination, universally attributed to Israeli agents. Hamas said yesterday that it would halt its attacks if Israel stopped hunting down the group's activists and released its imprisoned members.

During recent months, Hamas had shown a greater willingness to refrain from armed attacks and instead pursue a political course. While the group did not participate officially in the recent Palestinian elections, many of its supporters went to the polls and its leadership even issued a list of candidate endorsements. This in turn had led to improved relations with Arafat's administration, clearing the way for Hamas prisoners to be released from Palestinian jails.

A week ago, however, Palestinian police in the West Bank stopped a would-be suicide bomber bound for Jerusalem, according to an Israeli press report. After the attacks yesterday, Palestinian police reported they had arrested 40 more Hamas activists.

Top Israeli officials called on Arafat's administration to redouble its efforts, saying they were not satisfied with the measures taken so far to eliminate the armed elements in the Hamas and Islamic Jihad groups.

"I do believe that a stronger cooperation on the part of the Palestinian Authority may help," Peres said. "From what I have heard this morning from Chairman Arafat, I do believe that they do understand that a more serious effort is necessary of all of us to stop the acts of terror."

Peres immediately ordered that Israel's borders with the West Bank and Gaza Strip be sealed to Palestinians. This familiar measure is designed to stem further attacks but is also a form of collective punishment, preventing thousands of Palestinians from reaching their jobs inside Israel.

The images from Israeli streets yesterday morning were also horribly familiar. Once again, after a six-month hiatus, Israelis saw a red-and-white commuter bus ripped apart and the pavement strewn with mangled metal, glass and odd bits of clothing and personal belongings. Again, emergency teams from the Orthodox Jewish burial society

BLASTS CALLED ISRAEL 'S WORST SINCE '93 PACT< THE TWO ATTACKS KILLED 25, INCLUDING TWO AMERICANS, AND INJURED 82. THEY< CAST DOUBT ON WHETHER THE PRO-PEACE GOVE....

Hevra Kadisha put on surgical gloves and scoured through the debris for body parts and anything resembling human remains, collecting their finds in large plastic bags.

"There were pieces of bodies everywhere," said Eyal Cohen, 25, who lives near the Jaffa Street site in Jerusalem. "I don't know what they were. It was very hard to know."

Police, however, pointed to one detail that was unnervingly different. The bomb aboard the Jerusalem bus was apparently more powerful than any device used during the previous 11 attacks by Islamic extremists. Jerusalem police chief Arye Amit said the bomb contained more than 22 pounds of explosives and was packed with nails and ball bearings for the greatest harm.

The blast was heard across the city, and rattled windows a mile away. The explosion propelled the bus several yards into the air, witnesses said, and the roof was blown clean off. All that remained was the charred, skeletal frame. The explosion also damaged another bus, a taxi van, and several cars stopped beside it at a traffic light.

The intersection swiftly drew Israeli opponents of the peace process. They jeered Peres and Israeli Police Minister Moshe Shahal when they appeared to survey the destruction, screaming, "With blood and fire, we will throw out Peres" and "Death to Arabs." Protesters exchanged blows with police trying to clear the site.

By afternoon, the chants had subsided, replaced by the wailing prayers for the dead of mourners lighting candles at the intersection. Well after midnight, more than a dozen people maintained a candlelight vigil at the site.

Leaders of Israel's opposition Likud Party refrained from their usual criticism of Peres' Labor Party government, calling for the nation to express solidarity with the victims.

"My heart today is with the wounded," said Yehoshua Matza, a Likud member of the Israeli parliament. "Jerusalem is crying today. My heart is with the families, with the orphans, with the children and the women, all those in the hospital."

The attacks were condemned in many capitals. European leaders as well as Jordan's King Hussein and Pope John Paul II joined the White House in urging the proponents of the Middle East peace process to carry on. President Clinton said the "enemies of peace" were doomed to fail.

"Their dark vision is of the past, not the present, of violence, not hope for a better future," Clinton said.

But the violence was cheered by militant Arab groups opposed to the peace process. In Syria, both secular and Islamic Palestinian groups said they welcomed the attacks. Such praise was echoed by the militant Hezbollah party in Lebanon.

Graphic

CHART AND MAP;

CHART (1)

1. Bombing Attacks in Israel

MAP (1)

1. Ashkelon and Jerusalem (The Philadelphia Inquirer, CYNTHIA GREER)

Load-Date: October 28, 2002

BLASTS CALLED ISRAEL 'S WORST SINCE '93 PACT< THE TWO ATTACKS KILLED 25, INCLUDING TWO AMERICANS, AND INJURED 82. THEY< CAST DOUBT ON WHETHER THE PRO-PEACE GOVE....

End of Document

Rocks, bullets fly as Hebron heats up

The Tampa Tribune (Florida)

March 23, 1997, Sunday,

METRO EDITION

Copyright 1997 The Tribune Co. Publishes The Tampa Tribune

Section: NATION/WORLD,

Length: 325 words

Body

SUMMARY: Israeli troops respond with gunfire after Palestinians take to the streets. More than 100 people are injured in the clashes.

HEBRON, West Bank - A day after a suicide bomber killed three women in a Tel Aviv cafe, Israeli troops used bullets and tear gas Saturday to quell riots by hundreds of Palestinians in the worst West Bank clash in months. An Associated Press report

More than 100 Palestinians were injured from live bullets, rubber bullets, tear gas and stun grenades.

"We don't want peace; we want Hamas," Palestinians shouted, referring to the Islamic militant group that claimed responsibility for Friday's blast.

Tensions are at a new high and the peace process is paralyzed after the suicide attack followed Israel's decision to build more Jewish housing in east Jerusalem.

Israeli officials identified the bomber as Mussa Abu Deiyah Ghneimat, a Hamas supporter from a village near Hebron.

Palestinians pelted soldiers and military vehicles with stones, and some threw firebombs. Israel radio reported that firebombs were hurled toward the homes of the 500 Jewish settlers who live in the city among 130,000 Arabs.

Seven Israeli soldiers and several Palestinian police also were injured in the clashes, which took place along the border between the part of Hebron that is Palestinian-controlled and the Israeli-controlled downtown. A Palestinian police officer was ordered to leave after he joined the stone throwers.

Israel imposed a curfew downtown, and the clashes quieted at nightfall.

Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat denounced the bombing, which also wounded more than 40 people, but his aides were quick to blame Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu, saying his policies had prepared the ground for violence.

Netanyahu, however, accused Arafat of giving militants tacit approval to attack Israel. Netanyahu cited as an example the recent release of Ibrahim Maqadmeh, a leader of the Hamas military wing, from a Palestinian jail.

Rocks, bullets fly as Hebron heats up

Load-Date: March 24, 1997

End of Document

Israel blames latest bombing on suicide attack

The Record (Kitchener-Waterloo, Ontario)

April 1, 1997 Tuesday Final Edition

Copyright 1997 Metroland Media Group Ltd

Section: FRONT; Pg. A5; News

Length: 471 words

Dateline: GAZA STRIP

Body

gaza strip - Two Palestinians died in the Gaza Strip today in what the Israeli army called separate suicide attacks aimed at killing Jews.

Palestinian police could not confirm whether the two men had blown themselves up deliberately.

Elsewhere, an Israeli policeman shot a Palestinian man at a West Bank roadblock. Witnesses said the victim died, but there was no confirmation.

Reuter

The Palestinian Islamic fundamentalist group **Hamas** denied it was behind the explosions and accused Israel of ordering the blasts to sour relations between **Hamas** and Yasser Arafat's self-rule Palestinian Authority.

Five Palestinians in a taxi were wounded in one of the blasts.

"There were two suicide bombers," said an Israeli army spokesman. "There were no injuries to Israeli forces. There are a number of Palestinian injuries."

Israeli military sources said one of the dead men wore a suicide bomb belt, and the other wore the uniform of the Palestinian police.

A senior Palestinian security official said police were trying to identify the dead men in an attempt to "clear the ambiguities" surrounding their deaths.

Earlier, other Palestinian police officials had said that a man with five kilograms of explosives blew himself up on the side of the road at 7 a.m. about two kilometres from the Jewish settlement of Netzarim south of Gaza City.

"We doubt that they were suicide bombings. No Israelis were in the area and there are no holes in the ground," said Gaza's police commander, Maj.-Gen. Abdel-Razik Majaida.

In the second blast about two kilometres from Kfar Darom near the Palestinian refugee camp of Deir al-Balah, the presumed bomber was also standing beside the road, Palestinian police said, adding the five Palestinians were wounded in this explosion.

Hamas official Sayed Abu Musameh blamed Israel for the blasts.

Israel blames latest bombing on suicide attack

"This bombing was done by the Israeli intelligence and its (Palestinian) collaborators in an attempt to create an internal problem between the Islamic movement and the Palestinian Authority," he told Reuters.

Last month, **Hamas** claimed responsibility for a suicide bombing in which three Israeli **women** were killed.

In a separate incident today, Israeli police said a Palestinian ran into a policeman with his car at an Israeli roadblock near the West Bank Jewish settlement of Kiryat Arba, south of Hebron. They said the policeman opened fire, wounding a passenger. Palestinians said he later died.

Israeli-Palestinian relations have plunged into crisis since Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu broke ground on a Jewish settlement in Arab East Jerusalem last month. .

Both explosions occurred at about the time Israeli children leave the two nearby Jewish settlements on buses for school, Jewish settlers said.

Israeli radio stations suggested that two suicide bombers had mistakenly blown themselves up before their intended time.

Load-Date: September 21, 2002

Hit team beauty saves victim

The Daily Telegraph (Sydney, Australia)

October 13, 1997, Monday

Copyright 1997 Nationwide News Pty Limited

Section: FULLPAGE, WORLD; Pg. 23

Length: 351 words

Byline: BY DENNIS EISENBERG

Body

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

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

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

MATP

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

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

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

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

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

As the diplomatic crisis deepened, King Hussein warned Israeli Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu that if Mr Meshal died he would hang the two hitmen. The only person who could save him was the woman, who was eventually persuaded to provide the antidote before returning to Israel.

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

Israel also released Hamas's spiritual leader Sheikh Yassin from prison to placate King Hussein.

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

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

Hit team beauty saves victim

In another development, Jordan has suspended all co-operation with Israeli police and secret service officials.

Israeli radio quoted an unnamed Jordanian cabinet member as saying yesterday that Amman would resume co-operation with Israel only after the Jewish state had sacked those responsible for the failed murder attempt.

Load-Date: March 4, 2002

End of Document

Two Palestinians shot by Israeli troops: Deadly day as Mideast crisis grows

Hamilton Spectator (Ontario, Canada)

April 2, 1997 Wednesday Final Edition

Copyright 1997 Metroland Media Group Ltd

Section: CANADA & WORLD; Pg. B2; News

Length: 496 words

Dateline: NETZARIM, GAZA STRIP

Body

Israeli troops shot and killed two Palestinians and two others blew themselves up in bungled suicide bombings yesterday, one of the deadliest days yet in a growing Middle East crisis.

The bombers apparently meant to destroy Israeli school buses outside Jewish settlements in the Gaza Strip, Israelis said. The attacks come during a deadlock in Israeli-Palestinian peace talks, which broke down last month over new Israeli construction in disputed East Jerusalem and triggered new accusations from both sides.

Associated Press

Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu insisted the suicide bombings are evidence Palestinian President Yasser Arafat has sanctioned attacks by Islamic militants.

"Today's twin attacks (are) proof that the terror campaign continues," Netanyahu said.

Arafat said it is Israel's prolonged closure of Palestinian areas that has created a climate of violence.

"We are all doing our best . . . to control the situation," Arafat said.

Both sides refuse to resume peace talks unless the other makes key compromises.

The Palestinians demand Israel stop construction of a Jewish neighbourhood in East Jerusalem, the sector they claim as a future capital. Until the work stops, Palestinians said they will refuse to help Israel on security, such as detecting Islamic militants plotting attacks on Israelis.

Netanyahu insists Arafat restore order and peace before negotiations resume. He refuses to halt construction.

Yesterday's first explosion went off two kilometres (just over a mile) from the Jewish settlement Netzarim, south of Gaza City. A Netzarim school bus was running late, which meant it was away from the site when the bomb exploded.

Palestinian police disputed Israeli allegations the other explosion, at Kfar Darom, was a suicide bombing. They said Israeli troops threw explosives at a taxi and a donkey cart, killing a Palestinian bystander and wounding seven taxi passengers.

Two Palestinians shot by Israeli troops: Deadly day as Mideast crisis grows

But Israel's military chief, Lieutenant-General Amnon Shahak, said Islamic militants set off both blasts. He said the suicide bombers wore Palestinian police uniforms and were Islamic militants belonging to either the **Hamas** or Islamic Jihad groups.

Israel TV said the explosive kits were similar to one used by a **Hamas**-affiliated suicide bomber who killed three Israeli **women** in a Tel Aviv cafe March 21.

A caller to Israel Radio claimed responsibility in the name of **Hamas** but **Hamas** political leaders and the Izzedine al-Qassem military wing of the group denied involvement.

Two other callers to Israel TV and Israel Radio's Arabic service claimed the attacks on behalf of other, previously unknown, groups.

North of Nablus, about 1,000 Palestinians clashed with troops at an Israeli army checkpoint.

Israeli troops there shot and killed a plainclothes Palestinian policeman, Haitham Mansour, Palestinians said.

Israeli soldiers fatally shot another Palestinian as he tried to flee a car theft on the West Bank of the Jordan River, the army said. He was identified as Kamel Zaro, 21.

Graphic

Photo: AP; A Palestinian youth receives oxygen yesterday after being overcome by tear gas during West Bank clashes with Israeli soldiers.

Load-Date: October 14, 2002

Israel on terror alert after call to reject peace

Courier Mail (Queensland, Australia)

March 26, 1997, Wednesday

Copyright 1997 Nationwide News Pty Limited

Section: NEWS; Pg. 17

Length: 679 words

Byline: APPELMAN H

Body

THE United States may send its envoy back to the Middle East to try to calm tensions after five days of West Bank violence.

And Israel is warning citizens that more terrorist attacks are possible, as militant Islamist group **Hamas** urged Arabs to deliver a fatal blow to a Middle East peace process that it said was dying.

"We in the Islamic Resistance, **Hamas**, call upon our people and all Islamic, Palestinian, and Arab forces to deliver the mercy bullet to the dying peace process, and to unite efforts in resisting the criminal plots of the enemy," **Hamas** said in a statement.

Israeli military intelligence chief Major General Moshe Yaalon yesterday predicted more terrorist attacks if Palestinian President Yasser Arafat did not make it clear to Islamic militant groups that such actions were unacceptable.

QNP

In the wake of last Friday's suicide bombing of a cafe, Israel says the peace process will not move forward until the Palestinian leader cracks down on militant groups.

But Mohammed Dahlan, head of preventive security in the Palestinian-controlled Gaza Strip, said: "We reject the new Israeli conditions and will not discuss them.

"We are against using violence . . . we are against the killing of civilians or innocent people.

"We are not waiting for orders from Israel."

Talks between Israel and the Palestinians broke off two weeks ago after Israeli Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu said Israel would go ahead with construction of a housing project for Jews in East Jerusalem, which the Palestinians claim as a future capital.

Israel broke ground for the project last week, setting off Palestinian protests that turned violent. Then a suicide bomber blew himself up in a Tel Aviv cafe, killing three Israeli **women**.

In an attempt to get Israel and the Arabs negotiating, US Secretary of State Madeleine Albright is considering sending envoy Dennis Ross back to the region.

Israel on terror alert after call to reject peace

After clashes in September that left 80 people dead, Mr Ross spent weeks in the region, pushing the two sides back to the negotiating table to reach an agreement on an Israeli withdrawal from most of Hebron.

US officials have strongly criticised Mr Arafat for releasing leading Islamic militants involved in attacks on Israel, an American official said yesterday on condition of anonymity.

Several dozen Palestinians threw stones at Israeli troops in Hebron yesterday. Palestinian police moved in quickly _ forming human chains and firing in the air to disperse the crowd.

In Bethlehem, however, police did little to stop about 200 Palestinians throwing stones at Israeli troops at Rachel's Tomb, an Israeli-controlled religious site. Israeli soldiers fired tear gas and rubber bullets, injuring 17 Palestinians.

In its statement seeking an end to the peace process, **Hamas**, which claimed responsibility for Friday's Tel Aviv bombing, called on the Palestinian police to stop co-operating with Israeli authorities.

"Halting the intelligence co-operation with the enemy . . . is the preliminary and obvious response to his settlement practices and plots," **Hamas** said.

"We call upon the Palestinian police to stop trying to halt the Intifada, which is the only path out of the current impasse of the Palestinian cause."

Meanwhile, Israeli officials announced yesterday that Mr Netanyahu's political adviser, Dore Gold, had put off a proposed visit to Washington where he was due to hold talks about the stalled Israeli-Palestinian peace process.

"Conditions are not right for this trip at the moment," an official said.

Mr Gold had planned to go the United States today.

In Washington yesterday, the White House announced that President Bill Clinton would meet Jordan's King Hussein next week to discuss the latest developments in the Middle East.

White House spokesman Michael McCurry said King Hussein, who was in the US for medical tests, would visit the White House on April 1.

The king has been a key player in peace negotiations.

In Cairo yesterday, thousands of Egyptian students chanted anti-Israeli and anti-American slogans in a demonstration against Israel's policies in Jerusalem.

Associated Press/Reuter

Load-Date: March 1, 2002

SUICIDE BOMBS KILL 7 IN JERUSALEM / 200 HURT

The Philadelphia Inquirer
SEPTEMBER 5, 1997 Friday SF EDITION

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The Philadelphia Inquirer
Found on Philly.com

Section: NATIONAL; Pg. A01

Length: 1200 words

Byline: Barbara Demick, INQUIRER STAFF WRITER

Dateline: JERUSALEM

Body

The most popular pedestrian street in Jerusalem was torn apart yesterday by three nearly simultaneous suicide bombs, turning a sunny, cafe-hopping afternoon into another gruesomely familiar scene of bloodshed, and plunging the Mideast peace process ever deeper into crisis.

Four Israelis were killed, along with the three suicide bombers, one of whom had disguised himself in women's clothing. Nearly 200 people, many of them teenagers and tourists, were wounded by bombs set off just 20 yards apart.

"It was like a war. Like being on the front line. It is a battle come home," said Avi Mizrahi, 42, a cafe waiter who took cover behind an ice-cream machine during the attack, for which the Islamic militant group Hamas took responsibility.

The bombings on Ben Yehuda Street represented the second terrorist attack in Jerusalem in little more than a month. The political impact of the attack could be devastating, with relations between the Israeli and Palestinian leaderships already at a breaking point over security issues.

U.S. Secretary of State Madeleine K. Albright said yesterday that she still would make her previously scheduled trip to the region next week. In fact, the Israeli government urged her not to cancel, but was otherwise pessimistic about prospects for progress.

"At the moment, at this time, we are not going to continue the peace process," Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu told reporters at a news conference here, delivering one of his harshest assessments to date of his government's relations with the Palestinians. However, he later reiterated his position that talks could resume if the Palestinian leadership made a more credible effort to stop terrorism.

However, right-wingers within the Netanyahu government who grudgingly had gone along with the peace process were emphatic in declaring that this bombing marked a turning point.

SUICIDE BOMBS KILL 7 IN JERUSALEM / 200 HURT

"This is a death blow to the [peace] process. It is all over. It is dead," pronounced Hanan Porat, a Knesset member from the National Religious Party.

Hamas, which opposes negotiations with Israel, claimed responsibility for the attack in a leaflet faxed to news agencies. **Hamas** also threatened more attacks unless prisoners held by Israel were released by Sunday. Israeli police said they could not yet verify the authenticity of the fax.

In Gaza, Palestinian leader Yasir Arafat condemned the "terrorist incidents," which he said were "designed to destroy the peace process" and to harm both Israelis and Palestinians interested in peace. Palestinian sources said Arafat had planned to meet with officials from **Hamas**' political wing last night, but canceled the meeting after the bombings.

Arafat's continued dealings with the politically powerful **Hamas** movement have infuriated the Israelis, as well as the U.S. State Department.

"Arafat will have to decide if he wants to make peace with **Hamas** or with us. He can't have it both ways," Netanyahu spokesman David Bar-Illan declared yesterday.

Citing a reference in the **Hamas** leaflet to a Muslim cleric kidnapped by Israel from southern Lebanon in 1989, Arafat suggested that the bombing was orchestrated from outside Palestinian-controlled territory in the West Bank or Gaza.

But Netanyahu rejected that, telling reporters: "It's not a matter of two to three suicide bombers. It takes dozens of people. It's a whole operation, and this operation resides in the Palestinian areas."

Immediately after the bombing, Israel ordered the Gaza Strip and West Bank closed to prevent Palestinians from entering Israel proper. Such closures have become standard in the aftermath of bombings.

Only Monday, Israel partially lifted a 30-day closure that had been imposed after the market bombing. Israel's public security minister, Avigdor Kahalani, told reporters yesterday that he did not believe the move was linked to yesterday's bombing.

In addition to claiming responsibility for yesterday's attack, **Hamas** is the prime suspect in the still-unsolved bombings July 30 at Jerusalem's open-air produce market, Mahane Yehuda. Fifteen Israelis were killed, along with two suicide bombers, in that attack.

Israeli Police Commissioner Assaf Hefetz said there were similarities in the nail-studded explosives used by the terrorists in the July bombing and yesterday's attack. The tactics used in both attacks also appeared similar.

In yesterday's bombing, witnesses said the three terrorists appeared to have stood about 20 yards apart so that they could make eye contact when they detonated their bombs. The bombers in the July 30 attack also reportedly made eye contact seconds before the twin explosions.

The bombs were hidden in relatively small parcels, probably so that they would not attract attention, and one of the bombers disguised himself as a woman.

Gregg Salzman, 25, a chiropractor who recently moved to Jerusalem from New Brunswick, N.J., recalled seeing a passerby in a colorful dress and straw sun hat who appeared to be a man.

"I said to a friend: 'That's odd. You don't see that often in Jerusalem,'" Salzman said.

Ten minutes later, the first bomb detonated. Salzman, who was about 40 yards away, suffered burns to his shoulders and arms.

SUICIDE BOMBS KILL 7 IN JERUSALEM / 200 HURT

The bombs went off shortly after 3 p.m. Esther Kroiser, who was in a cafe to celebrate her 20th birthday, as well as the end of her army service, also recalled the scene as she waited in the X-ray department of Jerusalem's Sha'are Zedek Hospital:

"Everything was great. I was drinking coffee. Then there was a big bang. Everything stopped dead in its tracks. We held hands, my friend and I, and then we got up and started running for the door. Everybody was running in different directions like rats."

The bombs transformed Ben Yehuda into the same grisly tableau that has become commonplace in Israel. People lying on the pavement with their clothes burned off amid overturned plastic furniture. Bleeding women shrieking into their mobile telephones. Dead pigeons.

Ben Yehuda Street is one of the most congested parts of downtown Jerusalem, a strip of cafes and fast-food restaurants - the place where teenagers take a spin with their roller blades and where tourists rest their weary feet.

There is always a heavy security presence of Israeli soldiers and police. But, like the Mahane Yehuda market, the scene of the attack in July, the street is part of an open-air district where inspecting every bag or package is virtually impossible.

"Look at us. We're a sitting target for them," said Daniel Alon, the owner of a souvenir shop, who was nursing several minor shrapnel wounds over a cup of coffee yesterday evening. "I always look at the faces. Maybe him, maybe her, but there are so many people. How can you tell who's a bomber and who's just hanging out in the sunshine?"

Recent polls showed that about one-quarter of the Palestinians in Gaza and the West Bank support armed attacks against Israelis. Among the majority who do not are the workers who earn their livelihood in Israel.

"It is very, very bad. We are living in a miserable condition," said Abed Hasan, 37, a Gaza resident who supports his eight children by working in an auto-body shop. "Nobody is supporting what is happening. We want to be able to raise our kids. We want to live. Enough bloodshed."

Graphic

PHOTO;

PHOTO

A wounded Israeli woman is carried down Ben Yehuda Street in Jerusalem after the three bombings. (Flash '90)

Load-Date: October 18, 2002

Palestinians play with fire in dire game of duplicity

Courier Mail (Queensland, Australia)

March 26, 1997, Wednesday

Copyright 1997 Nationwide News Pty Limited

Section: NEWS; Pg. 17

Length: 507 words

Byline: GHAZALI S

Body

We are telling Arafat: stop the double game, get serious and address us with one voice

IN one West Bank riot yesterday, Palestinian police formed a human chain and pushed Palestinian stone throwers away from Israeli troops.

In another, Yasser Arafat's troops stood by and watched for hours, with one officer finally telling protesters to go home and "save your energy for another day".

Israel says Mr Arafat's security forces are sending mixed signals about the Palestinian Authority's attitude towards violence. But Palestinian leaders insist they are simply having a difficult time controlling anger over Israel's tough policies.

QNP

The different approaches yesterday in Hebron and Bethlehem may also reflect disagreement among Palestinians over how to respond to Israel's decision to build a large Jewish neighbourhood in East Jerusalem, which Palestinians claim as a capital.

"We are telling Arafat: stop the double game, get serious and address us with one voice," said Dore Gold, foreign policy adviser to Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu.

Israeli officials say that even after a suicide bomber linked to the militant **Hamas** group killed three **women** in a Tel Aviv cafe last Friday, Mr Arafat has not moved to rein in militants.

Palestinian security officials interviewed yesterday indicated a breakdown in their close co-operation with Israel that began during a joint crackdown on the militants a year ago after bombings killed 63 people in Israel.

Attorney General Khaled Kidreh said the Palestinian Authority would not take its instructions from Israel, the Cabinet of which on Monday demanded the Palestinians arrest and disarm the militants.

"We are not waiting for anyone to give us lists or tell us who to arrest," he said. "We are studying the possible arrests . . . but we will carry out these arrests when we are sure they have broken the law."

At the same time, Mr Arafat cannot afford to ignore US admonitions and Israeli anger over his release of scores of jailed Islamic militants.

Palestinians play with fire in dire game of duplicity

One US official, who spoke on condition of anonymity, said the US told Mr Arafat "very strongly that releasing the wrong kind of people was sending a strongly negative signal".

Last week, Mr Netanyahu specifically mentioned the release of Ibrahim Maqadmeh, a leading **Hamas** activist, as indicative of the "green light" Mr Arafat allegedly gave the militants to carry out attacks.

Maqadmeh was reported to have been re-arrested on Friday after telling a **Hamas** rally that only suicide bombs would stop Israel building in Jerusalem.

On Monday, Palestinian officials admitted that a warrant for Maqadmeh's arrest had been issued but he was not in custody.

Last year's bombing attacks helped bring down the government of peace architect Shimon Peres and brought on harsh measures against the Palestinians. Now, says Ghazi Hamad, a Gaza **Hamas** leader, the mood on the street is more supportive of violence because Palestinians "believe the peace process is not going in the direction that will fulfil the interest of the people and their aspirations".

Associated Press

Load-Date: March 1, 2002

20 Jailed Arab Women Say No to Israeli Offer of Freedom

The New York Times

October 9, 1995, Monday, Late Edition - Final

Copyright 1995 The New York Times Company

Distribution: Foreign Desk

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

Length: 730 words

Byline: By SERGE SCHMEMANN

By SERGE SCHMEMANN

Dateline: JERUSALEM, Oct. 8

Body

The latest Israeli-Palestinian agreement got off to a shaky start today when imprisoned Palestinian women refused to accept a presidential pardon, charging that Israel had reneged on a pledge to free all female Palestinian prisoners.

But on other fronts, work to carry out the agreement moved ahead. Israel and the Palestinians reported that a Palestinian election could come as early as January, and the Palestine Liberation Organization chairman, Yasir Arafat, freed a senior Hamas leader in a quickening campaign to strike a truce with the militant Islamic opposition.

Israel had announced that 21 women would be freed from detention today in what was to be the start of a three-stage prisoner release. But only one woman -- 18-year-old Bashayer Abu Laban -- walked free, and only because she had been in isolation in prison and was not aware of the boycott.

The others refused to sign a statement demanded by Israel forswearing any further attacks against Israelis and remained in detention. Palestinian officials said they were protesting Israel's failure to release four women accused of committing murder. According to the agreement signed on Sept. 28 in Washington, Israel was to release "all female detainees and prisoners" as soon as the agreement went into effect.

But President Ezer Weizman refused to give pardons to two women who had been convicted of murder, and military officials followed suit with two other murder suspects held by the West Bank occupation authorities.

Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin and Foreign Minister Shimon Peres publicly treated the refusal as a minor glitch. But Mr. Weizman's action on a treaty that both of these officials had signed was an embarrassing public rejection by the head of state, who is supposed to play a largely ceremonial role.

Mr. Weizman has stepped out of that role more than once to voice public criticism of the treaty, drawing sharp criticism from the governing Labor Party. But it was unlikely that Mr. Rabin would risk a public confrontation with the popular President on an issue over which the Israeli public is sharply divided.

20 Jailed Arab Women Say No to Israeli Offer of Freedom

Miss Abu Laban, the prisoner who did leave prison, had served three years of an eight-year sentence on charges of trying to stab an Israeli soldier. Back home in the Mount of Olives section of East Jerusalem, she sat smiling and hugging her mother as dozens of relatives and friends gathered to celebrate.

A spokesman for Mr. Arafat said the Palestinian Authority would demand the release of all the women. "It's not our problem what President Weizman or the Knesset think," said the spokesman, Nabil Abu Rdaineh. "The Israeli Government pledged very clearly to release all the women, and any other justifications will not be acceptable."

But Mr. Arafat indicated at a meeting with Mr. Peres on Saturday that carrying out the agreement would not be affected by the dispute. He said the issue would be taken up in discussions between Mr. Weizman and President Hosni Mubarak of Egypt. Mr. Arafat and Mr. Peres met at Erez, on the border of the Gaza Strip, to discuss concrete arrangements for the withdrawal of Israeli troops and the beginning of Palestinian self-rule in Arab-populated areas of the West Bank.

Israeli officials said they would formally begin closing military administration offices in the West Bank this week, starting with four villages, and that the P.L.O. would move in the Palestinian police.

In Mr. Arafat's conciliatory gesture toward Hamas today, he released a senior Hamas leader held in detention in Gaza. The leader, Mahmoud al-Zahar, has been in jail since June 26.

The release came as five moderate Hamas officials from Gaza were reported meeting with militant exile leaders in Khartoum, the Sudan, in an effort to hammer out a truce between them and the P.L.O. The five traveled to the Sudan last week after drafting a proposed agreement with Mr. Arafat under which Hamas would gain political rights in Palestinian areas in exchange for suspending terror attacks on Israel.

The Islamic opposition is reported to be split between militants who reject the Israeli-Palestinian agreement and moderates who want to take part in the coming elections. Western diplomats who monitor Palestinian affairs say they believe that the moderate wing is gaining strength. An aide to Mr. Arafat who arranged Mr. Zahar's release indicated that more Hamas prisoners might be released soon.

Graphic

Photo: Although the Israelis were to have freed a group of Palestinian women yesterday, differences over who would be freed led to a protest among some of the prisoners. As a result, only one woman, 18-year-old Bashayer Abu Laban, was released. She celebrated with her mother, right, and other relatives. (Rina Castelnovo for The New York Times)

Load-Date: October 9, 1995

HOSTAGE KILLED AS ISRAELIS RAID HIDEOUT; MILITANTS HELD SOLDIER, 19, TO BROKER A SWAP

St. Louis Post-Dispatch (Missouri)

October 15, 1994, SATURDAY, FIVE STAR Edition

Copyright 1994 St. Louis Post-Dispatch, Inc.

Section: NEWS; Pg. 1A

Length: 881 words

Dateline: TEL AVIV, ISRAEL

Body

Islamic militants fatally shot a kidnapped Israeli soldier Friday when Israeli commandos stormed their hideout near Jerusalem, Israel's army chief said.

An Israeli commando and three kidnapers from **Hamas**, a militant Islamic group, also were killed in the raid, Lt. Gen. Ehud Barak said at a news conference with Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin.

Nine Israelis were wounded. One of the kidnapers was captured, along with an accomplice who rented the hideout for the kidnapers just north of Jerusalem in Bir Nabala, part of the Israeli-occupied West Bank.

Although the raid ended days of drama that had galvanized the nation, it did not dispel difficult questions about the consequences for peace talks with the Palestine Liberation Organization, which Israel had broken off four days ago when the kidnapping became known.

Rabin said that he hoped the deaths would not end negotiations and that he would be in touch with the PLO to see how they may be resumed. A spokesman for PLO Chairman Yasser Arafat said the two leaders already had talked about how to get the talks back on track, but Israeli officials did not confirm that.

The raid occurred about 90 minutes before the deadline that kidnapers had set for killing Cpl. Nachshon Waxman, 19, an Israeli-American. "Nachshon was killed in cold blood while he was bound," Barak said.

Hamas guerrillas seized Waxman in Israel Sunday. They had threatened to kill him at 9 p.m. (4 p.m. St. Louis time) Friday unless Rabin freed Sheik Ahmed Yassin, their jailed spiritual leader, and 200 other Palestinian prisoners. Mahmoud Zahar, a top **Hamas** political leader, had agreed to extend the execution deadline by 24 hours shortly before the raid.

Rabin, who won a share of the Nobel Peace Prize earlier in the day, said he had ordered the operation after he got firm word Friday morning that Waxman was being held in the West Bank village.

Until then, Rabin said, Israel was certain the soldier was held in Gaza, a Palestinian self-rule area, and he had pressured Arafat to try to win Waxman's release. He did not fully explain why he had rejected exchanging Waxman for the sheik when mediators had raised that as a possibility, except to say that "there was no serious proposal" before him.

HOSTAGE KILLED AS ISRAELIS RAID HIDEOUT; MILITANTS HELD SOLDIER, 19, TO BROKER A SWAP

"I, as minister of defense and prime minister, take full responsibility," Rabin said. "It is our obligation not to surrender to terrorism but to act against it." He said he "would be happy to give back the Nobel Peace Prize to bring back to life both of the soldiers who fell."

The kidnapping had snarled the peace process and spoiled the announcement of the Nobel Peace Prize on Friday to Rabin, Foreign Minister Shimon Peres and Arafat for last year's peace treaty.

Rabin condemned the extremists and said he had sent an emissary to discuss the demands when he thought he had no military option.

"Whoever wants to advance peace must fight the radical, murderous terrorists of Hamas and Islamic Jihad and the rejectionists because they are the murderers of peace," he said.

Barak, the chief of staff, said Waxman had been shot in the neck and chest after his hands and legs were tied. He said the rescue operation had involved several dozen soldiers.

Barak said soldiers blew open the door of the house with explosives. Then, to get into the room where Waxman was held, his forces had to blast their way in again, he said.

The commandos charged inside to find that Waxman had been killed by his kidnappers. Before going in, they offered the kidnappers a chance to surrender, but the Islamic militants shouted back that the soldier was dead, Barak said.

Killed with Waxman was Israeli oCapt. Nir Poraz and three captors.

Residents said that the army commandos had entered the village of 7,000 people about 7:30 p.m. and that the operation had lasted about one hour.

The commandos fired rockets and anti-tank shells at the house, Israeli sources said. The kidnappers responded with automatic rifle fire.

News of the raid was held back by Israeli military censors for several hours until relatives of the victims could be notified. Israeli television reported that friends and neighbors streamed to the Waxman home.

Family members made no public statement after the raid. But Esther Waxman, the dead soldier's mother, earlier had asked Jewish women around the world to light Sabbath candles for her son as the deadline drew near.

In Washington, President Bill Clinton urged the Israelis and the PLO on Friday to maintain the Middle East peace process despite the killing.

"I know that it is hard to go forward, but we owe it to all those who have paid such a heavy price to persist and finally prevail in our pursuit of peace," Clinton said. He expressed his "profound shock and abhorrence" at Waxman's death and called the kidnapping "cowardly and evil."

Marwan Kanafani, an aide to Arafat, said the PLO chairman was saddened by the loss of life.

Kanafani said the PLO had been vindicated in its assertion that Waxman was not being held in Gaza.

He said Arafat was calling on Rabin to immediately lift the closure of the Gaza Strip, imposed Tuesday.

Arafat previously had avoided cracking down on Hamas. But more than 160 Hamas activists were rounded up by Palestinian police in a two-day sweep in the Gaza Strip that was launched as a result of mounting Israeli and U.S. pressure.

Graphic

HOSTAGE KILLED AS ISRAELIS RAID HIDEOUT; MILITANTS HELD SOLDIER, 19, TO BROKER A SWAP

PHOTO; Color Photo by Reuter - An Israeli soldier, wounded Friday in a shootout with members of the **Hamas** group, is wheeled from an ambulance into a Jerusalem hospital.

Load-Date: October 19, 1994

End of Document

Suicide bombers kill seven Israelis, injure 50 more

The Record (Kitchener-Waterloo, Ontario)

April 10, 1995 Monday Final Edition

Copyright 1995 Metroland Media Group Ltd

Section: FRONT; Pg. A5; News

Length: 338 words

Byline: Yaroslav Trofimov

Dateline: JERUSALEM

Body

In a double strike Sunday, two Palestinian suicide bombers killed seven Israelis and injured 50 more in the autonomous Gaza Strip.

Among the dead were six soldiers, two of them women. They were returning to their posts guarding Gaza's Jewish settlements after a weekend on leave, the Israeli army said.

SOUTHAM NEWS

Sunday's attacks, blamed on the Islamic fundamentalist groups Hamas and the Islamic Jihad, prompted several Israeli cabinet ministers and the country's president, Ezer Weismann, to call for a suspension of the peace process with the Palestine Liberation Movement.

But Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin assured a government session late Sunday night that Palestinian self-rule talks will continue despite the violence.

The attacks embarrassed PLO leader Yasser Arafat, who had insisted that Hamas does not kill Israelis inside the Palestinian autonomous area.

"We are committed to confronting terrorism. These people are the enemies of peace," Arafat said in a telephone conversation with Rabin after ordering a crackdown on Hamas militants.

Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak, Jordan's King Hussein and U.S. President Bill Clinton have also expressed their condolences and condemned the killings.

Both bombings occurred on a major Gaza Strip road used jointly by the Palestinians and Israelis travelling between Jewish settlements and Israel proper.

In the first attack, a Palestinian driver, Khaled Mohammed Khatib, 24, crashed his booby-trapped car into an Israeli bus near the settlement of Kfar Darom, witnesses said.

Khatib's car blew into pieces on impact, instantly killing six soldiers and wounding 40 soldiers and settlers aboard the bus, witnesses said.

Islamic Jihad claimed responsibility for the attack.

Suicide bombers kill seven Israelis, injure 50 more

Two hours later, another Palestinian suicide bomber, identified as Imad Abu Amuna, 22, from the Shati refugee camp, crashed his explosives-filled vehicle into an Israeli border police jeep.

One border policeman and the bomber were killed and several were wounded in the blast, according to the Israeli army.

Load-Date: September 21, 2002

End of Document

MUSLIM MILITANTS DECLARE WAR

COURIER-MAIL

October 28, 1993 Thursday

Copyright 1993 Nationwide News Pty Limited

Length: 444 words

Byline: AAPINTNEWS

Body

KEYWORD-HIT

Muslim

militants

declare war

Blow for

Israelis

JERUSALEM: Muslim militants opposed to the peace accord between Israel and the Palestine Liberation Organisation have declared ""open war" on the Israeli army.

They have issued an ultimatum to Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin to free fundamentalist prisoners, along with members of the PLO.

The military wing of the Islamic **Hamas** movement, which kidnapped and killed two hitch-hiking Israeli soldiers on Sunday in the occupied Gaza Strip, made the statement in a leaflet released yesterday.
QNP

""We have declared an open war on the invading occupiers and have taken an oath to turn Gaza and the West Bank into a mass graveyard for Rabin's soldiers and settlers," the statement said.

Mr Rabin, who released 617 Palestinians on Tuesday, abandoned plans to free **Hamas** sympathisers after the group's gunmen, disguised as

MUSLIM MILITANTS DECLARE WAR

religious Jews, killed the soldiers.

The leaflet said if Mr Rabin did not release jailed Hamas founder Sheikh Ahmed Yassin immediately, he would ""pay the price of his refusal with the flesh and hearts of his cowardly soldiers".

It said Hamas fighters ""have destroyed all of the enemy's security theories".

The mass release, limited to women, the frail, the young and the elderly, was meant to build support among Palestinians for the peace accord signed in Washington last month.

PLO negotiators have called on Israel to release all 12,000 to 13,000 jailed Palestinians. The leaflet, however, demanded that the PLO campaign more vigorously on behalf of jailed Muslim activists.

Israeli and Palestinian negotiators began detailed discussions yesterday on how to achieve peace in the occupied territories.

Negotiators at the Egyptian resort of Taba said four working groups would focus on such crucial issues as Jewish settlements, defining the size of areas to come under Palestinian self-rule, control of border crossings and a Palestinian police force.

Israelis and Palestinians are in the third round of talks on implementing a deal on self-rule, beginning in the occupied Gaza Strip and West Bank town of Jericho.

Palestinians pressed Israel for a timetable to free prisoners _ including those opposed to the accord _ but Mr Rabin said any future release would have to be negotiated.

""We would like to see all of them (prisoners), in a scheduled fashion and as soon as possible, be released and participate in supporting this peace process," head of the Palestinian delegation Nabil Shaath told reporters during a break in negotiations.

""We feel that freedom brings in greater support and not the other way around."

MUSLIM MILITANTS DECLARE WAR

A planned relaxation of restrictions on Arabs entering Israel from the occupied lands went into effect yesterday.

Reuter

Load-Date: November 28, 2003

End of Document

Terrorist attacks 'approved by Arafat'; * MIDDLE EAST

Sydney Morning Herald (Australia)

March 25, 1997 Tuesday

Late Edition

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Section: NEWS AND FEATURES; International News; Pg. 12

Length: 513 words

Byline: ROSS DUNN Herald Correspondent in Jerusalem

Body

Israeli security chiefs have publicly accused the Palestinian President, Mr Yasser Arafat, of authorising Islamic militants to carry out terrorist attacks.

They also said recent riots in the West Bank town of Hebron were organised by the Palestinian Authority.

One of Mr Arafat's aides denied that Hamas had received Mr Arafat's "green light".

The accusations were made as the Israeli Cabinet announced any further progress in negotiations depended on Mr Arafat acting effectively to stop terrorism.

The decision means a freeze on plans to withdraw Israeli troops from about a 10th of the West Bank, on the opening of a Palestinian airport in the Gaza Strip and on the release of more Palestinian political prisoners.

Israel's inner Cabinet, in a statement after it met, said: "The Government of Israel demands from the Palestinian Authority that it upholds its commitments to fight terror and violence, as a necessary step to furthering the political process."

But the Prime Minister, Mr Benjamin Netanyahu, stressed this did not mean he was suspending talks with the Palestinians following a bombing in Tel Aviv last week in which three women and the bomber were killed.

He was simply making security the first priority in any discussions, he said.

"I am not suspending talks because our people are talking with their people, but the first item on the agenda is the fulfilment of the Palestinian obligation to fight terrorism. They have to start complying with that or else we can't move."

Mr Netanyahu made his comments after the inner Cabinet was told Mr Arafat had given his approval for Muslim militants to attack Israelis.

At a news conference in Jerusalem, Israel's head of military intelligence, Major-General Moshe Ya'alon, was blunt in his charges. "Palestinian Authority Chairman Yasser Arafat gave the green light to radical organisations to carry out attacks," he said.

Terrorist attacks 'approved by Arafat' * MIDDLE EAST

A top Palestinian security official, Colonel Jibril Rajoub, had organised the Hebron riots over the past three days, he said.

It was difficult to prove Mr Arafat had given any specific order to initiate attacks, he said, but the Palestinian leader had certainly met leaders of Islamic organisations and given them to understand that was his message.

The Palestinian Authority was working with the Islamic Resistance Movement, **Hamas**, which claimed responsibility for last week's bomb blast, he said.

"Today there is no conflict between the PA and **Hamas**," General Ya'alon said.

But an Arafat adviser, Dr Ahmed Tibi, denied the Palestinian leader had given the "green light" to **Hamas**, saying he was unmoved by the Israeli announcement that there would be no more progress in political negotiations until the security situation improved.

"There have been hardly any talks for the past two months," he said.

The Israeli Army says it plans to demolish the house of the suicide bomber, Moussa Ranimat, in the West Bank village of Tsurif, near Hebron.

The army has sealed Ranimat's home and banned reporters from the area. His family has been given time to petition the Israeli High Court against the planned demolition.

Graphic

ILLUS: The husband of Anat Rosen-Vinter, who died in the Tel Aviv bombing, touches her body at the burial. Her six-month-old daughter survived the blast. Photo by REUTER/HAVAKUK LEVISON

Load-Date: July 23, 2007

ARAFAT PRAISES END OF SIEGE, SAYS ISRAELIS MUST DO MORE

The Columbian (Vancouver, WA.)

August 28, 1997, Thursday

Copyright 1997 The Columbian Publishing Co.

Section: A section; Pg. 2

Length: 357 words

Byline: By NASSER SHIYOUKHI ; Associated Press writer

Body

HEBRON, West Bank -- Yasser Arafat today welcomed Israel's lifting of the monthlong siege of Bethlehem and said Israel must now end its blockade of the West Bank and Gaza Strip.

In Bethlehem, a Palestinian security official said two suspects have been arrested in connection with a July 30 suicide bombing by Islamic militants in a Jerusalem market.

However, the report was later denied by another Palestinian official.

He said Palestinian police in Bethlehem have arrested suspects in connection with a bomb factory discovered in the area last month, but said the detainees had no links to the Jerusalem blast.

Israel's closure was imposed after the bombing and bars all Palestinians, including some 100,000 workers, from entering Israel.

Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu has said he would only ease the travel ban once the Palestinians did more to rein in the militants, particularly the **Hamas** group that Israel blames for the market bombing.

It was likely, however, that Israel would ease the restrictions to improve the climate before next month's visit to the region by U.S. Secretary of State Madeleine Albright.

In one conciliatory step, Israel lifted the monthlong siege of Bethlehem on Wednesday. During that time, Bethlehem's 60,000 residents were barred from leaving town and many pilgrims could not visit the biblical birthplace of Jesus.

Israel had imposed the siege on Bethlehem amid suspicions that **Hamas** masterminds of the bombing were hiding in the city. The two bombers were never identified.

The first Palestinian, a security official who spoke on condition of anonymity, said Palestinian police arrested two suspects in the bombing in the past week in Bethlehem. The information was passed on to the Americans, who relayed it to the Israelis, he said.

Israel has said that even if the bombers came from abroad, they were likely helped by **Hamas** activists in the West Bank.

Asked today about the lifting of the Bethlehem siege, Arafat said: "It's a good step, but it is not enough."

ARAFAT PRAISES END OF SIEGE, SAYS ISRAELIS MUST DO MORE

The Palestinian leader, who toured a Hebron factory today, complained that the overall closure constituted collective punishment of the Palestinians.

Graphic

EYAL WARSHAVSKY/Associated Press * Travel ban lifted: Palestinian women speak to an Israeli border police officer at the checkpoint in the West Bank town of Bethlehem Wednesday.

Load-Date: August 28, 1997

End of Document

YOUTH'S KILLING RENEWS TENSIONS AMONG PALESTINIANS

Charleston Gazette (West Virginia)

May 22, 1994, Sunday

Copyright 1994 Charleston Newspapers

Section: News; Pg. P14A

Length: 782 words

Byline: Said Ghazali

Body

Ahmed Tabash, 13, was shot to death by an Israeli before Palestinian police arrived in Gaza. The PLO police investigation has been thwarted by Islamic fundamentalists, who oppose an autopsy, and the family is divided on the question. The case illustrates the complexity of life under the PLO's new autonomy government.

By Said Ghazali KHAN YOUNIS, Gaza Strip (AP) _ "They killed my son on the first day of peace," says Fatmeh Tabash, mourning the 13-year-old shot through the heart on the dusty streets of this refugee camp.

"I had told myself the killing had stopped."

Over and over, she plays a tape of her son's high-pitched voice singing a song of the Islamic fundamentalist group **Hamas**: "Don't cry for me, Mother. Let my blood flow. I am going to paradise."

She takes comfort from the prophetic words of sacrifice and martyrdom. But the killing of Ahmed Tabash outside a nearby Israeli settlement has raised tensions between settlers and Palestinians, become a point of dispute between Yasser Arafat's PLO and **Hamas**, and even divided Ahmed's family.

Hamas quickly seized on the boy's May 9 death. The family's

YOUTH'S KILLING RENEWS TENSIONS AMONG PALESTINIANS

living room is dominated by a poster of Ahmed holding a plastic gun

.The poster claims him as a martyr of **Hamas**, which opposes the Palestine Liberation Organization's peacemaking with Israel.

Ahmed's body, which the family took from the hospital and buried before authorities arrived, has also become the focus of a battle.

PLO police have asked that the boy's body be exhumed so they can find the bullet, perform an autopsy, and gather evidence against the killer.

"The inquiry hit a stumbling block," said Maj. Ibrahim Awad, head of the PLO side of a joint Israeli-PLO investigation unit.

"The Israelis said we should provide proof for our claims. They are right. The ball is in our court."

The family has refused Awad's request. Residents of Khan Younis are divided on whether an autopsy violates religious custom and are skeptical about any cooperation with the Israelis.

Islamic fundamentalists demand the PLO-run autonomy government enforce Islamic law, from dress codes for **women** to bans on drinking and gambling. Militant Muslims say autopsies violate religious law, because martyrs should be buried in their own blood without being washed or altered in any way.

"We do not trust Jews, and we reject an autopsy for the boy because this is against our religion," said Ahmed Nimr, a Muslim preacher and local **Hamas** leader. "Also, our police receive orders from the Israelis, and they will not help in getting justice for the family."

Nimr spoke in the Rahmeh mosque after arguing in a sermon that Ahmed's death would give new impetus to the struggle to take back all of Palestine, including what is now Israel.

Maj. Awad, supported by prominent religious leaders, insists that the Koran, Islam's holy book, does not prohibit an autopsy or

YOUTH'S KILLING RENEWS TENSIONS AMONG PALESTINIANS

other tests that could help determine who killed Ahmed.

"This is partly ignorance on the part of the people and partly incitement," Awad said. If all issues are subject to a religious test, he added, "we cannot build our country."

Awad was interviewed at the District Coordination Office, where PLO police occupy a row of white trailers across a gravel courtyard from other trailers housing Israeli officers. Their mission is to investigate cases where jurisdiction overlaps.

Opposition to cooperating with Israel is strong among the 40,000 Palestinians in Khan Younis. Sentiment against the autopsy is a mixture of religious feeling and mistrust of Israel.

"Israeli courts will not fairly try a settler, so there is no need for an autopsy," said Amer Zoraik, 27. "I am a PLO supporter, but we cannot change our religion."

Other residents disagreed.

"An autopsy is a must to give the Palestinian police a chance to prove that settlers are dangerous to peace," said Ahmed Aweini, an engineer who has worked for the United Nations.

Ahmed's family also is divided.

"We are losing in life, but winning in paradise," the boy's father, Ibrahim Tabash, said of his decision to reject an autopsy.

An uncle, Said Tabash, who supports Arafat, accused **Hamas** of "political exploitation" and has tried to persuade his brother to change his mind.

Friends and relatives say Ahmed, a tall, muscular boy who starred at soccer, was shot as he and some friends pitched stones over the electrified mesh fence of Neve Dekalim, a Jewish settlement. Witnesses told police that a blond Israeli known for previous attacks on Arabs was riding a motorscooter inside the fence. They said he stopped, leaned his scooter against a tree, and fired into

YOUTH'S KILLING RENEWS TENSIONS AMONG PALESTINIANS

the group of about 20 youths, hitting Ahmed.

A settlement official said Ahmed was shot by a nonresident Israeli who was fixing the fence and felt threatened by the rock-throwing.

Load-Date: January 31, 1995

End of Document

BOMBING IN JERUSALEM: THE OVERVIEW;
3 BOMBERS IN SUICIDE ATTACK KILL 4 ON JERUSALEM STREET IN
ANOTHER BLOW TO PEACE

The New York Times

September 5, 1997, Friday, Late Edition - Final

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Distribution: Foreign Desk

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

Length: 1567 words

Byline: By SERGE SCHMEMANN

By SERGE SCHMEMANN

Dateline: JERUSALEM, Sept. 4

Body

Three suicide bombers evidently acting in concert set off bombs on a popular shopping promenade in Jerusalem today, killing four passers-by and themselves and dealing a brutal new blow to the reeling Israeli-Palestinian peace.

The three explosions followed in quick succession at about 3:10 P.M. on Ben Yehuda Street, a shady pedestrian thoroughfare in West Jerusalem lined with boutiques and outdoor cafes, and packed with Israelis and foreign tourists.

Officials said eight people were severely wounded, and about 180 others were also hurt. Hospital officials said the toll and damage were limited by the fact that the bombers set off their charges in the open. An attack five weeks ago by two suicide bombers in Jerusalem's Mahane Yehuda vegetable market, a more constricted and more densely packed place, took the lives of 15 victims.

Shortly after the bombings, President Clinton announced that Secretary of State Madeleine K. Albright would proceed with a visit to the Mideast planned for next week. But the bombing and the inevitably fierce Israeli response radically altered the context of her visit, which had been intended to try to put pressure on the Israelis to moderate their policies toward the Palestinians.

The bombing today was the first triple suicide bombing since Palestinian militants began such attacks in Israel in April 1994. But in other details the bombing closely resembled the Mahane Yehuda strike on July 30.

The three bombers, one or two of whom were said by some witnesses to have been dressed as women, detonated their explosives within sight of each other, just as the two bombers did in the vegetable market attack. And an offshoot of the Islamic Hamas movement calling itself the "Martyrs' Brigade for Freeing Prisoners" took responsibility for both attacks, warning of more to come if Israel did not meet its demands to release Palestinian prisoners.

BOMBING IN JERUSALEM: THE OVERVIEW; 3 BOMBERS IN SUICIDE ATTACK KILL 4 ON JERUSALEM STREET IN ANOTHER BLOW TO PEACE

The Israeli Government only recently began to lift the severe restrictions imposed on Palestinians after the July attack, and hopes for a further easing of the tensions between Israel and the Palestinian Authority of Yasir Arafat had mounted in advance of the scheduled visit by Secretary of State Albright, her first since taking office.

Instead, Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu pointed to the attack as proof of his contention that the root problem in the deadlock in Israeli-Palestinian relations was Mr. Arafat's failure to combat terrorism, and not Israeli expansion in occupied territories or the recalcitrance of the right-wing Government, as charged by the Palestinian leader.

"It must be clear from this moment that our way will be different," Mr. Netanyahu warned while visiting the wounded in a hospital. "We cannot continue in this way."

Immediately after today's attack, the Israeli military restored all the restrictions that were being loosened, effectively barring Palestinians from entering Israel proper.

But this time, the general expectation was that Israel would take far sterner measures, probably including authorization for the security services to operate within Palestinian-controlled areas.

The Prime Minister declined to send representatives to an emergency security meeting of American, Palestinian and Israeli officials proposed by the United States, saying, "We're sick of talks."

Mr. Netanyahu met with senior security chiefs in the evening, and was scheduled to meet with the full Cabinet on Friday to decide on retaliatory measures.

Though the Israelis have conducted at least one security operation in the Palestinian zones in recent months, formal approval by the Government for such operations would be denounced by the Palestinians as a direct contravention of the 1993 Oslo accords, and would pose a serious challenge to Mr. Arafat's authority.

Tensions between Israel and the Palestinians have mounted steadily since Mr. Netanyahu's election, and political contacts between the two sides all but collapsed last March over the Israeli decision to build new housing for Jews in East Jerusalem.

Since then, relations have been marked by sporadic violence and a deterioration of security cooperation, and a steady increase in mutual accusations and recriminations for the collapse of the political process.

Last month Mr. Arafat publicly embraced Islamic militants from the Hamas and Islamic Holy War groups, and spoke glowingly of the revolt waged by Palestinian youths until the signing of the 1993 Oslo peace.

Mr. Arafat denounced the bombings, which he described as an attack "not only against people who pay with their lives, but also against Israeli people, Palestinian people, and the peace process."

At the same time, the Palestinian leader tried to deflect responsibility by suggesting that the Hamas statement taking responsibility for the attacks came from abroad.

Mr. Arafat also argued that the Israeli punitive sanctions only served the extremists.

"I insist that collective punishment against the Palestinian people does not solve problems," he said in Gaza.

After the July 30 attack, Mr. Arafat criticized Israel for putting pressure on him to crack down on Hamas, and said he would reject such "dictates."

Several hours after today's attack, however, Palestinian security forces rounded up 20 Hamas and Islamic Holy War leaders in the West Bank and Gaza Strip.

Security officials said more arrests would follow of Islamic militants suspected of "plotting" against Palestinian interests.

BOMBING IN JERUSALEM: THE OVERVIEW; 3 BOMBERS IN SUICIDE ATTACK KILL 4 ON JERUSALEM STREET IN ANOTHER BLOW TO PEACE

Israelis, however, have long been skeptical of such roundups, saying they have followed other terror attacks and have proved short-lived. And there was little question that Mr. Netanyahu, who was elected in May 1995 on the promise of "peace with security," was under powerful pressure to crack down on the Palestinians.

The Prime Minister said there could be no political process so long as Israelis "get blown up in the streets," and he vowed to crack down on the Islamic militants if Mr. Arafat did not.

"We see Arafat and his security people, who are supposed to fight them, hugging and kissing them," he said. "We are not ready to continue in this way."

Mr. Netanyahu was said to have held an unusually harsh telephone conversation with President Hosni Mubarak and Foreign Minister Amr Moussa of Egypt.

Justice Minister Tzahi Hanegbi, a hard-line member of the Cabinet, said he would press at a Cabinet meeting Friday for Israel to re-enter the Palestinian areas. "There's no need to take over their territory," he said, "but the heads of Hamas and Islamic Jihad should be made to be continually on the run, with no time to plan attacks. We have to do what we expected Arafat to do."

Israel's representative at the United Nations, Dore Gold, asserted in a letter to Secretary General Kofi Annan that the Palestinian Authority "must be held accountable for what has happened in Jerusalem" and declared that Israel "reserves the right to do what it necessary to provide for the defense of the Israeli people."

Apart from the Hamas communique, there was little immediate information on the suicide bombers, and the police have yet to identify the bombers from the July attack.

The bombs consisted of about five pounds of explosive each packed inside nuts and bolts. The police said the shrapnel came "from the same package" as that used in July, further supporting a link between the two attacks.

The explosion ripped the bodies of the bombers apart, leaving limbs and torsos lying on the street and spattering the walls of buildings with blood. The people they killed were identified as two young women and a 12-year-old girl, and a man aged 48. Hospital officials said most of the injuries were either caused by shrapnel or flames.

The Ben Yehuda promenade is virtually the heart of modern Jewish Jerusalem, a broad and shady pedestrian mall to the west of the Old City intersecting a warren of narrow streets with finely restored century-old stone houses. The street and the area are very popular among both residents and tourists.

Soon after the attack, an anonymous call to a news agency directed reporters to a communique concealed in Ramallah. In it, a group calling itself the "Martyrs' Brigade for Freeing Prisoners" of the Qassam military wing of Hamas reiterated demands issued in July for the freeing of all Arab prisoners held by Israel, including Sheikh Ahmed Yassin, spiritual leader of Hamas.

The statement set a deadline of 9 P.M. on Sept. 14.

The communique also said the attack was a "painful response" to an Israeli rocket attack on the Lebanese city of Sidon last month, in which several Palestinians were killed, and for the punitive actions taken by Israel in the West Bank.

It denied that the group had any interest "in interfering in the collapsed political game which is led by America and its supporters in the region."

Some political commentators in Israel noted that the July 30 attack came shortly before Dennis Ross, Washington's chief mediator in the Middle East, was planning a visit, and the current attack came just before Ms. Albright's trip.

President Clinton, who interrupted a vacation to condemn the attack, declared that the bombing was intended to kill innocent people "and the peace process itself."

BOMBING IN JERUSALEM: THE OVERVIEW; 3 BOMBERS IN SUICIDE ATTACK KILL 4 ON JERUSALEM STREET IN ANOTHER BLOW TO PEACE

"They must not be allowed to succeed," the President said.

Ms. Albright, on a private visit to the Czech Republic, urged Mr. Arafat in a statement "to pre-empt terror, destroy infrastructure as well as to create a political climate where there is no tolerance for terror."

Graphic

Photos: An injured woman was carried from a shopping district in West Jerusalem after yesterday's suicide bombing. (Reuters)(pg. A1); Israelis cried in Ben Yehuda Street in Jerusalem yesterday after three suicide bombers killed themselves and four passers-by. (Associated Press); The body of one of three Palestinian suicide bombers lay covered at the Ben Yehuda mall in Jerusalem yesterday. An offshoot of the militant Islamic group **Hamas** claimed responsibility for the bombings. (Agence France-Presse)(pg. A14)

Map of Jerusalem showing location of the explosions: Suicide bombers struck along Ben Yehuda Street, a busy shopping area in Jerusalem. In addition to the bombers, four passers-by were killed. (pg. A14)

Chart: "making War on Israelis: A Deadly Rhythm Since Arab Autonomy"

Oct. 19

An Islamic Resistance Movement (**Hamas**) militant sets off a bomb on a Tel Aviv bus.

Nov. 11

An Islamic Holy War member detonates a bomb near an Israeli military position in the Netzarim settlement in Gaza.

Jan. 22

Two Islamic Holy War members blow themselves up amid a group of Israeli troops near Netanya.

April 9

An Islamic Holy War member attacks an Israeli military convoy near the Kfar Darom settlement in Gaza.

July 24

An unidentified suicide bomber activates a bomb aboard a bus in Ramat Gan, near Tel Aviv.

Aug. 21

An unidentified attacker sets off a bomb in a Jerusalem bus.

Feb. 25

One suicide bomber attacks a bus in Jerusalem while another kills an Israeli soldier in Ashkelon.

March 3

A suicide bomber sets off a bomb on a Jerusalem bus.

March 4

BOMBING IN JERUSALEM: THE OVERVIEW; 3 BOMBERS IN SUICIDE ATTACK KILL 4 ON JERUSALEM STREET IN ANOTHER BLOW TO PEACE

A suicide bomber attacks a shopping street in Tel Aviv.

March 13

A Jordanian soldier shoots a group of schoolgirls on a field trip in Bakura, Jordan.

March 21

A suicide bomber sets off a bomb at a sidewalk cafe in Tel Aviv.

July 30

Two suicide bombers attack Jerusalem's Jewish market.

Sept. 4

Three suicide bombers detonate bombs on a pedestrian shopping street in central Jerusalem.

(Source: Associated Press)(pg. A14)

Load-Date: September 5, 1997

End of Document

Blast scatters precious support for peace effort

THE AUSTRALIAN

August 1, 1997, Friday

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Section: WORLD; Pg. 8

Length: 760 words

Byline: STEPHANIE NOLEN

Body

IN a city where the headlines are rarely optimistic, the front pages of both the Arabic and Hebrew newspapers of Jerusalem had been unusually upbeat, full of words such as "breakthrough" and "progress in the peace process". They spoke too soon.

Two 15kg bombs ripped through the heart of Jerusalem's busiest Jewish market on Wednesday, killing 13 people and wounding 170 more.

The bombing came just as Israel and the Palestine Liberation Organisation headed back to the negotiating table after a five-month deadlock. Israel has now suspended those contacts.

MATP

The bombing also put a stop to US Special Envoy Dennis Ross's planned shuttle to the region where he was to unveil a wealth of "new ideas". An hour after the bombing, Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat telephoned Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu to deliver his condolences. Mr Netanyahu refused to take the call, saying: "We are not interested in condolences. We want them to stop the terror." He accused Mr Arafat of having quietly encouraged actions like the bombing, referring to a group of Palestinian police officers arrested by Israel last week, who it says had orders from a top Arafat deputy to carry out attacks on settlers, and of releasing Hamas leaders from Palestinian Authority jails.

Israel immediately sealed off the West Bank and Gaza, and blamed the bombing on one of the two militant Palestinian opposition groups, Hamas or Islamic Jihad. Indeed, a leaflet found in Ramallah six hours after the bombing claimed it in the name of the military wing of Hamas. But experts in Jerusalem suspect that Hamas or Jihad, as movements, probably were not responsible.

The leaflet, they noted, was not signed by leadership in Beirut or Damascus, as has been the pattern until recently.

"These groups are increasingly mainstream," explained Palestinian political analyst Ghassan Khatib. "And more and more, they are using political means to achieve their goals."

Instead, the bombings were more likely the work of a small splinter cell of one of the groups, he suggested. "It doesn't take more than one or two individuals with some easily available technical expertise."

Indeed, the previous deadly bombing, which killed three Israeli women in Tel Aviv on March 21, proved to be the work of a small splinter group of the Hamas military wing, working without the knowledge of the group's leadership.

Blast scatters precious support for peace effort

Palestinian police cracked another such cell in Bethlehem two weeks ago, when they found a bomb factory in a residential apartment.

Mr Khatib speculated that cell might be linked to Wednesday's bombing. He said that despite the recent progress on the political level, he was not surprised by the bombing.

"With all the pressure on the Palestinian people lately, US pressure to make concessions in the peace process, Israeli pressure in the form of settlement expansion and the closure of the West Bank and Gaza, with the humiliation people here face on a daily basis, it was inevitable that something like this would happen," Mr Khatib said, adding that while the majority of Palestinians were horrified by such bombings, the militants had greater support in times of political strain.

Although it seemed progress had been made in recent days, this bombing was likely in the works for weeks, he said. In previous bombings, the attackers had sneaked into Israel and hidden for days before their attacks.

While there was outrage across the Jewish State, some Israelis echoed Mr Khatib. Israeli President Ezer Weizman said there was "a clear connection between the bomb and Ras al-Amoud", a Palestinian neighbourhood in Jerusalem where Israel recently said it would soon build a new Jewish settlement.

(Mr Netanyahu said on Sunday this was "not the right time" to build and the settlement plans were suspended.) Prominent Labour legislator Yossi Beilin, a key architect of the Oslo peace accords, said blame for the attack could not be placed solely on the Palestinians.

"An atmosphere was created which weakened the Palestinian leadership, their position and their ability to fight terrorism," he said. "I join the call to get Mr Arafat to do more to stop these kinds of attacks, but I also join the call for Israel to do more to strengthen our partner in peace."

The peace talks will no doubt resume again in a few weeks because both sides have too much committed to this process to give it up. There was consensus among all parties in the Israeli Knesset on Wednesday night that the negotiations must continue. But this bombing will have cost the peace process yet more precious supporters.

Load-Date: March 1, 2002

Palestinians Express Doubts But Don't Reject Egypt's Plan

The New York Times

September 29, 1989, Friday, Late Edition - Final

Copyright 1989 The New York Times Company

Section: Section A; Page 8, Column 5; Foreign Desk

Length: 534 words

Byline: Special to The New York Times

Dateline: JERUSALEM, Sept. 28

Body

Prominent Palestinians from the occupied territories expressed serious doubts about Egypt's 10-point peace plan today, but stopped short of rejecting it.

"Without a Palestinian state, there will be no peace," one of the Palestinians, Faisal al-Husseini, said at a news conference. He is a West Bank intellectual who the Israeli authorities say is one of the central figures in the Palestinian uprising in the territories.

Also appearing at the news conference was Sari Nusseibeh, a professor of philosophy at Bir Zeit University whom Israel has also accused of being a leader of the uprising. He and others demanded that Israel allow freedom of assembly and the press, withdraw the Israeli Army from the occupied territories, stop deportations and free Palestinian prisoners.

The Palestine Liberation Organization has yet to endorse or reject the Egyptian plan in public, though last week President Hosni Mubarak of Egypt said Yasir Arafat, the P.L.O. leader, had accepted it in private.

Several Give Private Backing

Palestinians from the territories are acting similarly. Several of them, including some who criticized the Egyptian plan today, have endorsed it in private conversations.

Zahira Kamal, head of the Palestinian Federation's Women's Action Committee, said the plan should include the P.L.O. as a negotiating partner.

As the Palestinians spoke, the Israeli Army formally outlawed the Islamic fundamentalist Hamas movement, which over the last year had been gaining strength in the occupied territories, particularly the Gaza Strip. The army had been allowing Hamas to operate, initially because it was a rival to the P.L.O., and military officials had hoped the rivalry would weaken both groups.

But last summer Hamas and the P.L.O. began cooperating on many levels, and soon after that, the army arrested most Hamas leaders in Gaza.

As of today, the army said, "Anyone who continues to be a member of the Hamas movement, renders it service or participates in any of the movement's meetings will be subject to detention and prosecution."

Palestinians Express Doubts But Don't Reject Egypt 's Plan

Tax Raids Protested

Mr. Hussein today protested against Israeli tax collection raids in the village of Beit Sahur near Bethlehem. In recent days, the Israeli authorities have confiscated a range of personal belongings, from grocery items to living room furniture, from Beit Sahur residents who have not paid Israeli taxes, Palestinians said.

Mr. Hussein said Palestinians would step up the uprising, but he refused to elaborate on how they might retaliate for the tax raids, though he repeated that no weapons would be used.

In his 10-point proposal, President Mubarak offered to play host to preliminary talks between Palestinians and Israelis on the conditions for elections in the occupied territories.

The Israeli inner Cabinet will begin discussions of the proposals next week, and major confrontations are expected between the Labor and Likud parties before any resolution is found.

Israel also announced today that it would bar the 700,000 Palestinians in the Gaza Strip from entering Israel from Friday through Monday during Rosh Hashana, the Associated Press reported. Security throughout the country will be reinforced over the weekend, the army said.

End of Document

Mutual mistrust, from leaders to soldiers

Courier Mail (Queensland, Australia)

April 12, 1997, Saturday

Copyright 1997 Nationwide News Pty Limited

Section: NEWS; Pg. 32

Length: 897 words

Byline: HOROVITZ D

Body

FOR more than six months, the Israeli army and security forces had been combing the country for any trace of Sharon Edri, a soldier who disappeared last September after telephoning his family to tell them that he was on his way home from his base. But the searches turned up nothing.

Then, earlier this week, Israeli Shin Bet intelligence officers uncovered information suggesting that a cell of the **Hamas** Islamic Resistance movement, based in the Hebron area of the West Bank might be to blame. A series of arrests was made. And as the suspects began to talk, it emerged that two members of the **Hamas** cell were living in West Bank territory now controlled by Yasser Arafat's Palestinian Authority.
QNP

On Tuesday night, the head of the Shin Bet travelled in secret to Gaza to ask Mr Arafat to arrest the pair. He agreed.

And so, finally, on Thursday, the sad saga of Sharon Edri was completed. He had been kidnapped by the **Hamas** militants, murdered, and buried in a West Bank village. All but one of the gang involved in his killing were now in Israeli or Palestinian custody.

These activists, it is alleged, were also behind last month's suicide bombing in a Tel Aviv cafe in which three Israeli **women** died, and the murders of several more Israelis during the past 18 months.

Their capture should have been hailed as a crowning achievement of Israeli-Palestinians co-operation _ the arrest of murderous militants, and thus, preventing further killings, as a direct result of the kind of partnership the Middle East process was designed to produce.

But, in announcing the arrests, Israeli Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu spoke only briefly of the Palestinian Authority's assistance in the case. And Israel's military intelligence chief declared that Mr Arafat's forces were still not making a concerted effort to battle the extremists.

The sorry truth is that the closing of the Edri case is the exception to the current rule in Israeli-Palestinian relations. And that rule is that Mr Netanyahu and Mr Arafat, and their respective security forces, are not working together any more. The Middle East peace process is going through its worst crisis since Mr Arafat and the late Yitzhak Rabin shook hands on the White House lawn in September 1993. And there is little prospect for its resolution.

At the root of the breakdown is the sense on each side that the other has betrayed the peace accords. Mr Arafat is furious with Mr Netanyahu for approving the start of construction last month at Har Homah, a planned 6500-home

Mutual mistrust, from leaders to soldiers

Jewish neighbourhood on land in east Jerusalem that the Palestinians insist is occupied territory. Under the terms of the peace process, the status of Jerusalem, Mr Arafat notes, is to be decided by negotiation. Mr Netanyahu, he charges, is breaching his own accords.

Mr Netanyahu, for his part, claims that Mr Arafat has resorted to terrorism _ that the Palestinian leader gave "a green light" to Hamas to carry out last month's Tel Aviv bombing, and that he is deliberately encouraging the riots on the West Bank.

Mr Arafat says he won't resume peace talks until Mr Netanyahu stops the building at Har Homah. Mr Netanyahu says he won't resume peace talks until Mr Arafat cracks down on the extremists. The result: Deadlock.

Whenever the peace process has lapsed into similar crises in the past, the US has rushed to intervene.

But this time US President Bill Clinton has been more hesitant. He has more than enough leverage to force the two leaders into the same room, but he cannot be sure that anything productive would result.

Each man mistrusts the other. And that mistrust has filtered downwards, to all the soldiers and policemen and intelligence officers in the field.

Before he intervenes, Mr Clinton wants to be sure that he can put the Israelis and the Palestinians back on a road that will lead to a full and final peace arrangement; he doesn't want to convene an emergency Netanyahu-Arafat summit as he did last October, only to see another collapse in a week's or a month's time. So rather than even despatching mediator Dennis Ross, or Secretary of State Madeleine Albright, to the region, he this week instead summoned first Mr Netanyahu and then a Palestinian delegation led by Mr Arafat's deputy Abu Mazen to Washington.

But while Mr Clinton painstakingly prepares a new peace plan, the ground is burning. The West Bank clashes are intensifying. The Intifada uprising that preceded the peace process seems to have been reignited. There is talk of war in the air. And the Hamas activists who always opposed reconciliation are gaining in popularity.

Mr Rabin held out his hand to Mr Arafat in 1993 because he saw how popular the uncompromising Islamists of Hamas were becoming and feared that Mr Arafat, with his talk of co-existence, might be swept aside by his own people unless he was rewarded by Israel for his promise of moderation.

With the latest Palestinian opinion polls now showing majority support for the suicide bombings, the same threat would appear to be growing again today.

But the danger, as the Hebrew columnist Menahem Shalev wrote this week, is that "by the time the American rescue package is ready, there won't be much left off to save."

And this week's co-operation in the case of Sharon Edri will remain an incongruous blip in the downward spiral of Israeli-Palestinian relations.

David Horovitz is managing editor of the

Jerusalem Report.

Load-Date: March 1, 2002

Kidnapping of Soldier Leads Israel to Halt P.L.O. Talks

The New York Times

October 12, 1994, Wednesday, Late Edition - Final

Copyright 1994 The New York Times Company

Distribution: Foreign Desk

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

Length: 911 words

Byline: By JOEL GREENBERG,

By JOEL GREENBERG, Special to The New York Times

Dateline: GAZA, Oct. 11

Body

Israel broke off negotiations with the Palestine Liberation Organization tonight after the militant Islamic group **Hamas** announced it was holding an Israeli soldier hostage.

In a videotape and a handwritten statement, **Hamas**'s armed wing, the Qassam Brigades, warned that the soldier would be killed unless more than 200 Arab prisoners, including **Hamas**'s founder and two militant Muslim leaders kidnapped from Lebanon, were freed by Friday night.

A masked man who appeared in the videotape displayed the soldier's identification card and an army-issue M16 rifle.

The chief Israeli negotiator with the P.L.O., Maj. Gen. Danny Rothchild, was called home from talks in Cairo on Palestinian elections in the West Bank and the Gaza Strip. The elections are part of the accord on Palestinian self-rule.

"You can't discuss peace with the Palestinians when one of your soldiers is in the hands of Palestinians in Gaza," said Oded Ben-Ami, a spokesman for Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin.

In a telephone conversation with Yasir Arafat, the chairman of the P.L.O., Mr. Rabin said he held Mr. Arafat and his provisional government responsible for the soldier.

According to Mr. Ben-Ami, the Prime Minister warned Mr. Arafat that any harm to the soldier or delay in his release could have a very serious effect on "the continuation of the peace process."

Mr. Ben-Ami quoted Mr. Rabin as saying, "This is a real test of the Palestinian Authority and of your part in carrying out the agreement."

The Israeli cabinet was called for a special session on Wednesday and the army sealed off the Gaza Strip indefinitely, preventing tens of thousands of Palestinian laborers from reaching jobs in Israel.

Kidnapping of Soldier Leads Israel to Halt P.L.O. Talks

A spokesman for Mr. Arafat said he had condemned the abduction as a challenge to the Palestinian Authority.

The kidnapping was disclosed two days after two gunmen from Gaza had killed 2 people and wounded 13 others in downtown Jerusalem; the gunmen were also killed. It is likely to be the most serious test of the joint security arrangements underpinning the Israeli-Palestinian accord on self-rule.

Under that agreement, the P.L.O. is to cooperate with Israel in curbing attacks by militants based in the Palestinian self-rule zones. But the disappearance of the soldier hard on the heels of the Jerusalem shootings was likely to fuel charges by Israeli opposition groups that the agreement was a pact with terrorists that would lead to more violence.

Their arguments were strengthened by Mr. Rabin's disclosure today that an AK-47 rifle used in the Jerusalem attack belonged to the Palestinian police. Mr. Rabin said that the rifle might have been stolen or sold to the assailants, and that Israel had requested an explanation from the Palestinian Authority.

Binyamin Netanyahu, the head of Likud, the main opposition party, said tonight that Mr. Rabin had made a grave mistake by entrusting Israeli security to Mr. Arafat.

The Israeli soldier, Nahshon Waxman, has been missing since Sunday, when he was seen hitching a ride near Ben Gurion Airport, five miles southeast of Tel Aviv. Israeli soldiers on leave routinely hitch rides, and several have been abducted and killed in recent years by Palestinians posing as Israeli motorists.

In exchange for Mr. Waxman, **Hamas** is demanding the release of several militant Muslim leaders: Sheik Ahmad Yassin, the founder of **Hamas**; Sheik Salah Shehadeh, a leader of its military wing; Sheik Abdel Karim Obeid, a Party of God cleric abducted by Israel from Lebanon in 1989, and Mustafa Dirani, a guerrilla chief kidnapped from Lebanon last May.

Hamas is also demanding the release of all imprisoned Qassam Brigade members and Palestinian **women**, and nearly 200 prisoners from several Palestinian factions.

"If the Israeli Government refuses our demands it will bear responsibility for the killing of the soldier," the **Hamas** statement said. "Then we will negotiate over his body." The leaflet set a deadline of 9 P.M. Friday.

Hours before the kidnapping was announced, Abed Rabo Abu Husa, a Qassam Brigades leader, defended the groups' attacks as a reaction to Israeli killings of Palestinians.

"Qassam are not terrorists, but we are repelling Israeli terrorism against our people," he said in an interview. He was carrying an Army-issue rifle and was wearing military gear that he said had been taken from Israeli soldiers. "We treat others as they treat us. I want the Israelis to feel the same suffering we feel."

As Israeli security forces and civilian volunteers searched for the soldier, his parents made an emotional appeal to the kidnappers on Israeli television.

"They talk about God, and I want to know if we have the same God," said the soldier's mother, Esther Waxman, as she held a book of Psalms in her lap. "What is their attitude, as believing people, as parents of children, to human life. They should show this attitude to my son, and return him to me safe and sound, for the sake of the God of us all."

Israeli Roundup in Lebanon

BEIRUT, Lebanon, Oct. 11 (Reuters) -- Israeli forces expelled 26 villagers from the occupied zone in southern Lebanon today, accusing them of links to pro-Iranian guerrillas, security sources said.

Kidnapping of Soldier Leads Israel to Halt P.L.O. Talks

Foreign Minister Faris Buwayz of Lebanon said the action endangered the Middle East peace talks. Mr. Buwayz, who met with a delegation from the deportees, urged the United Nations and the sponsors of the peace talks "to assume their responsibilities regarding an issue that undermines the peace process."

Graphic

Photo: Israel halted talks with the P.L.O. because, the Prime Minister said, the group has not curbed militant anti-Zionists. One militant, Abed Rabo Abu Husa, carries an M16 he says belonged to an Israeli soldier. (Rina Castelnuevo for The New York Times)

Load-Date: October 12, 1994

End of Document

U.N. weapons inspectors continue standoff at Iraqi ministry building

St. Petersburg Times (Florida)

July 12, 1992, Sunday, City Edition

Times Publishing Company

Section: NATIONAL; Pg. 15A; DIGEST

Length: 919 words

Dateline: BAGHDAD, Iraq

Body

A U.S. Army major heading a U.N. weapons team involved in a standoff in Iraq left for New York on Saturday, but remaining members of the team continued their vigil at a ministry building in Baghdad.

As the standoff continued into a seventh day, a man set himself on fire outside the agriculture ministry to protest the presence of the U.N. inspectors who have been there since July 5.

Witnesses said the man cried Allahu Akbar (God is Greater) before pouring gasoline on his legs and setting himself ablaze. The unidentified Iraqi was badly burned and taken to a hospital in a government car. Associated Press; Reuters Earlier, Iraqi women and children burned a flag outside the ministry where they denounced both the United States and the United Nations, which has demanded that Baghdad allow inspectors to enter the building.

Diplomats say the inspectors want to search the building for evidence of Iraq's ballistic missiles program, but Iraq denies accusations that it has military information stored there.

Maj. Karen Jansen, whose demand to enter the ministry building created the standoff, left Iraq, saying she was taking up a new post assessing Iraqi compliance with gulf war cease-fire terms.

Jansen was replaced by another American, Mark Silver.

The inspectors were sent to Iraq by the U.N. Special Commission overseeing the scrapping of Iraq's weapons of mass destruction under terms of the gulf war cease-fire.

Rabin to seek U.S. aid: Israeli Prime Minister-designate Yitzhak Rabin said Saturday he hoped to meet with U.S. leaders by early August to talk about speeding up autonomy talks with the Palestinians and winning American aid for Israel.

U.N. weapons inspectors continue standoff at Iraqi ministry building

In an interview with Israeli television, Rabin reiterated that he would try to accelerate the negotiations with the Palestinians for self-rule in the occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip. He has said he would seek to negotiate a deal within a year.

Rabin has expressed confidence that he can win the \$ 10-billion in U.S. loan guarantees that Israel has requested to help accommodate immigrants. Washington had denied the aid to outgoing Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir because of his refusal to freeze the construction of Jewish settlements in the occupied lands.

Rabin has pledged to curb construction but has been vague about what limits he would set. He said Saturday there might be some building but that his government would stop Shamir's massive investment in the settlements.

Also Saturday, Rabin said he would present his left-of-center government to Parliament for approval Monday, even though two potential coalition partners dropped out at the last minute.

He said he hoped the two factions, the right-wing Tzomet and the ultra-Orthodox United Torah Front, would join later.

The Tzomet opposes Rabin's flexibility on the peace issue. The United Torah Front is protesting Rabin's awarding the coveted Education Ministry to the secular Meretz bloc.

Rabin's Labor party already has signed coalition agreements with the dovish Meretz bloc and the ultra-Orthodox Shas party. The three parties control 62 seats in the 120-member Parliament and also can count on the support of two Arab and three Communist legislators.

Peres named Israeli foreign minister: Israeli Prime Minister-designate Yitzhak Rabin on Saturday named his longtime rival, Shimon Peres, as Israel's next foreign minister.

Rabin gave Peres the job at a meeting Saturday, party officials said. The formal announcement is expected this afternoon.

Rabin, 70, and Peres, 68, are longtime political rivals who have taken turns as party chairman for the last 18 years.

In February, Rabin retook control from Peres after 15 years and went on to achieve what Peres never could, leading the party to victory over Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir's hard-line Likud on June 23.

But Peres was one of Israel's best-liked prime ministers when he held the post from 1984 to 1986. He won praise for pulling Israeli troops back from Lebanon, trimming inflation and normalizing ties with Egypt, Israel's only Arab peace partner.

Next round of peace talks may open in August: Palestinian spokeswoman Hanan Ashrawi said Saturday she expected the sixth round of Arab-Israeli peace talks to open in Rome in early August.

U.N. weapons inspectors continue standoff at Iraqi ministry building

Ashrawi, in Amman, Jordan, on her way home to the West Bank from the United States, gave no date.

Palestinians clash in Gaza Strip: Rival Palestinian factions at odds over peace negotiations with Israel clashed anew on Saturday with guns and fists in the occupied Gaza Strip despite a day-old truce brokered by outside mediators.

The fighting marked the latest round in a power struggle between the Muslim fundamentalist group **Hamas** and the PLO's Fatah faction. **Hamas** opposes the Fatah-backed autonomy negotiations with Israel.

On Saturday, **Hamas** followers announced a "curfew" for Fatah activists in the Gaza City neighborhood of Sheik Radwan, Arab reporters said.

When Fatah supporters ignored the orders, a fistfight broke out. **Hamas** followers attacked a 21-year-old Fatah activist with an ax; he was hospitalized with head wounds. Three men from Fatah and one from **Hamas** suffered beating injuries.

Fatah retaliated in the Jebaliya refugee camp, declaring a curfew for **Hamas** followers, Arab reports said. There were no reports of fighting.

Earlier Saturday, two **Hamas** supporters were shot and wounded by Fatah men in Gaza City's Shijaiyah district, Arab reporters said.

Load-Date: November 3, 1992

Cellular phone bomb kills Palestinian terrorist blamed for 67 deaths; Israeli agents credited with killer's death

The Ottawa Citizen

January 6, 1996, Saturday, FINAL EDITION

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Section: NEWS; Pg. A8

Length: 580 words

Byline: YAROSLAV TROFIMOV; SOUTHAM NEWS

Dateline: JERUSALEM

Body

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

According to Israeli officials, Ayash, nicknamed the "Engineer," master-minded the string of Palestinian suicide bombings that killed 67 Israelis and foreigners and wounded more than 300 since early 1994. Palestinian Authority sources in Gaza reported that Ayash died when a 50-gram bomb hidden inside his cellular phone exploded. The bomb was apparently detonated only after the assassin dialed the number and made sure that the "Engineer" himself was on the other end of the line.

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

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

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

While the Israeli secret services refused to confirm their involvement in the assassination, security officials seemed utterly unsurprised by the news of Ayash's death, Israel TV said. In Friday night's TV broadcasts, families of Ayash's victims and political commentators heaped lavish praise on the Shin Beth for carrying out "an excellent operation."

'Atrocious murderer'

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

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

Cellular phone bomb kills Palestinian terrorist blamed for 67 deaths; Israeli agents credited with killer's death

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

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

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

Palestinian police were put on special alert after the news of Ayash's killing was broken by the Voice of Israel radio.

The Israeli army, expecting **Hamas** revenge attacks, Friday barred all Israeli citizens from entering the PLO-ruled areas.

Palestinian officials feared Friday that the Engineer's assassination may have dealt a deadly blow to last year's non-violence agreement between the PLO and **Hamas**, and may even disrupt the first-ever Palestinian elections, scheduled for Jan. 20.

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

Graphic

AYASH

Load-Date: January 7, 1996

Israel suspends peace talks after bus bomber kills 5

THE AUSTRALIAN

August 22, 1995 Tuesday 0 Edition

Copyright 1995 Nationwide News Pty Limited

Length: 515 words

Byline: MARIUS SCHATTNER

Body

THE Israeli Government suspended Palestinian peace talks last night after an Islamic suicide bomber killed at least four other people aboard a rush-hour bus in East Jerusalem. The Islamic group ***Hamas*** claimed responsibility for the blast, which left about 100 people wounded, 12 seriously. The attack is the latest in a series of suicide bombings in Israel but the first in Jerusalem in recent times. An angry demonstration at the scene of the explosion against the Israeli Government's peace policy saw the Israeli President Ezer Weizman shouted down when he tried to speak. The President departed swiftly after security men ringed him had to battle repeatedly with violent demonstrators. Just under a month ago, a suspected member of ***Hamas*** blew himself up aboard a Tel Aviv bus, killing six Israelis. A badly burned body found in the wreckage of yesterday's blast was thought to be that of the bomber, police said. Passengers on the bus who survived the attack said the blast came from a woman. "There are numerous indications that a ***female*** terrorist carried out the attack," Jerusalem police chief Mr Aryeh Amit told reporters. It would be the first time since a wave of Islamic suicide bombings began two years ago that a woman was involved. The attacks have placed severe pressure on the Israeli Government, with many rightwing elements calling peace negotiations with Arabs a sham. The Israeli Prime Minister, Mr Rabin, immediately ordered the suspension of negotiations with the Palestine Liberation Organisation.

AFP The negotiations, aimed at spreading self-rule across the West Bank, are already more than a year behind schedule. The bombings have also put heat on the PLO, which is struggling to show it can contain fundamentalist attacks on Israel. In Gaza City, PLO chairman Mr Yasser Arafat said he "totally condemned . . . this terrorist activity". An anonymous radio caller claimed responsibility for the blast in the name of the Islamic Resistance Movement, ***Hamas***. The caller said the ***Hamas*** armed wing Ezzedin al-Kassam carried out the attack to mark the anniversary of a fire which badly damaged the Al Aqsa mosque in Jerusalem in 1969. An Australian Christian set that blaze in the belief the mosque's destruction would lead to the reconstruction of the Jewish temple demolished by the Romans in 70 A.D. The bus at the centre of yesterday's attack was travelling through a main junction in the East Jerusalem suburb of Ramot Eshkol when the blast occurred. The crowded bus burst into flames, and the windows were blown out of a second passing bus which was also burnt. "I heard the blast. It was a horrible spectacle," said Mr Shlomo Christip, 28, who lives opposite. "People were stunned on the bus and there was blood everywhere. The vehicle then caught fire and we shouted at people to get out but they didn't. Mr Chaim Levy was in his car in the morning traffic. "Pieces of flesh landed on and around my car," he said. Police spokesman Mr Eric Bar Chen said passengers were trapped in the burned out rear of the bus. Debris was scattered over a wide area around the tangled metal of the vehicle.

Load-Date: October 1, 2003

Israel suspends peace talks after bus bomber kills 5

End of Document

World digest

Hamilton Spectator (Ontario, Canada)

April 15, 1995 Saturday Final Edition

Copyright 1995 Metroland Media Group Ltd

Section: NEWS; Pg. A3; News

Length: 579 words

Body

UNITED NATIONS

Iraq gets permission

to sell oil for food

Iraq gained UN permission yesterday to sell oil to buy food, medicine and other humanitarian supplies for its people, who it says are suffering under UN sanctions.

The UN Security Council unanimously approved a draft resolution setting out the plan, which allows Iraq to sell up to \$2 billion US worth of oil over 180 days under international surveillance.

Iraq hinted it might refuse the offer, complaining the resolution did not respect its sovereignty.

FROM SPECTATOR WIRE SERVICES

PARIS

Paris Mayor extends

lead in presidential poll

Paris Mayor Jacques Chirac extended his lead in the French presidential campaign yesterday despite a battering from fellow conservative Prime Minister Edouard Balladur and extreme-rightist Jean-Marie Le Pen.

Just over a week before the April 23 first-round ballot, two polls showed him increasing the distance between himself and a field of eight rival candidates.

SARAJEVO

Mediators fail to get

Bosnia recognition

France and the United States accused Serbian President Slobodan Milosevic of frustrating peace efforts yesterday, as international attempts to end the war in Bosnia appeared to have reached a dead end.

World digest

Their complaints indicated mediators had failed to persuade Mr. Milosevic to recognize Bosnia's independence, a move they said would bolster the peace process, and came as Washington said it suspected Iran is arming the Bosnian government army.

Mr. Milosevic demands a complete end to UN sanctions against Yugoslavia before agreeing to further isolate the Bosnian Serbs.

LONDON

Castle firefighter free

on bail over arsons

A firefighter at Windsor Castle, the Queen's favorite residence, has been arrested by police investigating a series of fires at the 900-year-old palace, British newspapers reported today.

They said the firefighter, who lives with his wife and children in a cottage in the castle grounds, was released on bail without charge after four hours of questioning Thursday. He will report back to police next month.

Windsor Castle, ravaged by fire in 1992, has been hit by a series of mystery blazes in recent weeks, the newspapers said.

WASHINGTON

Clinton becomes

official candidate

It's official: U.S. President Bill Clinton is now also candidate Clinton.

Without fanfare, Mr. Clinton filed papers with the Federal Election Commission yesterday declaring himself a candidate for re-election and establishing the Clinton-Gore '96 Primary Committee Inc.

On Monday, Mr. Clinton is sending a letter to what press secretary Mike McCurry describes as one million of the president's "closest friends," inviting them to join a national steering committee for the re-election effort.

GAZA CITY

Arafat refuses to accept

truce with Hamas

Members of the PLO and Hamas from Gaza agreed to a truce yesterday but PLO chief Yasser Arafat refused to accept it without a Hamas commitment to stop attacks on Israelis from Palestinian self-government areas.

Mr. Arafat also insisted that militant Muslim groups Hamas and Islamic Jihad drop their opposition to his 1993 Oslo peace agreement with Israel.

GREENSBURG, Pa.

Loud prayers arrested

at Good Friday mass

Two women whose loud praying drowned out the priest and the choir were arrested as they tried to attend Good Friday mass in defiance of a court order.

Sheriff's deputies took Joan Sudwoj and Cynthia Balconi into custody at the doors to Blessed Sacrament Cathedral.

They were charged with criminal trespass, which carries up to two years in prison.

Graphic

Chirac

Load-Date: October 13, 2002

End of Document

THE DANCE OF THE KLUTZES

St. Louis Post-Dispatch (Missouri)

October 10, 1997, Friday, FIVE STAR LIFT EDITION

Copyright 1997 St. Louis Post-Dispatch, Inc.

Section: EDITORIAL, Pg. 13C, RICHARD COHEN COLUMN

Length: 801 words

Byline: Richard Cohen; Copyright Washington Post Writers Group

Dateline: WASHINGTON

Body

The Israeli espionage agency, the vaunted Mossad, has some sort of poison gun that in the hands of the Netanyahu government is capable of hitting multiple targets at once.

With a single squeeze of the trigger (or whatever) it poisoned not only a key Hamas leader but relations with Jordan, Canada and the United States as well. The Hamas leader was given an antidote and saved. An antidote for the boneheaded Israeli leadership, though, has yet to be found.

In fact, Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu seems determined to single-handedly rebut the myth that all Jews are smart. By the testimony of the opposition leader, Ehud Barak, it was Netanyahu himself who authorized the assassination of Hamas leader Khaled Meshal in Amman, Jordan, last month. As the world knows by now, the operation was botched, the two Mossad operatives captured and an antidote to the poison extracted from the Israelis.

What's more, Israel was then forced to free the 61-year-old founder of Hamas, Sheik Ahmed Yassin, who went from a jail cell to Gaza City, where he was feted as a hero.

Other Hamas members also were freed - as was, in a way, the Canadian ambassador to Israel. He was recalled in protest because the Mossad agents had used forged Canadian passports. All in all, it was not a particularly good day for the Mossad.

More important, it was not a good day for peace in the Middle East. The botched operation infuriated Jordan's King Hussein who, for obvious reasons, does not like Israeli agents playing James Bond in his home town. Even if the operation had succeeded tactically, it would have failed politically. The king, a steadfast partner in the peace process, would have been humiliated.

It is always important - and by no means not just journalistic boilerplate - to point out that Israel has legitimate security concerns. Netanyahu cited just some of the recent terrorist attacks and the numbers were appalling. "Hundreds of Israeli citizens were wounded," he said referring to two bombings over the summer. "Twenty-one Israelis were murdered, among them men, women, and maybe the worst, children. . . . As prime minister, I am obligated to fight this terror in any way."

Yes, of course. But one way to fight terrorism - and, in the long run, the only way - is to reach some sort of peace with the Palestinians and their Arab allies. But Netanyahu seems both ideologically resistant to doing so and, when

THE DANCE OF THE KLUTZES

the chips are down, so downright incompetent that it seems a little help is in order. From time to time, Uncle Sam ought to step in with some stern words. Secretary of State Madeleine Albright has made a start. It is the president, though, whose voice carries furthest.

Indeed, a new poll of American Jews strongly suggests that the Clinton administration will not be committing political suicide if, when the situation warrants, it cuffs Netanyahu around a bit. The survey, conducted for the dovish Israel Policy Forum, shows the American Jewish community to be favorably disposed toward Clinton in general, confident that he has Israel's best interests at heart and not at all panicked at the prospect of the United States acting as an honest broker in the peace process.

In general, the poll indicates that Clinton can get tougher without antagonizing the politically potent American Jewish community. Netanyahu, in fact, has higher negatives among American Jews than does the president.

Whether that's the case in Israel as well is hard to say. But there is no doubt that Clinton is very popular. His farewell in Hebrew to the assassinated Yitzhak Rabin - "Shalom, haver; Goodbye, friend" - resonated in Israel much as John F. Kennedy's "Ich bin ein Berliner" did in the West Germany of 1963. A more assertive American president will have an effect on Israeli public opinion. Israelis often resent their American co-religionists, but they admire and respect America.

Both Netanyahu and Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat seem embraced in a dance of the klutzes. Neither has confidence in the other - and they are both right. Arafat is reluctant to deal with Palestinian militants and the terrorists among them, and Netanyahu has treated the Palestinians with little short of contempt. "Why the apparent continued deliberate humiliation of your so-called Palestinian partners?" King Hussein asked him in a letter last March. The answer, apparently, is that Netanyahu cannot help himself.

No American president can, by himself, produce a lasting peace between Israelis and Palestinians. But no American president should remain silent when the chances for a lasting peace are recklessly endangered by either side. When the Palestinians are wrong, Clinton ought to say so. When the Israelis are wrong, he ought to say so, too. He can call it evenhanded diplomacy, if he likes. Others, though, will call it tough love.

Load-Date: October 11, 1997

Suicide bombers kill 13 in market

THE AUSTRALIAN

July 31, 1997, Thursday

Copyright 1997 Nationwide News Pty Limited

Section: LOCAL; Pg. 1

Length: 433 words

Byline: BY CLAIRE SNEGAROFF

Body

THIRTEEN people were killed last night when a pair of suspected Palestinian suicide bombers blew themselves apart in a historic Jewish market in west Jerusalem.

More than 140 people were injured, five critically and 16 seriously, in the blasts, which occurred moments apart and ripped through the outdoor pedestrian market packed with noon-time shoppers.

Palestinian President Yasser Arafat quickly called Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu and President Ezer Weizman to express his condolences to the families of the victims.

AFP

But Mr Netanyahu retorted with a "very harsh" response, accusing Mr Arafat of not doing enough to prevent "terrorist attacks", his office said.

The attack was the first in Jerusalem since March 1996, when suicide bombers from the radical Palestinian Islamic Resistance Movement, **Hamas**, blew apart two buses, killing 33 people. The blast came just two days after the Palestinians and Israelis agreed to return to interim negotiations, ending a four-month silence in the peace process, and days before a visit by US special envoy Dennis Ross.

US President Bill Clinton postponed Mr Ross's visit last night.

Bloodied bodies lay on the ground in the market, a traditional souq near an orthodox Jewish neighbourhood, as emergency teams carried the injured, with torn and burned limbs, out on stretchers.

Amid the screams of the injured and the weeping of onlookers, a number of protesters began shouting "death to Arabs". Interior Security Minister Avigdor Kahalani, touring the site with army chief of staff General Amnon Shahak, said the bodies of two suicide bombers were found among the victims.

Police detained a number of Palestinians in the market, where many of the workers are Arabs.

The Israeli army imposed a full closure on the occupied territories, barring Palestinians from entering Jerusalem or Israel.

"I heard a terrible explosion and all our windows shook,"

said Haim Kirschenbaum, a student in a Jewish religious school near the market.

Suicide bombers kill 13 in market

"I saw someone decapitated.

His entire body was torn apart," he said.

One woman lay on the ground screaming, her legs torn from her body, an Agence France Press photographer said.

"All the bodies have been ripped to pieces. We're having trouble getting through because of the crowds," said ambulance doctor David Epelbaum.

"This was surely a powerful bomb."

The bombing was the deadliest in Israel since a suicide bomber from **Hamas** blew himself up in a Tel Aviv cafe in March, killing three Israeli **women**.

Hamas and the smaller group Islamic Jihad are violently opposed to Mr Arafat's self-rule deals with Israel.

AFP

Load-Date: March 1, 2002

End of Document

**JAIL TIME, BROOKLYN LINK 2 ACCUSED IN BOMB PLOT;
BUT PALESTINIANS HAD LITTLE ELSE IN COMMON**

St. Louis Post-Dispatch (Missouri)

August 4, 1997, Monday, FIVE STAR LIFT EDITION

Copyright 1997 St. Louis Post-Dispatch, Inc.

Section: NEWS, Pg. 06A

Length: 751 words

Byline: AP

Dateline: JERUSALEM

Body

Lafi Khalil and Gazi Ibrahim Abu Mezer, the two young Palestinians accused of plotting to blow up a New York subway station - and themselves - apparently had little in common until they met in Brooklyn.

The picture pieced together from friends, family and official sources indicates they emerged from widely differing backgrounds and that their only shared experience was some time spent in Israeli jails. There is no evidence they knew each other before reaching the United States.

The two were arrested Thursday when police, acting on a tip, raided their Brooklyn apartment. Two suicide-style explosive devices were found, according to authorities who have charged them with conspiracy.

Khalil, 22, comes from a West Bank village accessible only by dirt roads. He had a reputation as a ladies' man, and friends say he dreamed of marrying an American and finding a good job in the United States.

Abu Mezer, 23, lived in the West Bank city of Hebron, a political hot spot.

He left the West Bank in 1993 and headed for Canada, telling a friend he wanted a "new life and a new situation."

The friend, who identified himself only as Hussein, said he and Abu Mezer were active in the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine, which opposes Arab-Israeli peacemaking. Later Abu Mezer joined Yasser Arafat's Fatah movement.

"We stayed active for a year. We wrote graffiti on walls and threw stones at soldiers. We did a lot during the uprising," Hussein said. "He was courageous, but is a serious person with a hot temper."

In 1990, Israeli troops raided Abu Mezer's house and arrested him on charges he had thrown stones at soldiers. He was held for 15 days.

Family members said they helped Abu Mezer go to Canada for fear he might get "involved in something dangerous." Abu Mezer's brother, Noor, a lawyer, said he gave him \$ 6,000 before he left and several thousand more at irregular intervals.

JAIL TIME, BROOKLYN LINK 2 ACCUSED IN BOMB PLOT; BUT PALESTINIANS HAD LITTLE ELSE IN COMMON

From Canada, Abu Mezer illegally crossed over to the United States and was caught. According to a U.S. Justice Department official, Canada refused to allow him to return because he had been convicted of using stolen credit cards and assault in Canada.

Abu Mezer applied for political asylum, telling immigration officials that he would be prosecuted if he returned to Israel because of his former membership in a militant organization. He later withdrew the application and accepted a standard 60-day visa. It expired last year.

Khalil lived at the northern end of the West Bank in Ajoul, a poor grape- and olive-growing community 30 miles north of Jerusalem.

He spent part of his childhood in Kuwait, and in 1994 lived for a while with his parents in Jordan. In November 1996, he left his village again, this time for Mexico, later reaching Los Angeles and New York.

When he arrived in Brooklyn he was ill and pressed for money. "He may have gotten involved with the wrong people who took advantage of his needing a place to stay," said an uncle, Suhail Khalil.

Khalil worked for an Arab-owned grocery store and told his uncle he wanted to marry an Arab-American woman.

A former student activist in Palestine said Khalil was charming and good-looking; he would go out with young women and press them for information about militant activists. This led to the suspicion among Palestinian militants that he was spying for the Israelis.

Acquaintances said Khalil was arrested in 1993, en route to a job at an Israeli quarry, for entering Israel without a permit.

Hamas, the Muslim terrorist organization claiming responsibility for a Jerusalem market bombing that killed 15 people last week, suggested in a leaflet Sunday that Khalil had informed on Palestinian activists in an Israeli prison and recruited Palestinian women for Israel intelligence.

In a propaganda leaflet, Hamas said it has no link with either suspect and "regrets that the U.S. administration is trying to hurt the reputation of the movement by distributing lies and false accusations in coordination with Zionists."

Israeli officials said they doubted Khalil was an informer and it was more likely Hamas was using rumors about his reputation to evade blame.

"It is not true what Hamas said about him," said Riyadh Yasin, 27, a friend in Ajoul. "It is not true that he is a collaborator or immoral. The leaflet is wrong. He was a calm and good man, a normal person. He used to condemn Hamas."

National Security Adviser Sandy Berger likewise said Sunday that there is no evidence so far of a connection between Khalil and Abu Mezer and any terrorist organization.

Graphic

PHOTO, (1) Photo headshot - Lafi Khalil dreamed of marrying an American, friends say.

(2) Photo headshot - Gazi Ibrahim Abu Mezer left the West Bank in 1993 for Canada.

Load-Date: August 4, 1997

JAIL TIME, BROOKLYN LINK 2 ACCUSED IN BOMB PLOT; BUT PALESTINIANS HAD LITTLE ELSE IN
COMMON

End of Document

'Jews have no place here'

The Times

October 24, 1997, Friday

Copyright 1997 Times Newspapers Limited

Section: Overseas news

Length: 954 words

Byline: Ross Dunn

Body

The Hamas leader tells Ross Dunn in Gaza City he is ready for a short truce, but his followers may not agree

SHEIKH Ahmed Yassin, leader of Hamas, the militant Islamic group, has a one-state solution for the Palestinian problem. The one state, of course, would be an Islamic one, encompassing all that is now Israel.

Jews, he said, do not belong in the Muslim Middle East and had no right to return to this land. "They have nothing here," he added. "If we accept that everybody has the right to go and take over a place, that means we are going to put the whole world upside down.

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

He could accept living peacefully with Jews only if they were minority subjects in an Islamic state, where they would be granted freedom of worship. But the recently freed founder and supreme spiritual leader of Hamas has no illusions that such a state will be established in the near future. So, in the short term at least, he is prepared to consider a ceasefire in the war against Israel. During an interview with The Times, he was asked what was the point of a truce, if Hamas wanted the whole of Israel. "God did not create the Universe in one day," he replied, in the manner of a Muslim wise man whose advice is sought by many Palestinian followers.

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

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

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

Paralysed since boyhood, his throne is a wheelchair. His head is covered by a white shawl and his legs by a rainbow-coloured blanket.

'Jews have no place here'

His chin rests on his chest, the limbs having been rendered immobile. Only his face gives real expression to his words. The eyes sparkle, suggesting a brilliance and humour springing from an alert mind, which earned him a reputation as an expert on Islamic law.

His invalid condition, perhaps deceptively, suggests a surprising gentleness. Surprising because, after all, he is the leader of a movement that justifies suicide bombings against Israeli civilians.

Sheikh Yassin refuses to consider the attacks as suicide missions because that would be against Muslim beliefs. Suicide bombers, as they are known to the West, are regarded as martyrs by many Palestinians. "These are not suicide operations because suicide means escaping from life, and those who do it hate life," he said. "But the martyr wants life for (himself) after death and life for his people after his martyrdom."

Why attack civilians, women and children?

"In our beliefs, we should not attack civilians. We are hurt if we see a civilian get killed. But the Israeli enemies, they were the ones who started killing civilians from the beginning and preventing our people from getting even a piece of bread," he replied.

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

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

Suicide bombings continued after the death of Ayyash. His replacement as a military chief was said to be Muhammad Deif, who is believed to be hiding somewhere in the Gaza Strip.

When asked if Deif should end his attacks, the sheikh replied: "Muhammad, he understands Islam like me and he sees that he is going to defend himself and his people if the Israelis continue to attack or be aggressive against Palestinian civilians." The sheikh's comments reflect the interdependence of Hamas's military and political wings. Sheikh Yassin can lead only as far as his youthful followers will allow him. His rise, and that of the organisation, coincided with the start of the intifada in 1987, the Palestinian uprising against Israeli military rule in the West Bank and Gaza Strip.

At the time, his followers sought out the sheikh as a man who could give spiritual justification for their violent resistance campaign. "I never thought of being an Islamic leader and I am not thinking of it now. This is something great from God," he said. His statement is not a display of false modesty. Before the intifada, his natural inclination was to influence Palestinians first to concentrate on Islamic studies. But the urging of his followers at the start of the uprising convinced him to take a more active role.

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

During his time in prison, Sheikh Yassin sometimes condemned suicide bombings. But the attacks continued. Now that he is free to speak, will his followers listen to him? Israelis are hoping that the answer will not come in the form of another suicide-bomb blast, shattering the uneasy calm now prevailing in the Middle East.

Load-Date: October 25, 1997

BOMBINGS IN ISRAEL KILL 7, HURT 192

St. Louis Post-Dispatch (Missouri)

September 5, 1997, Friday, FIVE STAR LIFT EDITION

Copyright 1997 St. Louis Post-Dispatch, Inc.

Section: NEWS, Pg. 01A

Length: 790 words

Byline: Compiled From News Services

Dateline: JERUSALEM

Body

Bombs exploded in Jerusalem Thursday, spraying rusty nails into a crowd of shoppers and tourists on the city's main pedestrian mall.

The blasts killed seven people, including the three suicide-bombers, and struck a new blow to the Mideast peace process. At least 192 people, including several American tourists, were wounded. The Islamic militant group Hamas claimed responsibility.

The Israelis killed were identified as two 12-year-old girls, one 14-year-old girl and a 20-year-old man, radio reports said.

The three nail-studded bombs exploded shortly after 3 p.m., as hundreds of shoppers, including many tourists, crowded the Ben Yehuda pedestrian mall, which is lined with cafes, gift shops and American fast-food restaurants such as Burger King and Sbarro.

Israel's Channel Two television said the bombers - one disguised in women's clothing - stood outside three stores on Ben Yehuda Street, close enough to make eye contact, and blew themselves up within seconds of one another.

Ambulances rushed to the scene, and rescue workers treated some of the victims on the sidewalk, where cafe chairs and umbrellas lay scattered amid piles of broken glass. Emergency workers rushed a toddler into the back of an ambulance.

Abie Mendelson, 18, a Jewish seminary student from Los Angeles, was having a drink with friends when the bombs went off. "We had just clinked our glasses and heard the explosion," he said afterward from Jerusalem's Ein Kerem Hospital, where he was being treated for burns to his face and head. "I heard my friend screaming. I looked down to make sure I could walk."

Greg Salzman, 24, who had just moved from New Jersey to Israel, sat finishing a Greek salad and chatting with two friends in the shade of an umbrella at a vegetarian restaurant when the first bomb hit. "I felt the blast and a rush of air, and the next thing I knew I was blown out of my chair," he said from his hospital bed.

David Keinan, 53, who lives in Los Angeles and works with an Israeli bank there, was walking down Ben Yehuda Street with his wife and 11-year-old son when the bombs went off. At the hospital waiting for word on the condition of his wife and son, he stood in a white Ralph Lauren tennis shirt spattered with blood.

BOMBINGS IN ISRAEL KILL 7, HURT 192

"There was a blast of air. Smoke. People on the ground. The smell of tar, kind of burnt. I saw two dead, but I was worrying about my family. It was a very surrealistic picture, just me standing and everyone else on the ground.

Albright Visit Still On

Israel sealed its borders with the West Bank and Gaza Strip, again, and stepped up pressure on Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat to crack down on Muslim militants. A previous closure had been eased only two days earlier, ahead of U.S. Secretary of State Madeleine Albright's visit next week.

That closure was imposed after suicide bombings in a Jerusalem market killed 17 people on July 30. Police said the explosives and nails used Thursday were of the same type as those in the July 30 bombings, but apparently were less powerful.

Palestinian authorities detained two **Hamas** political leaders in the West Bank on Thursday night, arrested eight activists and shut down a **Hamas** newspaper in Gaza, Palestinian security sources said. But the moves fell far short of the mass arrests that Israel is demanding.

Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu called a meeting of his Cabinet for today, at which Cabinet ministers would consider authorizing Israeli soldiers to carry out strikes in territory under Palestinian control, Israeli radio reports said.

On Martha's Vineyard, Mass., President Bill Clinton denounced Thursday's bombings but said Albright would go ahead with her trip. The president urged Arafat's Palestinian Authority to "do all it can to create an environment that leaves no doubt that terror will not be tolerated."

Hamas in turn threatened yet more bombings unless **Hamas** prisoners held by Israel were released by Sept. 14. Arafat condemned the attack, and a senior Palestinian official pledged full cooperation with Israel on security matters.

Israeli Commando Hit

An Israeli commando raid deep inside Lebanon went wrong early today, with 12 Israelis reported killed in fighting, Lebanese security officials said. One civilian was killed and several Lebanese fighters were wounded in the fighting, the officials said.

There was no immediate comment from Israel about the fatalities.

Israeli jet fighters, helicopter gunships and a gunboat joined the nighttime battle against Shiite Muslim guerrillas and Lebanese soldiers, who apparently spotted the raiding party and thwarted a commando operation.

It was not immediately clear what was the target for the helicopter-borne Israeli commandos. The foray was about 25 miles from the Israeli buffer zone in Lebanon.

Graphic

PHOTO, Color Photo From AP - A soldier comforts a woman after bomb blasts in a pedestrian walk in Jerusalem killed seven people and injured nearly 200.

Load-Date: September 6, 1997

BOMBINGS IN ISRAEL KILL 7, HURT 192

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BOMBINGS IN ISRAEL KILL 7, HURT 192

St. Louis Post-Dispatch (Missouri)

September 5, 1997, Friday, FIVE STAR EDITION

Copyright 1997 St. Louis Post-Dispatch, Inc.

Section: NEWS, Pg. 01A

Length: 782 words

Byline: Compiled From News Services

Dateline: JERUSALEM

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Ambulances rushed to the scene, and rescue workers treated some of the victims on the sidewalk, where cafe chairs and umbrellas lay scattered amid piles of broken glass. Emergency workers rushed a toddler into the back of an ambulance. Paramedics splashed water in the face of a weeping man.

A charred smell hung over the mall while ultra-Orthodox burial squad volunteers searched for pieces of flesh in the debris - a familiar scene to Israelis.

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**PALESTINIANS KILLED IN CLASH, BOMB EXPLOSIONS;
SUICIDE ATTACKS WENT WRONG, ISRAELIS CLAIM**

St. Louis Post-Dispatch (Missouri)

April 2, 1997, Wednesday, FIVE STAR LIFT EDITION

Copyright 1997 St. Louis Post-Dispatch, Inc.

Section: NEWS, Pg. 06A

Length: 600 words

Byline: Compiled From News Services

Dateline: NETZARIM, GAZA STRIP

Body

Israeli troops fatally shot two Palestinians and Israel said two other Palestinians blew themselves up in bungled suicide bombings Tuesday.

The bombers apparently had meant to destroy Israeli school buses outside Jewish settlements in the Gaza Strip, Israel said. The attacks took place during a deadlock in Israeli-Palestinian peace talks, which broke down last month over new Israeli construction in east Jerusalem and triggered new accusations from both sides.

Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu insisted that the suicide bombings showed that Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat had sanctioned attacks by Muslim militants.

"Today's twin attacks (are) proof that the terror campaign continues," Netanyahu said. "The terrorist organizations . . . continue to understand they have a green light from the Palestinian Authority to perpetrate their savagery."

Netanyahu announced later that he would make a 12-hour visit Monday to the United States to meet with President Bill Clinton, said Shai Bazak, the prime minister's spokesman. Israel's Channel 2 television said Clinton intended to propose a compromise to Netanyahu.

Arafat said it was Israel's prolonged security closure of Palestinian areas that created a climate of violence. "We are all doing our best . . . to control the situation," Arafat said.

Both sides refuse to resume peace talks unless the other makes key compromises.

The Palestinians demand that Israel stop the construction in east Jerusalem, which they claim as a future capital.

Netanyahu insists that Arafat restore order and peace before talks resume. He refuses to halt the construction.

In Washington, Clinton discussed the crisis with King Hussein of Jordan, who recently blamed Netanyahu for the breakdown in relations. Clinton said Middle East leaders should show "zero tolerance" for terrorism.

Clinton also said he would send Secretary of State Madeleine Albright to the region once he decides on a strategy to end the negotiating impasse.

PALESTINIANS KILLED IN CLASH, BOMB EXPLOSIONS; SUICIDE ATTACKS WENT WRONG, ISRAELIS CLAIM

Tuesday's first explosion went off about a mile from the Jewish settlement of Netzarim, south of Gaza City. A Netzarim school bus was running late, which meant that it was away from the site when the bomb exploded.

Palestinian police disputed Israeli reports that the other blast, at Kfar Darom, was a suicide bombing. They said Israeli troops threw explosives at a taxi and a donkey cart, killing a Palestinian bystander and wounding seven passengers.

But Israel's military chief, Lt. Gen. Amnon Shahak, said Muslim militants set off both blasts. He said the suicide bombers wore Palestinian police uniforms and were Muslim militants belonging to either the Hamas or Islamic Jihad groups.

Israel television said the explosive kits were similar to one used by a Hamas-affiliated suicide bomber who killed three Israeli women March 21 in Tel Aviv.

A caller to Israel radio claimed responsibility in the name of Hamas, but Hamas political leaders and the Izzedine al-Qassem military wing of the group denied involvement. Two other callers to Israel television and Israel radio's Arabic service claimed the attacks on behalf of other, previously unknown groups.

North of the West Bank city of Nablus, about 1,000 Palestinians clashed with troops at an Israeli army checkpoint.

Palestinians said Israeli troops there fatally shot Haitham Mansour, 20, a Palestinian policeman who was not in uniform. Hospitals treated 32 protesters for wounds from rubber bullets and for tear gas inhalation.

Israeli soldiers fatally shot another Palestinian as he tried to flee a car theft near the Jewish settlement of Kiryat Arba in the West Bank, the army said.

Graphic

PHOTO, (1) Photo From AP - A Palestinian youth throws stones at Israeli soldiers during clashes Tuesday near the West Bank city of Nablus. A Palestinian plainclothes policeman was reported to have been shot to death.

(2) Photo From AP - An Israeli soldier fires a round of tear gas Tuesday in Nablus in an effort to disperse stone-throwing Palestinian youths.

Load-Date: April 2, 1997

SUICIDE BOMBERS DIE IN ATTACKS OUTSIDE SETTLEMENTS settlements

\$%Charleston Gazette (West Virginia) virginia)

April 02, 1997, Wednesday wednesday

Copyright 1997 Charleston Newspapers newspapers

Section: News; Pg. P2A P2A

Length: 623 words

Byline: Ibrahim Barzak barzak

Body

NETZARIM, Gaza Strip (AP) - Israeli troops shot and killed two Palestinians and two others blew themselves up in bungled suicide bombings Tuesday, one of the deadliest days yet in a growing crisis in Middle East peacemaking.

The bombers apparently had meant to destroy Israeli school buses outside Jewish settlements in the Gaza Strip, Israelis said. The attacks come during a deadlock in Israeli-Palestinian peace talks, which broke down last month over new Israeli construction in disputed east Jerusalem, and triggered new accusations from both sides. sides. Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu insisted that the suicide bombings showed that Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat has sanctioned attacks by Islamic militants.

"Today's twin attacks [are] proof that the terror campaign continues," Netanyahu said.

Netanyahu later decided to make a 12-hour visit Monday to the United States to talk with President Clinton on the crisis, the prime minister's spokesman said.

Netanyahu also will address the pro-Israeli lobby AIPAC and Christian organizations that support Israel, and will meet with U.S. Jewish

SUICIDE BOMBERS DIE IN ATTACKS OUTSIDE SETTLEMENTS settlements

leaders, spokesman Shai Bazak said in a statement.

Israel's Channel 2 television said Clinton intended to propose a compromise to Netanyahu.

Arafat said it was Israel's prolonged security closure of Palestinian areas that created a climate of violence. "We are all doing our best to control the situation," Arafat said.

Both sides refuse to resume peace talks unless the other makes key compromises.

The Palestinians demand that Israel stop construction of a Jewish neighborhood in east Jerusalem, the sector they claim as a future capital. Until the work stops, Palestinians say they will refuse to help Israel on security, such as detecting Islamic militants plotting attacks on Israelis.

Netanyahu insists that Arafat restore order and peace before negotiations resume. He refuses to halt the construction.

In Washington, President Clinton discussed the growing crisis with King Hussein of Jordan, who recently and dramatically blamed Netanyahu for the breakdown in relations. Clinton declared Middle East leaders should show "zero tolerance" for terrorism.

Clinton said he would send Secretary of State Madeleine Albright to the region once he decides on a strategy to end the negotiating impasse.

Tuesday's first explosion went off about a mile from the Jewish settlement of Netzarim, south of Gaza City. A Netzarim school bus was running late, which meant it was away from the site when the bomb exploded.

Palestinian police disputed Israeli allegations that the other explosion, at Kfar Darom, was a suicide bombing. They said Israeli troops threw explosives at a taxi and a donkey cart, killing a Palestinian bystander and wounding seven taxi passengers.

SUICIDE BOMBERS DIE IN ATTACKS OUTSIDE SETTLEMENTS settlements

But Israel's military chief, Lt. Gen. Amnon Shahak, said Islamic militants set off both blasts.

He said the suicide bombers wore Palestinian police uniforms and were Islamic militants belonging to either the Hamas or Islamic Jihad groups.

Israel TV said the explosive kits were similar to one used by a Hamas-affiliated suicide bomber who killed three Israeli women in a Tel Aviv cafe on March 21.

A caller to Israel Radio claimed responsibility in the name of Hamas, but Hamas political leaders and the Izzedine al-Qassem military wing of the group denied involvement.

Two other callers to Israel TV and Israel Radio's Arabic service claimed the attacks on behalf of other, previously unknown groups.

North of the West Bank city of Nablus, about 1,000 Palestinians clashed with troops at an Israeli army checkpoint.

Israeli troops there shot and killed a plainclothes Palestinian policeman, Haitham Mansour, Palestinians said.

Hospitals treated 32 protesters for wounds from rubber bullets and for tear gas inhalation. inhalation.

Load-Date: April 2, 1997

Is Netanyahu determined to wreck the peace process, or has he lost his way?; The Israeli view

The Independent (London)

April 2, 1997, Wednesday

Copyright 1997 Independent Print Ltd

Section: INTERNATIONAL; Page 12

Length: 611 words

Byline: Patrick Cockburn

Body

Israelis have started calling it the mini-intifada, a return to the days of the Palestinian uprising after 1987. In the two weeks since bulldozers started work on a Jewish settlement at Har Homa, demonstrations and riots have erupted across the West Bank.

But it is an intifada with a difference: it is accompanied by suicide bombers, who struck twice yesterday in the Gaza Strip. This shows that the explosion in Tel Aviv 10 days ago, the first suicide bomb in a year and which killed three **women**, was not a one-off. Unfortunately for the peace of the Middle East, suicide bombs are extremely effective.

Four bombs last year ensured the election of Benjamin Netanyahu as Prime Minister. The implacability of the bomber and his ability to strike in the heart of Tel Aviv is probably the Palestinians' strongest card. The political impact of the bombs is far greater than riots in Hebron or Ramallah.

In the aftermath of the violence, Dennis Ross, the US negotiator, said the peace process had life in it yet. But the problem for ordinary Israelis and Palestinians is that the process is decreasingly peaceful.

Ilan Pappé, a political scientist at Haifa university, said: "Going by what Netanyahu does rather than what he says, I'm convinced he doesn't want to implement Oslo. How otherwise can you explain the timing of Har Homa and the opening of the tunnel in the Old City of Jerusalem last year?"

Maybe Mr Netanyahu's strategy is not so coherent. Since the crisis began he has given many interviews but there is no sign of where he is going. He may be getting the worst of all possible worlds. Israeli troops have left most of Gaza and the main cities of the West Bank. Yasser Arafat, the Palestinian leader, already has a quasi-state. Now that the West Bank is a jigsaw puzzle of competing jurisdictions, the Israeli army cannot even begin to cope with **Hamas** or Islamic Jihad without the co-operation of the Palestinian security services.

Even then it would be difficult. The Israeli army speaks of the support and equipment needed by a suicide bomber. But any small cell with one person who is willing to die could carry out an attack. **Hamas** appears to have many such cells, operating independently to escape repression and, possibly, to allow leaders to disclaim responsibility. After Har Homa it is doubtful if Mr Arafat could again round up **Hamas** and Jihad militants, as he did last year.

In recent elections for professional unions in Gaza and Nablus, **Hamas** easily defeated Mr Arafat's Fatah movement.

Is Netanyahu determined to wreck the peace process, or has he lost his way?; The Israeli view

If Mr Netanyahu has ruled out security co-operation with the Palestinians by building Har Homa, will he go to the opposite extreme and reoccupy the autonomous Palestinian enclaves? "If they do . . . they will not be welcomed with flowers," said Marwan Barghouti, secretary of Fatah on the West Bank. Israel's security services have warned Mr Netanyahu against trying to do this, because it would provoke a worse conflict.

It is not fair to blame everything on Mr Netanyahu. Oslo was always deeply flawed. The agreement looked better to diplomats than to the Israelis and Palestinians whose lives it would most affect. It was contradictory - Israel was to withdraw but settlements were to stay. A new system of by-pass roads was to connect the settlements. It was based on the assumption that for the Palestinians anything was better than the status quo.

Israel is finding out, as European colonial powers discovered in the first half of the century, that home rule will not satisfy a nation demanding self-determination.

t Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu will meet US President Bill Clinton in Washington early next week, it was announced yesterday.

Load-Date: April 2, 1997

End of Document

Israel braced for further suicide attacks

The Independent (London)

March 24, 1997, Monday

Copyright 1997 Independent Print Ltd

Section: INTERNATIONAL; Page 10

Length: 785 words

Byline: Patrick Cockburn Jerusalem

Body

As relations between Israel and the Palestinians deteriorate in the wake of the suicide bomb in Tel Aviv, the head of Israeli military intelligence said yesterday that he expected further suicide attacks because the Palestinian security services were not co-operating with Israeli intelligence.

General Moshe Yahalon, the head of Israeli military intelligence, said that at a series of meetings the Palestinian security forces had said they were "conditioning co-operation" on political concessions by Israel. He said that Hamas, Islamic Jihad and other militant organisations believed they still had a "green light" from Yasser Arafat, the Palestinian leader, to make further attacks.

Amid signs that security cooperation between Israel and the Palestinian leadership was breaking down - having survived four suicide bombs last year - General Amnon Lipkin-Shahak, the Israeli chief of staff, said that Jibril Rajoub, the head of Palestinian security on the West Bank, was in practice fomenting riots in Hebron and Bethlehem, while nominally trying to suppress them.

Gen Yahalon said in a briefing last night that Palestinian security would only act against Hamas if ordered to do so by Mr Arafat. This order had yet to come. He said that at meetings with militant leaders after his return from the US on 9 March, Mr Arafat had given the impression that he would not object to military action against Israel.

The allegations of non-cooperation by Palestinian security contradict earlier statements by other Israeli ministers that they were co-operating closely with Mr Rajoub.

As Israelis waited yesterday to see if there would be other bombs, the three women killed on Friday, Yael Gilad, 32, Anat Winter-Rosen, 31, and Michal Avrahami, 32, were buried in Tel Aviv. Meanwhile, the Israeli Cabinet was expected to suspend peace talks with the Palestinian Authority. These were already largely terminated by the Palestinians after Israel decided to build a Jewish settlement at Har Homa. David Bar-Ilan, the government's head of communications, said Israel wanted Mr Arafat to take tougher security measures. "Until we see some movement at this level there will be no talks," he said.

There was a third day of rioting in Hebron, where Israeli troops and Palestinian security men were trying to stop stone-throwing boys attacking a settlement of 400 Jews in the city centre. In Bethlehem two Palestinians were shot and wounded by border guards when they ran away from a checkpoint.

Among those Israel wants arrested is Ibrahim Maqademeh, the Hamas leader recently released from jail, who told a rally of several thousand Hamas supporters in Khan Younis in Gaza on the day of the bombing that holy warriors

Israel braced for further suicide attacks

"should blow up enemies of Allah to stop the bulldozers of Netayahu." Speaking of Har Homa, Mr Arafat, who is attending a conference of 54 Islamic states in Pakistan, said: "We were surprised by the Israeli decision to isolate and Judaize Jerusalem."

Gen Yahalon said Israel, having withdrawn from parts of Gaza and the West Bank, needed the co-operation of Palestinian intelligence. Mr Arafat's most powerful card has always been security co-operation and, if Israeli allegations are true, he has decided to show that Israel cannot do without it. Earlier, Avigdor Kahalani, the Internal Security Minister, made a surprisingly optimistic statement after meeting Jibril Rajoub, the head of Palestinian Preventive Security on the West Bank, saying: "There is going to be an open line between Jibril Rajoub and my office and even myself."

Mahmoud Abed el Kader Ranimat, 28, the suicide bomb-er, had a different background from previous bombers and may have been chosen for this reason, to lull suspicions. Living in the village of Zurif, near Hebron, he was a father of four and had a regular job. Previous bombers have been younger, unemployed and unmarried.

People who knew the bomber said he was "a quiet guy", known to be a supporter of **Hamas**, but not very active. He had been arrested four times since the start of the Palestinian intifada in 1987. He had worked in the kitchens of restaurants in Rishon Lezion on the outskirts of Tel Aviv and slept in one of them on the night before he took the bus to Tel Aviv to blow himself up.

Moshe Zanzuri, the owner of the Formaggio restaurant in Rishon Lezion, was arrested during the weekend for questioning about Ranimat, who used to work for him.

It is unclear whether Ranimat was one of 57,000 Palestinians from Gaza and the West Bank with a permit to work in Israel, or one of tens of thousands of illegal workers.

Meanwhile, Israeli security services are now seeking to demolish Ranimat's house in Zurif village, where a 24-hour curfew has been imposed.

Load-Date: March 24, 1997

Writing's on the wall

The Advertiser

July 9, 1994 Saturday

Copyright 1994 Nationwide News Pty Limited

Length: 681 words

Byline: NICOLAS TATRO

Body

THE Walls of Jericho tell a story. It is a story of sacrifice, struggle, return, division. Yasser Arafat is both hero and goat. Most new signs and banners, trimmed with Palestinian flags and pictures of the PLO leader in military uniform, welcomed Mr Arafat's "return" this week in the name of family clans and West Bank cities.

"Let us all protect the PLO," says one slogan by Mr Arafat's own Fatah faction.

"Turn our city into a paradise," says an even more public-spirited one.

But on walls only a short distance from the three-storey villa with a red-tile roof where Mr Arafat stayed, there is graffiti that condemns the PLO-Israeli accord which has brought Mr Arafat back to the West Bank for the first time in 27 years.

"Down with the humiliating and traitorous agreement," says an angry slogan spray-painted in black. It carries a bright red star - symbol of the Damascus-based Democratic Front.

The future hopes of Palestinians, too, are reflected on the walls.

"Yes to Palestine on all Palestinian land with Jerusalem as its capital," says one in red, an expression of the desire to reclaim east Jerusalem - which Israel captured and annexed in the 1967 Middle-East war - and make it the capital of a Palestinian State.

"Let the (Jewish) settlements stop, and let the settlers leave," says another signed by FIDA, the Palestinian Democratic Federation, which is aligned with Mr Arafat. Its fading letters indicate it is left over from the "intefadeh", or Palestinian uprising in which 1300 Palestinians were killed in clashes with Israelis over a nearly seven-year period.

The evening before Mr Arafat's arrival was party time for the thousands of Palestinians who jammed the central square. Music boomed out of portable radios, people danced in the grass and one supporter set off a Roman candle.

Most of the 15,000 residents of Jericho, and the thousands more who are streaming into the town from elsewhere in the West Bank and Jerusalem, were in a joyous mood.

Behind the walls of a private house, however, a group of young Islamic activists of the ***Hamas*** group gathered in a circle to talk about Mr Arafat's arrival. They were not impressed, mocking his "liberation" of the land and pointing to the large shadow still cast by Israel on the autonomy enclaves.

Writing's on the wall

Israeli border police jeeps, flying the orange flags of joint PLO-Israel patrols, still drive through the centre of the city. Israel is the source of electricity and some of the water. Its troops guard the crossings to Jordan and Egypt.

"We reject any peace with Israel. What did Arafat achieve? He achieved nothing. Israel made him a puppet," says Samir Oseileh, 24, a mechanic who was arrested three times and spent a total of 17 months in jail for Hamas activities. Supporters of Hamas, traditional rival of the Palestine Liberation Organisation, worry that the celebrations will corrupt society.

"The gate of peace is also a gate of corruption, the drinking of wine and women going in the streets in scanty clothes," Oseileh says.

He and his half-dozen colleagues scoff at Mr Arafat's call for national unity and for the release of Sheikh Ahmed Yassin, religious mentor of the Hamas movement.

"We are not planning to use violence against the Palestinian National Authority," he says. "We will use democratic means such as peaceful demonstrations and speeches." But Hamas and other Islamic activists could be led into confrontation with the PLO if they press ahead with attacks on Israeli soldiers and settlers. PLO police are pledged to capture and try such attackers.

At the Peace Upon Israel synagogue on the northern edge of Jericho, there is a builder's sign declaring the intention of Jewish settlers to expand the site, even though a large green-white-and-black Palestinian flag with a red triangle flies outside and PLO police guard the site.

A group of American tourists visited the synagogue in a show of support for the 120,000 Jews living in the West Bank and Gaza Strip among 1.8 million Palestinians.

"I don't know if you can trust Arafat. If he breaks 209 agreements, how can you trust him to keep the 210th?" one asks.

Graphic

photo: yasser arafat and rabbi moshe hirsch; Yasser Arafat greets Rabbi Moshe Hirsch in Jericho.

Load-Date: September 30, 2003

BRIEFS

Philadelphia Daily News

March 15, 1994 Tuesday PM EDITION

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Section: NATIONAL; Pg. 14

Length: 367 words

Byline: Daily News wire services

Body

GAZA

PALESTINIAN DIES GUNFIGHT

Israeli border police shot and killed a Palestinian and seriously wounded another in a gunbattle today in the occupied Gaza Strip, military sources said.

The Muslim guerrilla group **Hamas** vowed earlier to carry out attacks today to avenge a Jewish settler's massacre of about 40 Palestinians at a Hebron mosque in the West Bank last month.

The sources said the Palestinians fired from an orchard at a police vehicle, spurring the Israeli return fire. No policemen were hurt.

Hamas vowed last week to attack four Jewish settlements in the occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip unless their residents moved out by March 15.

Hamas, which opposes Israel's peace talks with Yasser Arafat's PLO, has claimed responsibility for killing a number of Israelis since the signing six months ago of a historic Israeli-PLO peace deal.

TOKYO

N. KOREA BLOCKED NUKE INSPECTORS?

Japan said today that North Korea apparently blocked visiting U.N. nuclear experts from carrying out crucial checks to determine whether the Stalinist state is secretly diverting plutonium for bomb-making.

A Foreign Ministry official said the government had been informed by the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) that its six-man inspection team faced several curbs on its activities during a two-week visit due to end today.

Announcing imminent conclusion of the inspection visit, IAEA spokesman David Kyd had declined to say yesterday if the inspections had been a success.

BRIEFS

GREAT BRITAIN

WIFE DENIES ANY PART IN MURDERS

The wife of Britain's suspected "House of Horror" serial killer denied yesterday in Gloucester that she took part in the killings in which her husband has been charged, her lawyer said.

Leo Goatley, the lawyer for Rosemary West, also lashed out at British media for putting her on "trial by the press" by printing lurid accounts of her private life and speculation about her role in the grisly affair.

"She denies any involvement in any of the events that led to her husband's arrest," said Goatley.

It was the first statement on behalf of Frederick West's second wife since the 52-year-old builder was arrested last month. He has been charged with the murder of eight young women over a 22-year period.

Notes

WORLD

Load-Date: October 18, 2002

End of Document

Israeli Troops Dynamite Family Home of Bomber

The New York Times

March 9, 1996, Saturday, Late Edition - Final

Copyright 1996 The New York Times Company

Distribution: Foreign Desk

Section: Section 1; ; Section 1; Page 5; Column 1; Foreign Desk ; Column 1;

Length: 761 words

Byline: By NEIL MacFARQUHAR

By NEIL MacFARQUHAR

Dateline: JERUSALEM, March 8

Body

Israeli troops dynamited the rented family home of a Palestinian suicide bomber today, part of a series of punitive measures by the Israeli Government and the Palestinian Authority to underscore that they would meet violent opposition to their peace treaty with similar force.

"We have two things to do: to strike Hamas and to bring about peace," Prime Minister Shimon Peres said, referring to the militant group that has taken responsibility for most of the recent bombings against Israelis. He was speaking to supporters who staged a rally for peace outside his house.

In a scene reminiscent of the Israeli response during the uprising against occupation, Israeli soldiers kept the northern West Bank village of Burka under curfew while they detonated explosives around the two-room stone house used by the family of Rayid Shagnoubi. He blew himself up last Sunday on a Jerusalem bus, killing 18 other people.

With smoke and dust billowing overhead, youths defied the curfew, pouring into the street to stone the soldiers, while village women stood by slapping their cheeks in a sign of mourning and cursing the soldiers' fathers. Most of the bomber's relatives have left the village.

"This will not stop people from struggling against the occupation," said Aysha Awdeh, 72, whose brother owned the house.

Aside from plans to blow up two more homes of suicide bombers in the West Bank, officials said, Israel was contemplating resurrecting its policy of deporting any Palestinians linked to attacks against Israel, including the extended families of suicide bombers. Israeli officials also kept up the pressure on Yasir Arafat to replace cosmetic search and seizure operations with arrests of the ringleaders behind the spate of attacks.

To answer Palestinian accusations that the explosives used in the bus attacks might have come from outside sources, even from extremist Israelis trying to unseat the Labor Government, the Israeli police held a detailed briefing about the bombs.

Israeli Troops Dynamite Family Home of Bomber

The police said the bombs, weighing 60 pounds and carried in duffle bags, had been built from land mines left over from the 1967 Middle East War that had been unearthed in the Gaza Strip. In a measure the Israelis said was intended to prevent wanted men from fleeing by boat, Israel banned all fishing off Gaza. The ban was sharply criticized by the Palestinian Authority as violating the peace accords.

Yossi Beilin, Minister Without Portfolio, denied reports that the Government had threatened to send troops into areas turned over to the Palestinian Authority. But he said the authority should understand from Israel's tone that it must take whatever harsh steps are needed to dismantle extremist organizations.

Mr. Beilin said in a television interview that the Government would no longer accept Arafat's efforts to reach a political agreement with Hamas while avoiding a crackdown.

Nabil Shaath, a senior adviser to Mr. Arafat, said that public opinion would not have supported a crackdown on Hamas earlier, but that the recent attacks had shown that a policy of dialogue and negotiations with the group would not work.

"The Palestinian public sees now that the Palestinian dream cannot be protected unless we really stamp out all force and all terrorism," Mr. Shaath said. "We should be supported to do the job ourselves and not have Israelis reoccupy the territory."

The police from both Israel and the Palestinian Authority continued their raids on charitable organizations, schools and other offices linked to Hamas, apparently hoping that taking action against the more visible political wing would have an impact on the armed cells.

The Palestinian police detained Mahmoud al-Zahhar, the top political leader of the Hamas movement, for questioning. He had criticized the Palestinian Authority for the arrests of 500 militants this week and the searches of various institutions.

The Palestinian Authority took over all mosques on Wednesday, and today's weekly prayer sermons were given by authority-appointed clergy for the first time. A senior police official said all sermons would be monitored, but those delivered were largely bland.

But the senior Palestinian clergyman, Sheik Ikrima Sabri, the Mufti of Jerusalem, used the pulpit at Al Aqsa Mosque to lash out at Israel. He said the closing of the West Bank and Gaza Strip was paralyzing economic, educational and medical institutions.

"The occupied city of Jerusalem has never witnessed a siege like the one imposed during these sad days by the Israeli authorities," the Mufti said in a sermon broadcast live by the Voice of Palestine.

Graphic

Photo: The home of the suicide bomber who blew up a bus in Jerusalem Sunday was dynamited by Israeli troops yesterday. The force of the blast, above, in the West Bank village of Burka, sent the roof flying. Below, a neighbor comforted an unidentified member of the bomber's household. (Photographs by Associated Press)

Load-Date: March 9, 1996

"Quote...UnQuote"

The Gazette (Montreal, Quebec)

March 10, 1996, Sunday, FINAL EDITION

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Section: EDITORIAL/OP-ED; "QUOTE...UNQUOTE"; Pg. B3

Length: 823 words

Byline: THE GAZETTE

Body

Canadians continue to worry very deeply, because whatever the numbers say, many do not see evidence of improvement in their own lives.

- Finance Minister Paul Martin, announcing the federal budget Wednesday.

- - -

I was expecting two baseball-bat hits. I got one. I'm still alive.

- Quebec Finance Minister Bernard Landry, commenting on the federal budget, which maintained cuts in social transfers to the province announced last year, but cut \$ 600 million less than anticipated by Quebec for the year 1997-98.

- - -

I think the budget is about job-cremation, not job-creation.

- Canadian Labor Congress president Bob White, commenting on the federal budget, which neglects to indicate how many jobs the economy will generate this year and equates deficit-reduction with the best job-creation strategy.

- - -

There was concern I would stand up and shout like a yahoo. Of course, I'm going to be a good boy, but only while the speech lasts.

- Equality Party leader Keith Henderson, who supports partitioning Quebec, commenting on the late invitation he received to Premier Bouchard's speech tomorrow at Montreal's Centaur Theatre.

- - -

Don't tell me you're doing enough. Finish with the **Hamas** infrastructure. Arrests here, arrests there, that won't do it.

- Reported response of Israeli Prime Minister Shimon Peres to Yasser Arafat, when the Palestinian leader telephoned last Sunday to offer condolences after bombings in Jerusalem and Ashkelon.

"Quote...UnQuote"

- - -

Peres is not asking for much from the Palestinian Authority - just destroy the infrastructure of Hamas, as if Hamas were a club that can be closed and dissolved in a moment. . . . Hamas is a mass movement, and it will disappear only when Israel stops its hostility toward us.

- Sarcastic editorial in Arabic daily An-Nahar, commenting on the demand by the Israeli Prime Minister that Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat destroy Hamas, the Islamic group that claimed responsibility for last week's bombings.

- - -

I hope that between now and when the case is to be heard, the mother will have weaned to give the father as rapidly as possible the right to see his child.

- Quebec Superior Court judge Nicole Benard, who angered breast-feeding advocates when she urged a woman at a custody hearing to wean her 14-week-old daughter so the child's father might care for the baby every second week.

- - -

What I want to express to him is that God is an aboriginal and he loves him and he doesn't want him to separate.

- Liberal MP Elijah Harper, referring to Bloc Quebecois MP Claude Bachand, who during the Throne Speech debate criticized a "sacred assembly" of religious and aboriginal leaders organized by Harper to seek national reconciliation.

- - -

Usually, when you lose something like that, it has a hole in it.

- A Canadian soldier, sourly referring to a six-wheeled Grizzly, recovered in Bosnia, this week. The vehicle, whose exterior was intact, was seized by Serbian forces during a humiliating hostage-taking incident two years ago.

- - -

If a patent is granted on this mouse just for experimental purposes, then it could be granted on cows, chickens, pigs or us.

- Pat Mooney, executive director of the Ottawa-based Rural Advancement Foundation International, referring to the Harvard Mouse, which is genetically altered to grow human cancer. Harvard University, which has a patent for the mouse in the U.S. and Europe, announced this week it was taking legal action against the Canadian government for refusing to grant a similar patent in Canada.

- - -

It's all a bit silly. On this one day, the men tell us they respect us. ... Usually, the boss gives all the women chocolate, but this year it is something different. He's giving us dish towels.

- Yana Zhelyayova, 25, a women's issues reporter at a Moscow newspaper, who like many Russian women think celebrations of International Women's Day in her country are hypocritical.

- - -

I write about love, yes, but not about tenderness. I don't like tender people. I myself am very harsh. When I love someone, I desire them. But tenderness supposes the exclusion of desire.

"Quote...UnQuote"

- Marguerite Duras, the French author whose many works included *The Lover* (1984) and the screenplay of *Hiroshima, Mon Amour* (1959). Duras died last Sunday.

When you see a costume lying on the street, strewn with blood, what else is there to say.

- Tel Aviv Mayor Ronnie Milo, after a bomb exploded Monday outside a shopping mall in his city, killing at least 14 people, and wounding more than 130. The victims included children dressed in costume in preparation for the Jewish festival of Purim.

- - -

Do not lose faith. We can win. I can't say that from now on everything will be fine. It would be irresponsible of me. But I can say that we will overcome this.

- Israeli Prime Minister Shimon Peres, speaking on Israeli television after the Tel Aviv bombing.

Graphic

GAZETTE FILE PHOTO / A body lies covered in a Tel Aviv street after a suicide bomb attack Monday.

Load-Date: March 11, 1996

End of Document

SUICIDE BOMB WOMAN STRIKES AT RUSH HOUR

Herald Sun

August 22, 1995 Tuesday

Copyright 1995 Nationwide News Pty Limited

Length: 385 words

Body

JERUSALEM - A suspected **female** Islamic suicide bomber killed four people and wounded 100 in a morning rush-hour bus attack in Jerusalem yesterday. Israeli radio stations had put the toll earlier at seven dead, including the bomber. They reported an anonymous caller from the militant Muslim group **Hamas**, which opposes the Israel-PLO peace process, claimed responsibility for the attack saying in Arabic: "The operation was carried out by a cell of students of Yahya Ayyash. The Izz el-Deen al-Qassam brigade from now until the elections has prepared a campaign . . . because (Israel's Prime Minister Yitzhak) Rabin has declared an all-out war against **Hamas**." Local media said police were investigating one report the bomber was a woman. They said the body of an unidentified woman was found on the bus. Mr Rabin immediately put on hold peace talks with the PLO, which condemned the bombing. He also sealed Israel's border with the West Bank. The blast tore through an articulated commuter bus at 7.55am and hit another bus nearby. The headless body of one passenger sat amid the mangled wreckage of the first bus, which was travelling north toward Jerusalem's Mount Scopus. Bodies lay beside the second bus 100 metres away. Rescuers pulled wounded from the wreckage while a special unit of rabbis picked up body parts for burial. Such carnage has become familiar in Israel, where 77 people have been killed in a wave of suicide bombings by Islamic opponents of the peace accord since it was signed in 1993.

A **Hamas** suicide bomber killed six people on a bus in a Tel Aviv suburb on July 24. Mr Rabin's office said peace talks in the Red Sea resort of Eilat were on hold. "The decision is not to suspend the talks but to halt the talks today and during the day the Prime Minister will meet with advisers during which he will decide today what to do further," said official Yarden Vatikai. About 100 Right-wing Israelis demonstrated at the scene of the blast. "I don't know how long the people of Israel are going to put up with this until they get up and do something about it. It's not peace. This government has taken our people down a path of no return," said one. PLO chairman Yasser Arafat condemned the blast. "We cannot accept this terrorist activity," he told reporters in PLO-ruled Gaza. - REUTER
END OF STORY

Graphic

HORROR: THE BOMB RIPPED THROUGH ONE BUS BUT ALSO HIT THE ONE ON THE RIGHT. MAP: ISRAEL.

Load-Date: October 1, 2003

Angry, grieving, Israelis bury bombing victims

Telegraph Herald (Dubuque, IA)

August 1, 1997, Friday

Copyright 1997 Telegraph Herald

Section: National/World; Pg. c 8

Length: 875 words

Byline: Associated Press

Dateline: JERUSALEM (AP)

Body

Mourners screamed at Cabinet members over the freshly dug grave of a bombing victim Thursday, crying out for tough action against Palestinian militants for the terror bombing of a crowded Jerusalem market.

"You lied to us!" a grieving man shouted to Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu's finance minister at one of 11 funerals that turned Israel's capital into a city of grief.

Netanyahu vowed to "do whatever is necessary to protect my people" and threatened to send troops into Palestinian territories to stop any new terror attacks. A Palestinian negotiator said that would amount to a "declaration of war."

Israel's government struck out at Palestinians - leaders, militants and ordinary citizens - over Wednesday's twin suicide-bombing, which killed 15 people and wounded more than 150 at Jerusalem's most popular vegetable market.

Israeli security forces arrested dozens of Palestinians, Israeli warplanes hovered over Yasser Arafat's headquarters and the Gaza Strip, and Israeli guards closed the nation's borders to all Palestinians.

"I will do what is necessary, wherever we think is necessary, at the time we think is necessary. I don't preclude any possibilities," Netanyahu told The Associated Press.

At the funeral of bombing victim David Nasco, a 43-year-old shoe store owner, Israeli mourners turned on members of Netanyahu's government in attendance.

"You lied to us!" one man cried to Finance Minister Yaacov Neeman over Nasco's grave. "We voted for you because you said you'd be strong, but you're just like the Labor government - weak, in the hands of (Yasser) Arafat."

Hundreds of people - sobbing women in head scarves and men singing psalms - attended Nasco's funeral, one of 11 for bombing victims Thursday.

"Death to the Arabs and Arafat!" some shouted.

Others focused their anger on Public Safety Minister Avigdor Kahalani, calling: "You promised us peace! We want action!"

Angry, grieving, Israelis bury bombing victims

"We will do everything possible to hurt these murderers," Kahalani promised. "We didn't fail. We'll figure it out."

Wednesday's bombing was the first major militant attack since Netanyahu came to power in May 1996. The only previous bombing during his administration was a March 21 suicide bombing at a Tel Aviv cafe, which killed three Israelis and the bomber.

Israel suspended peace talks immediately after Wednesday's blasts, which came just days after the two sides agreed to return to the negotiating table after a four-month deadlock.

Israel detained 28 Palestinians after the attack, ordered the arrest of the Palestinian police chief - whom it accuses of ordering attacks against Jewish settlers - and asked the United States and other foreign donors to suspend aid to Arafat's Palestinian Authority.

In other, wide-ranging measures, it stopped the flow of tax revenues to the Palestinians and jammed Palestinian radio and television stations.

Israel also closed off the West Bank and Gaza Strip, barring tens of thousands of Palestinians from jobs in Israel. Guards at an army roadblock stopped about 20 Palestinian legislators and blocked them from traveling from the West Bank to their homes in Gaza.

Overnight, an Israeli military helicopter hovered over Arafat's headquarters in Gaza City and a military plane circled the Gaza Strip, Palestinian council speaker Ahmed Qureia said.

Netanyahu adviser David Bar-Illan said Israel did not rule out going back into autonomous Palestinian cities, handed over as part of the landmark Israel-Palestinian peace accords.

"We are not going to respect any lines," he told the AP. "The whole world recognizes the right of governments to protect their citizens."

Arafat spokesman Nabil Abourdeineh, speaking to reporters in Jericho, condemned Israel's "dangerous decisions," saying they "will destroy the peace process."

"We consider this a declaration of war," he said, urging Israel to "come back to negotiations."

He confirmed that Israeli and Palestinian security officials had met three times since Wednesday's attack.

A leaflet signed by the Islamic militant group **Hamas** took responsibility for the attacks. A second **Hamas** leaflet, cited by the Israeli daily Haaretz, said the attack was carried out in response to an Israeli woman's distribution of a flier depicting the Muslim Prophet Mohammed as a pig.

It said **Hamas** would carry out more attacks if Palestinian prisoners were not released by Sunday.

Israeli troops detained the families of two young Palestinian men in Dahariya, a village south of Hebron.

"If my brother did this it is because of the (Israeli) settlements and the peace process," said Anwar Qasiya, the 13-year-old brother of one of the men. "**Hamas** is opposed to the peace process."

The families were taken to the morgue to see the bombers' bodies, but said they could not identify them.

Meanwhile, Palestinian police arrested 28 Islamic activists in the Bethlehem area as well as Abdel Aziz Ramtisi, the no. 2 ranking official of **Hamas** in Gaza, Palestinian media sources said.

Jibril Rajoub, Arafat's West Bank security chief, refused to confirm or deny that the Palestinians had made any arrests of their own.

"We will not kneel to the dictates of Mr. Netanyahu," Rajoub said. "We will take all measures against those who violate the law, but we will follow a system of law, and not become a police state."

Angry, grieving, Israelis bury bombing victims

Load-Date: August 1, 1997

End of Document

REVENGE BOMBING KILLS 8 IN ISRAEL, IMPERILS TALKS

St. Louis Post-Dispatch (Missouri)
April 7, 1994, THURSDAY, THREE STAR Edition

Copyright 1994 St. Louis Post-Dispatch, Inc.

Section: NEWS; Pg. 1A

Length: 895 words

Dateline: AFULA, ISRAEL

Body

Yaacov Rahamim gestured toward three children wrapped from head to foot in bandages. They were survivors of a car bombing Wednesday that killed eight people and injured 45.

"My feeling is that there will never be peace," Rahamim said as he visited his injured son, Kadouri, 13, in the hospital. The attack burned Kadouri on his forehead, shoulders and hands. "All they know is how to kill children," the father added.

Outside on the front lawn of Haemek Hospital, friends and relatives of the dead flung themselves to the ground and wept. Jaffa Elharar, the mother of one of those killed, sobbed, "Maya! Maya! It's not true. It's not true." She mourned Maya Elharar, 18, a high school student.

The bomb went off about 12:30 p.m. in the northern town of Afula near a bus stop close to three high schools. As a city bus pulled up to the stop and some students crowded around, a blue Opel parked 10 feet in front of the bus, and it blew up in a cloud of fire. Later, the body of the suicide driver would be found next to the wrecked car.

Killed were four teens, aged 14 to 16, two women - at least one an Arab - one man and the suicide bomber.

Albert Amos, 43, a teacher who saw the explosion, said: "Two boys were burning like torches. They came running toward me, and I took one and doused the flames with a rag and then I ripped off his clothes. He was burned all over. When I touched him, pieces of his skin came off in my hand."

Afula, a factory and agriculture town in the Galilee, is surrounded by Arab villages and is six miles from the occupied West Bank town of Jenin. The Islamic militant group Hamas claimed responsibility for the attack, saying it was in revenge for the massacre Feb. 25 in a Hebron mosque.

Like the 30 killings in Hebron, which took place inside a mosque on a day of prayer during the Muslim holy month of Ramadan, the Afula attack was felt intensely. It came on the eve of Holocaust Day, when Israel mourns the killing of 6 million Jews by the Nazis.

President Ezer Weizman said in a nationally broadcast ceremony, "Today, the eve of Holocaust Remembrance Day, we paid a terrible price for being Jews, for wanting to live peacefully and independently in the Land of Israel."

Foreign Minister Shimon Peres conceded that "it is clear that when an incident like this happens, support for the peace process dwindles." But he and other officials indicated that they would proceed with the peace talks.

REVENGE BOMBING KILLS 8 IN ISRAEL , IMPERILS TALKS

Foes of the peace talks organized demonstrations in numerous cities. In Afula, students chanted "Death to Arabs!" and "Baruch Goldstein, We Love You!" Goldstein, an immigrant from the New York City borough of Brooklyn, carried out the massacre in Hebron.

Benjamin Netanyahu, the leader of the right-wing Likud bloc, urged Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin to suspend the talks, just as the Palestine Liberation Organization did after the Hebron massacre.

Instead Police Commissioner Rafi Peled ordered police forces into nearby Arab villages to protect residents from reprisals. And residents of the occupied territories were barred from entering Israel for at least eight days.

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

Israeli Environment Minister Yossi Sarid said the talks would go on. "Why stop, so that terror will increase, spread and be threatened." But the Israeli negotiators flew home to Israel for three days - frustrating the PLO negotiators.

There had been widespread concern in Israel about such an attack since Hamas vowed revenge for the Hebron massacre. On Wednesday, Mohammed Nazzal, a Hamas spokesman in Jordan, said Hamas launched the attack after the 40th day of mourning for the Hebron victims.

A caller to a Western news agency said the bomb contained 385 pounds of explosives. The caller identified the suicide bomber as Hamas member Ra'id Zakarna, 19, from the West Bank village of Qabatiya. The caller said Zakarna had been imprisoned and told relatives he had been tortured.

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

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

"What he did was religious vengeance," said Ali Zakarna, 40, a cousin of Ra'id Zakarna's.

He said Ra'id Zakarna joined Hamas in high school. The youth was jailed for almost two months early last year, and emerged from prison with bruises on his face and abdomen, Ali Zakarna reported. "After his release he started talking about jihad (holy war) as a compulsory duty for Muslims." U.S. Reaction

Commiserating with Israel and the victims' families, the State Department said Wednesday that a peace agreement improving the "quality of life" in the Mideast could reduce attacks like the bombing.

Michael McCurry, a department spokesman, called on PLO Chairman Yasser Arafat to publicly condemn the violence and on Syria to use its influence with "enemies of peace" to cease their attacks.

"This extremist violence has one aim - to stop the momentum toward peace," he said. McCurry said the "best answer" would be to initiate Palestinian self-rule on the West Bank and in the Gaza Strip.

Load-Date: April 8, 1994

Blast kills 3 Israeli women

The Gazette (Montreal, Quebec)

March 22, 1997, Saturday, FINAL EDITION

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Section: NEWS; Pg. A1 / FRONT

Length: 1033 words

Byline: BARTON GELLMAN; WASHINGTON POST; COX NEWS SERVICE

Dateline: TEL AVIV, ISRAEL

Body

A young Palestinian man in faded jeans with a yellow coat draped on his arm walked into a sun-drenched sidewalk cafe here yesterday afternoon and detonated a satchel of high explosives and nails. Three Israeli women died with the bomber and 46 were hurt in the first such suicide attack in just more than a year.

Like the final two bombings in last year's spree, yesterday's struck during the carnival holiday of Purim, when children dress in costumes and Jews celebrate a miraculous turnabout victory over ancient foes.

A diminutive Queen Esther, about 10 years old and gowned in frilly pink, was carried away bleeding from the head as the bomber's charred body still smoked. An infant girl, done up as a clown, lay screaming at the feet of her unbreathing mother.

"So much blood, a woman lying there, a baby, a little baby," sobbed shift manager Roi Kodman, seated on the sidewalk and squeezing his palms against his head. "A woman, her leg was covered in blood. I wanted to help her, but I didn't know what to do. I didn't know what to do."

The Islamic Resistance Movement, Hamas, took responsibility for the bombing, citing a need to force Israel to stop a contested Jewish housing project under construction in the traditionally Arab part of Jerusalem.

"Our people must hunt them, whether they're in Tel Aviv or in Latin America," Ibrahim Maqadmeh, a senior Hamas military leader, told a rally of thousands in the Gaza town of Khan Yunis, which coincided with the attack.

"Jerusalem will not be restored by negotiations, but only with holy war, whatever the sacrifices."

A simultaneous rally in the West Bank city of Nablus erupted in cheers of "God is great!" when Hamas leader Hamed Bitawi announced the "good news."

Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu, faced for the first time with the archetype of the suicide bomb that helped bring down his Labor Party predecessor, laid responsibility directly at the door of Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat.

Netanyahu said he is "not prepared to continue with a (peace) process in which there is a series of attacks," suggesting he could suspend negotiations with Arafat's Palestinian Authority if more bombings occur. But Netanyahu ordered no immediate step, apart from sealing all borders of the West Bank and Gaza Strip.

Blast kills 3 Israeli women

Grim-faced after visiting some of the wounded at Ichilov Hospital, Netanyahu denounced as "obnoxious and immoral" a question linking the bombing to this week's groundbreaking at Har Homa, the new Jewish neighborhood recently begun on expropriated East Jerusalem land that has brought Israeli-Arab relations to a crisis point.

"People say that if we hadn't built on Har Homa all this wouldn't have happened," he said. "This line of thought is inherently wrong ... because it is fundamentally giving legitimacy to terrorism. It is saying that whenever there is a disagreement, and this people doesn't back down, it's all right to murder women and children."

Netanyahu had charged before the bombing that Arafat gave a "green light" for resumption of terrorist attacks, a charge he softened after the Clinton administration challenged his evidence. After yesterday's bombing, Netanyahu said Islamic extremists believed they had Arafat's blessing, which Israeli sources said was apparent in monitored conversations among Hamas operatives.

Arafat made no public appearance, but he telephoned condolences to Israeli President Ezer Weizman and tried unsuccessfully to call Netanyahu as well. A statement issued in his name said, "We condemn and denounce today's attack on Israeli civilians in Tel Aviv and whoever stands behind it."

Palestinian anger has built over recent Israeli moves to impose decisions on questions - chiefly the status of East Jerusalem and the extent of West Bank land to be transferred to Palestinian self-rule - that Palestinians believe to be at the heart of their negotiations. Arafat has called for a peaceful response on Voice of Palestine radio, but at the same time he freed senior Hamas military figures such as Maqadmeh from Palestinian jails.

Before the lunch-hour attack, some of the waiters and waitresses wore Zorro masks at the Apropos Cafe, an upscale vegetarian spot. The pre-Sabbath crowd included Electric Corp. chairman Gad Yaacobi, Israel's last ambassador to the United Nations, and a television comedian named Eyal Geffen.

Witnesses said a man in his 20s, coat over arm, walked into the Bauhaus-style dining room and then turned back outside to plant himself at the centre table of the sidewalk patio.

"He was looking for a place to sit down," said host Tal Zrihan, 23. "He looked very nervous. I wanted to bring him a menu. He went inside the restaurant and then came back out and then there was a big boom and everything was black, black, black. I was standing two or three metres away. I looked down at myself and I alone was standing. Everyone else was on the ground."

Israeli security sources, who did not release the bomber's name, said he carried the identity card of a 28-year-old Palestinian from the West Bank village of Tsurif, near the West Bank town of Hebron.

The army imposed a curfew there last night and declared it a closed military zone.

Last March, also during the Halloween-like Purim holiday, a suicide bomb exploded at Tel Aviv's Dizengoff Centre shopping mall. That attack killed 13 Israelis and wounded more than 100, many of them children, and came after a string of deadly bus bombings.

Yesterday, the settlement issue also provoked clashes in the West Bank cities of Hebron and Bethlehem, where stone-throwing Palestinian youths battled Israeli soldiers, who fired tear gas and rubber bullets.

But despite the angry rhetoric from both sides, there were signs last night that the two sides were working to repair the political damage caused by the bombing.

Israeli and Palestinian security officials met to discuss anti-terrorism measures.

Israel urged the Palestinian Authority to re-arrest members of Hamas and other resistance groups.

Arafat must now decide whether he has the will and enough popular support to carry out a fresh roundup of opposition leaders in the West Bank and Gaza Strip.

Graphic

Photo: Netanyahu: With wounded at hospital

Color Photo: MICHAEL KRAMER, AP / Suicide Bombing in Tel Aviv: Police officer cradles injured baby in her arms in Tel Aviv. Baby's mother died in cafe bombing.

Load-Date: March 24, 1997

End of Document

No Security, No Peace

The New York Times

March 29, 1997, Saturday, Late Edition - Final

Copyright 1997 The New York Times Company

Distribution: Editorial Desk

Section: Section 1; ; Section 1; Page 19; Column 2; Editorial Desk ; Column 2; ; Op-Ed

Length: 661 words

Byline: By Dore Gold;

Dore Gold is the foreign policy adviser to Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu of Israel.

By Dore Gold; Dore Gold is the foreign policy adviser to Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu of Israel.

Dateline: JERUSALEM

Body

Historic turning points are not always easy to discern. The September 1993 handshake on the White House lawn between Yitzhak Rabin and Yasir Arafat appeared to be such a turning point, representing the beginning of Israeli-Palestinian reconciliation.

But Mr. Arafat undermined everything this handshake represented when he held a series of meetings between March 9 and 13 with leaders of **Hamas** and other militant groups, at which he gave what amounted to a green light for the resumption of terrorist attacks. That was an assault on the very premise of the Oslo agreement: that once the P.L.O. renounced terrorism, Israeli-Palestinian differences, no matter how enormous, could be resolved through negotiations.

It is a grave error to assume that this attack on the underpinnings of the Oslo accords began with the political tensions of the last few weeks arising from the construction of new Jewish housing in the eastern part of Jerusalem. In January 1996, the head of Israeli military intelligence, Maj. Gen. Moshe Yaalon, told a Knesset committee that "the organizational infrastructure of **Hamas** continues to be built, whether with weaponry or the mobilization of activists." He added, "Arafat is preserving this situation for final-status negotiations with Israel."

Clearly, terrorism was kept as a bargaining chip, even if it was conducted by Palestinian opposition elements. Within six weeks of the Israeli intelligence chief's testimony, bus bombs killed 59 Israelis in Tel Aviv and Jerusalem. Faced with overwhelming American and Israeli pressure, Mr. Arafat finally cracked down on **Hamas** and Islamic Jihad.

But by August 1996 -- well before Mr. Arafat's September confrontation with the Netanyahu Government over the opening of an archeological tunnel in Jerusalem -- the Palestinian Authority began releasing **Hamas** and Islamic Jihad military leaders who had been imprisoned several months earlier. These were not men who preached in mosques, but operatives with expertise in explosives, including some who had been trained in Iran.

No Security, No Peace

What is to be done now? First, it has to be clear that a peace process without security will not work. True, Palestinian-Israeli disagreements are very real. But nothing can justify last week's bombing of innocent civilians in Tel Aviv. The Palestinian Authority must be held accountable for its green-light policy. It must change it to a permanent red light.

The Palestinian Authority also must comply with the obligations it reaffirmed at the signing of the Hebron agreement. They include "combating systematically and effectively terrorist organizations and their infrastructure." The willingness of the Palestinian security forces to do this cannot depend on the pace of negotiations. It has to be constant.

Second, the principle of reciprocity must be treated seriously. Israel made tangible moves over the last few months: It withdrew from Hebron, freed **female** Palestinian prisoners and transferred a significant amount of money to the Palestinian Authority (despite the authority's debts). Israel also granted 56,000 work permits to Palestinians (compared with 22,000 at the time of the Israeli elections).

In addition, Israel decided on the first of three further redeployments that will increase the West Bank area under full Palestinian control from 2.8 percent (under Mr. Rabin and his successor, Shimon Peres) to more than 10.1 percent. The Palestinian side met none of its post-Hebron undertakings. This process won't work if it is a one-sided giveaway.

So the Israeli Government has not closed the door to the peace process. But if negotiations are to advance, sanctioned violence must be eliminated. No nation can be expected to negotiate if it is faced with terrorism being unleashed every time an impasse is reached.

Only if the foundation of the Oslo agreement is restored to produce real security will the 1993 handshake prove to be a true historic turning point. Otherwise it will be remembered as a historic error.

Load-Date: March 29, 1997

SUICIDE BOMBERS KILL 13 IN ISRAEL

Pittsburgh Post-Gazette (Pennsylvania)

July 31, 1997, Thursday,

SOONER EDITION

Copyright 1997 P.G. Publishing Co.

Section: WORLD,

Length: 647 words

Byline: SERGE SCHMEMANN, THE NEW YORK TIMES

Dateline: JERUSALEM

Body

Two men dressed in black suits and carrying bombs in attache cases set off twin explosions in a crowded Jerusalem market yesterday, killing themselves and at least 13 other people and wounding more than 150, many seriously.

The militant Islamic organization **Hamas** took responsibility in a statement demanding that Israel free Palestinian prisoners.

The suicide bombing was the worst terror attack since Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu came to office one year ago, and it brought to an abrupt halt to tentative new efforts to revive the moribund peace politics. Dennis Ross, Washington's special envoy to the Middle East, postponed his scheduled departure yesterday on his first mediating venture to Israel in almost three months.

Even before there was any indication who might be behind the bombing, Netanyahu fiercely assailed Yasser Arafat when the Palestinian leader called to express condolences.

"I am not prepared to be satisfied with expressions of regret," the prime minister told Arafat, according to the government. "You have to completely change what you are saying and doing. You must change your policy 180 degrees."

The Israeli Cabinet met yesterday and declared that in order to continue with the peace process, the Palestinian Authority must honor its commitment to fight terrorist organizations. The statement also promised further actions against terrorists, which could include conducting more commando raids into Palestinian-administered areas.

A leaflet claiming responsibility for the bombing was left outside the Red Cross offices in Ramallah, a Palestinian-controlled town north of Jerusalem, and faxed to a news agency.

The leaflet declared that the bombings were the work of the military wing of **Hamas**, the militant Islamic organization, and specifically of a "martyrs' unit to liberate prisoners." The communique demanded that Israel release a broad range of Palestinian prisoners, and set a deadline of 9 p.m. Sunday, though without any specific threat.

SUICIDE BOMBERS KILL 13 IN ISRAEL

Some Palestinians expressed doubt about the authenticity of the statement, because it differed from previous **Hamas** communiques. But Israeli officials noted that Palestinian police recently raided a **Hamas** hideout in Beit Sahour, near Bethlehem, and found a large amount of bomb-making materials. Investigators who interrogated suspects reported that two suitcases were missing from the site, the officials said.

The bombers set off their charges about 15 seconds apart in the crowded Machane Yehuda market of western Jerusalem, an old warren of open and covered alleys crowded with stalls. The market is usually filled with shoppers, including many people from the surrounding religious Jewish neighborhoods as well as Arabs, and it has been a target of terror attacks twice before.

Witnesses recalled two men in dark glasses, black jackets and ties, which might have been intended to help them blend in to a crowd of rigorously Orthodox Jews. The police said they apparently maintained eye contact and were about 90 feet apart when one of the men pulled a string inside his jacket to set off his bomb at about 1:15 p.m. The second erupted soon after, creating a huge fireball and a shower of bodies, limbs, fruit, fish, plaster and plastic roofing panels.

The police said the bombs each consisted of about 20 pounds of explosive packed with bolts and nails to serve as shrapnel. When the smoke cleared, writhing, blackened victims lay scattered in the tangle of debris in the narrow market alley. Some rescue workers used plastic roof panels as litters to carry out the dead and wounded.

For all the horror, the bombings had a grim familiarity to Israelis. Fifteen suicide bombers have struck in Israel over the last 3 1/2 years, killing at least 140 people and wounding hundreds. The last one was on March 21, when a Palestinian set off a bomb in a Tel Aviv cafe, killing three **women** and himself.

Graphic

PHOTO (2), CHART, PHOTO: Jacqueline Arzt/Associated Press: A young Israeli who had; witnessed the bombing cries outside a vegetable stall in Jerusalem's Mahane; Yehuda market yesterday.; PHOTO: Mati Stein/Associated Press: An injured woman is helped by medics in; the market in Jerusalem yesterday.; CHART: C. Tovar Associated Press: Israel bombings

Load-Date: August 2, 1997

Everyone in Mideast must pick peace or war

The Atlanta Journal and Constitution

March 6, 1996, Wednesday,

JOURNAL EDITION

Copyright 1996 The Atlanta Constitution

Section: EDITORIAL; Pg. 16A

Length: 414 words

Body

IF WORDS WERE PEACE, the Middle East would today be a flourishing garden of brotherhood. Arab countries mostly say they accept the existence of Israel. Yasser Arafat claims he wants nothing more than amity and cooperation with his "friends" the Israelis. Even leaders of Hamas, the hard-line group that took up his terrorist mantle after he laid it aside, say they don't approve of attacks inside the Jewish state (at least for now).

Words, however, are of little comfort to the families of those slaughtered in three suicide bombings in Jerusalem and Tel Aviv, or to others who wonder which of them will be next. The time has come to translate flowery phrases into concrete actions, or to admit that they were nothing more than words and accept the consequences.

Throughout the Middle East peace process, Israelis have been asked again and again to "exercise restraint" when Palestinian terrorists have killed their men, women and children. To a degree few of us could match, they have done so, hoping not to give aid to those who wanted to destroy any hope of peace.

They have given enough.

Today, a line should be drawn, and everyone forced to choose one side or the other. Arafat, Hamas, unaligned Palestinians, Egypt, Jordan, even Syria and Iran all must decide whether they are going to be part of the solution, or part of the problem. If they will not actively work to end terrorism, they should be considered accomplices, and legitimate targets of whatever action is necessary to stop the killing.

Arafat may be right to worry about his political position if he seems to come down too hard on extremists in his jurisdiction, but it is too late for political gamesmanship. He must be as diligent and as tough as the Israelis in finding and arresting any who still favor violence.

The leadership of Hamas says it did not order the bombings, and does not sanction them. Even if that is true, they almost certainly know who is responsible and can find and stop them if they want their words to be heeded. If they don't, then they declare themselves enemies of peace, and deserve whatever they get.

We deeply hope that Israel can continue to walk the difficult line of supporting the peace process while battling the terrorists who would destroy it. But if real help is not forthcoming from those on the other side, then no one has the right to ask that it endure more. And a world that mouths platitudes about peace must support Israel in its effort to eliminate those who relish war.

Everyone in Mideast must pick peace or war

Load-Date: July 17, 1996

End of Document

Israel sets free low-risk prisoners

Herald Sun

October 26, 1993 Tuesday

Copyright 1993 Nationwide News Pty Limited

Length: 402 words

Body

JERUSALEM - Israel began releasing up to 700 low-risk Palestinian prisoners today but Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin dropped plans to free Moslem militants after the slaying of two Israeli soldiers.

Israeli reports said almost 290 prisoners had been freed, including 220 from the Ketziot detention centre in southern Israel and 68 from the Megiddo jail in the north. Some embraced each other and flashed victory signs.

The releases are aimed at mustering support among Palestinians for the peace agreement signed last month by Israel and the Palestine Liberation Organisation.

Israel is holding between 12,000 and 13,000 Arabs, many detained for political activity during the six-year-old Palestinian uprising. It says it will not free Arabs who have killed.

Those freed today were women, youths, old men and the sick.

Mr Rabin abandoned plans to free Islamic Hamas sympathisers after Hamas guerrillas disguised as Jews abducted and shot dead two soldiers hitchhiking near a Jewish settlement in southern Gaza yesterday.

Security sources also said an Arab drove a car laden with explosives into a prison services convoy in Gaza today but it failed to explode. Two prison officers were hurt and the attacker arrested after a chase.

The army had detained about 30 suspected Moslem militant sympathisers in the Gaza Strip last night and today, Palestinians said.

In a leaflet, Hamas called the killing of the two soldiers a "gift to the peace process", adding: "There is no peace between us and the Israelis except in the cemetery." In response, angry Israeli hardliners called on Mr Rabin to cancel the release.

But Mr Rabin and Palestinians loyal to PLO chairman Yasser Arafat said the killings would not derail the peace talks, which resume in the Egyptian town of Taba tomorrow.

Palestinians in the West Bank closed stores and businesses in a strike to demand the release of thousands more prisoners.

"In the (Taba) talks it was made clear to the other side that prisoners with blood on their hands will not be released, certainly not in the near future," an official quoted Mr Rabin telling the Foreign Affairs and Defence Committee.

In the Gaza Strip, the strike was not observed, but about 200 mothers of Palestinians jailed for life demonstrated outside the Gaza City central prison for their sons' release. Israeli soldiers taunted them and waved rifles.

Israel sets free low-risk prisoners

REUTER

END OF STORY

Graphic

FREE . . . Fada Amin, 14, is carried home on the shoulders of arelative. Israel jailed Amin for 28 months for spraying nationalist grafittion walls.

Load-Date: November 28, 2003

End of Document

PRAY FOR HER;
TINY VICTIM OF CAFE SUICIDE BOMB;
ARAB SUICIDE BOMBER KILLS TWO IN TEL AVIV

The Mirror

March 22, 1997, Saturday

Copyright 1997 MGN Ltd.



Section: NEWS; Pg. 7

Length: 399 words

Byline: Mark Dowdney Foreign Editor

Body

This innocent tot, torn from her mother's arms by a terrorist blast, was fighting for her life in hospital last night - as millions prayed for her recovery and the Middle East plunged into renewed strife.

The six-month-old girl was decked out in fancy dress for the Jewish festival of Purim when the Arab suicide bomber killed himself and two Israeli women in a crowded Tel Aviv cafe yesterday. Her mother is believed to be one of the dead.

A hospital doctor treating the baby for severe burns said: "She needs all our prayers to pull through."

Electrician Pini Melekh, 50, who found the screaming tot, said: "She was dressed like a clown with a yellow wig and make-up on her cheeks.

"She was rigid with fear. I grabbed her and carried her into an ambulance.

"Unfortunately I could not help a woman who was apparently the baby's mother.

"All I saw was her face burnt out black, just one black hole in her head, and one of her ears missing."

High school student Shabtai Levanda, 18, said: "There was blood and ashes in the baby's hair."

The bomber, a member of the Palestinian terror group Hamas, strolled into the Apropos coffee house on tree-lined Ben Gurion Boulevard just before 2pm.

Waiter Gad Ben-Tzur recalled: "He looked strange.

PRAY FOR HER; TINY VICTIM OF CAFE SUICIDE BOMB; ARAB SUICIDE BOMBER KILLS TWO IN TEL AVIV

"He was carrying two bags and moving between tables on the outside patio.

"A second later there was a tremendous flash and he blew up."

More than 40 people, many of them costumed revellers, were injured. A tangle of wrecked tables, chairs and umbrellas littered the pavement as smoke rose from scorched clothes and wood.

The bomber's remains lay for several hours, covered with a blanket.

The attack came a year after another **Hamas** bomber killed 13 people in a nearby Tel Aviv shopping mall.

Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat condemned yesterday's blast as "a terrorist incident".

But Arafat was denounced by Israeli Premier Benjamin Netanyahu who accused him of giving the green light to Arab extremists.

The bombing was seen as retaliation for Netanyahu's decision to ignore world protests and push ahead with a controversial plan to build 6,500 Jewish homes in Arab East Jerusalem.

As the politicians traded insults, **Hamas** supporters danced for joy.

One of their leaders told a 10,000-strong rally in the West Bank town of Nablus: "I have good news for you. There is a suicide operation in Tel Aviv."

The crowd clapped and cheered, chanting: "God is Great."

Graphic

SNATCHED FROM THE SMOKING HELL: The screaming baby, her clown's costume shredded, is carried to an ambulance yesterday;; BLOODBATH: Help for a wounded woman;; MOWN DOWN: A girl is stretchered away

Load-Date: March 25, 1997

'Rhetoric' and Risk in the Mideast;
Q&A / Robert Pelletreau

International Herald Tribune (Neuilly-sur-Seine, France)

August 28, 1997, Thursday

Copyright 1997 International Herald Tribune

Section: News; Pg. 5

Length: 854 words

Byline: By Brian Knowlton; International Herald Tribune

Body

Robert Pelletreau was assistant U.S. secretary of state for Near Eastern affairs from February 1994 to January 1997 and served previously as ambassador to Egypt, Tunisia and Bahrain. Mr. Pelletreau, now practicing law, spoke in Washington with Brian Knowlton of the International Herald Tribune. Q. We seem to be at an exceedingly dangerous stage in the Middle East. Just how dire is the situation?

A. There's no question that the situation is deteriorating. Not only is there no active peace process under way, there is a growing lack of confidence between the two sides. This is true primarily on the Israeli- Palestinian front, but also on the Israeli-Arab front more generally. Q. What do you make of the talk by a Hamas spokesman of the possibility of an armed intifada, or uprising?

A. At this stage it is more rhetoric than reality, intended partially for American ears. After all, the United States has just taken the first steps of a new initiative, and that means that the parties are already beginning to engage with the United States, as well as with each other.

Q. But what about Yasser Arafat's embrace of Hamas? Is this a sign of weakness, is it a cynical provocation, or is it a calculated message?

A. I think it's the outcome of the current situation, with no negotiations, with the Palestinian community in general under pressure from Israeli action, and criticism growing against Mr. Arafat among the Palestinians.

I think it's understandable that Mr. Arafat tries to project himself as the leader of the entire Palestinian community, not just one element, so they called this unity conference (at which the embrace occurred). But I don't think there is any growing trust or real coordination between Mr. Arafat and Hamas.

Q. What would happen if Mr. Arafat were to do what Israel wants and launch a full-scale crackdown on Hamas? Does he lack the strength to do what Israel wants?

A. I think the strength is there. But it's easier to say than it is to do, because so much of what Hamas, and particularly Palestine-Islamic Jihad, might have in the way of terrorist-type cells is going to be underground, is going to be clandestine.

Q. Are we seeing any cooperation now between the Palestinians and the Israelis?

'Rhetoric' and Risk in the Mideast; Q&A / Robert Pelletreau

A. There is ongoing cooperation between Mr. Arafat's security services and the Israeli security services. My feeling is there's more going on than has come out. It's frankly very much in Mr. Arafat's interests to cooperate with the Israelis.

Q. How great are the dangers in the next month or two?

A. The flare-up in south Lebanon is potentially quite serious, because there are no negotiations at all going on that can shift the attention from it or be some kind of pressure valve for it. Escalation is already occurring on both sides, and emotions are high.

Q. What specifically can Secretary of State Madeleine Albright hope to accomplish when she visits the area next month?

A. I think it's very positive that the United States has decided to become re-engaged in the issue. Had that not been the case, the risks would have been much higher of sliding backward. The next step has to be for the parties to re-engage at the political level, and that, I think, is something that Secretary Albright can help bring about.

She will see the leadership on both sides. If she can get them to agree to come back at the political level instead of the technical level, that's what I would see as being a very positive outcome.

Q. Some of his critics say that Benjamin Netanyahu lacks the vision or the strength or the firm grasp of historical necessities that somebody like Yitzhak Rabin had.

A. I think it's unfair to compare him, or frankly any other Israeli leader, to Mr. Rabin.

Mr. Rabin had an extraordinary association with the state of Israel, right from his very first actions as a young fighter defending Jerusalem. His involvement with the state of Israel is really unmatched.

Mr. Netanyahu has shown he can be pragmatic. But I think his real challenge is to find a way to engage in a cohesive peace policy. Q. In another country you know a lot about, Iran, the election of Mohammed Khatami as president has brought new talk of a possible turn to moderation - yet many times such hopes have been raised only to be dashed.

A. The election of Mr. Khatami is a very important development. He was not the candidate of the religious establishment; he was voted in by youth, by women and by a protest vote - against clerical mismanagement, corruption, whatever you want to call it. It is significant that the election was allowed to stand, that now he has chosen a cabinet that has a lot of new faces, and has gotten approval from the Majlis.

If it transpires that Mr. Khatami can develop a field of cooperation with the more moderate members of the previous government, you might see the whole center of gravity of Iranian politics moving toward a more liberal base. I think that would be a very positive thing.

The U.S. reaction, I think, has been just about right. It signals that the United States had no quarrel with the Iranian people, and that we would be looking for actions, not just words.

Load-Date: August 29, 1997

To Some in Gaza, the Peace Process Isn't Good News

Christian Science Monitor (Boston, MA)

August 2, 1991, Friday

Copyright 1991 The Christian Science Publishing Society

Section: THE WORLD; Pg. 3

Length: 627 words

Byline: Jeffrey Sheban, Special to The Christian Science Monitor

Dateline: GAZA CITY, ISRAELI OCCUPIED TERRITORY

Body

WITH so much attention being paid to Israeli response to United States peace efforts, it's easy to forget that opposition to the plan runs deep in places like the Gaza Strip.

Waiting in the wings for the peace process to fail are Gaza's Islamic fundamentalists, an unpredictable part of the Palestinian equation.

"We believe that this is not a suitable time for solving our problem," says Mahmood Zahar, a surgeon here. "The Arab side is very weak and the policy of the American master is prevailing."

Dr. Zahar, an Islamic fundamentalist, has been jailed by the Israelis for activities in the outlawed ***Hamas*** movement. He denies a leadership role in the organization, which wants any future Palestinian state to be Islamic in nature.

Hamas competes here and in the West Bank with the Palestine Liberation Organization (PLO) for the loyalty of most Palestinians. Its strength is disputed and often downplayed by secular and non-Muslim Palestinians.

Hamas's power base is Gaza, where more than 95 percent of the 700,000 residents are Muslim. The squalor of the area's eight refugee camps serves as a breeding ground for the empowering message of the mosque.

The local rivalry between ***Hamas*** and the secular PLO is intense.

Both sides have agreed to test their strength in upcoming elections for the Gaza Chamber of Commerce, the first since Israel seized the 87-square-mile coastal strip from Egypt in 1967.

Neither side is optimistic that Israel will cede occupied Arab land in exchange for peace, as envisioned by the US, let alone sanction a state for Palestinians in the West Bank and Gaza. But PLO supporters - aware of that organization's weakened position since backing vanquished Iraqi leader Saddam Hussein in the Gulf war - are more inclined to give the peace process a chance.

And that suits the fundamentalists just fine.

"PLO supporters actually believe in the peace process as the suitable solution for our problems," Zahar said during an interview at the decaying Islamic University, closed by the military authorities at the beginning of the 44-month-old Palestinian uprising, or intifada.

To Some in Gaza, the Peace Process Isn't Good News

"But from the Islamic point of view, supported by the majority of the people, we believe the PLO will fail. And this will reflect positively on us."

PLO supporters in Gaza have no illusions about the American initiative. They, too, see it as biased in favor of Israel, which is demanding the right to choose Palestinian negotiators and refusing to stop settlement activity or part with any occupied land, especially East Jerusalem.

Though it appears flawed to some here, the American initiative at least offers Palestinians a chance to win concessions from the Israelis.

"We know the Israelis are stronger," explains Zakariya al-Agha, one of three PLO supporters and the only Gazan to meet with US Secretary of State James Baker III in Jerusalem last week. "They occupy our land and can say at any time, 'We don't want to do this, we don't want to leave this land."

Mr. Agha says Palestinians want the peace process to succeed, but he fears Israeli demands are likely to doom it.

"The people of Gaza are looking for a peaceful settlement, but we can't enter this process at any price," he says.

Hamas will not be an obstacle to peace, he adds, "if they feel something positive will be obtained."

"Nothing will be achieved by today's diplomatic efforts," insists Atif Adwan, another fundamentalist. "Let the PLO try, and when they fail, it will be a lesson to our people."

Israel will not yield to Palestinian demands until Islamic forces sweep away the region's secular governments and bring tremendous pressure to bear on the Jewish state, the fundamentalists say.

"Sooner or later, these regimes will be eliminated. We believe that time is part of the medicine," Zahar predicts.

Graphic

PHOTOS: 1) (page 1) Middle East Weighs Peace Prospects. Palestinians in occupied Gaza try to catch a glimpse of family members being loaded on bus to detention center. Palestinians and Israelis are deeply divided on whether to back plans for a regional peace conference. PAGE 3., 2) **WOMEN** IN JABALYA REFUGEE CAMP, OCCUPIED GAZA: Harsh conditions in Gaza's eight refugee camps encourage the growth of Muslim fundamentalists., ROBERT HARBISON - STAFF, (both photos)

6 ISRAELIS KILLED IN GAZA BOMBINGS BY ARAB MILITANTS

The New York Times

April 10, 1995, Monday, Late Edition - Final

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Distribution: Foreign Desk

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

Length: 980 words

Byline: By JOEL GREENBERG

By JOEL GREENBERG

Dateline: KFAR DAROM, Gaza Strip, April 9

Body

Palestinian suicide attackers killed 6 Israelis and wounded at least 45 in two car bombings today in the Gaza Strip, casting fresh doubts on the future of the self-rule accord between Israel and the Palestine Liberation Organization.

Two Muslim militant groups, Hamas and Islamic Holy War, took responsibility for the attacks. Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin warned that unless the Palestinian Authority cracked down hard on the militants in its territory, expansion of Palestinian self-rule throughout the West Bank was in serious question.

In the first attack, a van pulled up and exploded next to a bus filled mostly with soldiers returning from weekend leave. The attack was aimed at a bus near Kfar Darom, a settlement about 10 miles southwest of Gaza City.

The second blast hit an Israeli convoy about 6 miles away, on a road to the settlement of Netzarim, and caused several casualties.

"Certainly what happened here today, this despicable murder by extremist suicide attackers, makes it very difficult to see how we can reach a situation in which we will be able to continue," Mr. Rabin said as he visited the site of the bus bombing. "The Palestinian Authority must prove that it can act against these groups."

But Mr. Rabin added, "We will not stop the negotiations."

The latest bombings have highlighted the difficulties of Mr. Rabin's policy toward the settlers. [Page A9.]

Israel and the P.L.O. have set July 1 as a deadline for an agreement on Palestinian elections and an accompanying Israeli withdrawal from West Bank towns that would take self-rule beyond Gaza and Jericho.

Seeking to shore up the peace effort, Secretary of State Warren Christopher called both Mr. Rabin and Yasir Arafat, the P.L.O. chairman, to express condolences and to urge tough action against terrorism.

6 ISRAELIS KILLED IN GAZA BOMBINGS BY ARAB MILITANTS

President Clinton condemned the bombings as "terrorist outrages," saying they should not be allowed to disrupt attempts to reach peace. He pledged "to exert all possible efforts to insure a just, comprehensive and lasting peace" in the Middle East.

Mr. Rabin received a call from Mr. Arafat, and urged him to do more to stop militant violence. King Hussein of Jordan and President Hosni Mubarak of Egypt also talked to Mr. Rabin by phone.

In a statement to reporters, Mr. Arafat denounced the attackers, calling them "the enemies of peace."

Both Mr. Rabin and Mr. Arafat met with top officers and security officials tonight to discuss responses to the bombings, which claimed more casualties than any other attack in Gaza since the signing of the Israeli-Palestinian accord in September 1993.

Gaza residents reported that the Palestinian police carried out a sweep of arrests tonight, detaining about 100 people suspected of being members of Hamas and Islamic Holy War. Tayeb Abdel Rahim, the general secretary of the authority, said the police had also begun searching for explosives.

Coming about two hours apart, today's bombings occurred near two Israeli settlements that had been left isolated and under the Israeli Army's protection after it pulled out of most of the Gaza Strip last May.

Six conscripts, including 2 servicewomen, were killed and about 30 other passengers wounded, several of them seriously in the attack near Kfar Darom.

Yosef El-Nekaveh, the rabbi of the neighboring Katif settlement bloc, was one of the first to reach the bus, which had come from the southern Israeli town of Ashkelon.

"There were bodies in shocking condition," he said. "The bus was full of blood. We hosed it down, and a stream of blood flowed to the ground."

Ezra Mordechai, a security officer from the settlement of Netzer Hazani, was also among the rescuers.

"I saw soldiers and civilians wounded, a lot of blood and broken glass, and I heard the cries of male and female soldiers," he said. "I saw one soldier with his head open."

The bus was charred and its windows blown out, and one side of the vehicle was warped and peppered with shrapnel. The van that had carried the explosives lay a few dozen feet away, reduced to a mass of twisted metal. Palestinians who passed in buses on a nearby road flashed triumphant V-signs at Israeli soldiers.

As rescue workers treated the wounded and helicopters ferried some to hospitals, reports arrived of a second attack, on the road to Netzarim. There, a car blew up as it rammed a convoy of two Israeli cars escorted by police and army vehicles, wounding several people.

Islamic Holy War took responsibility for the bus attack, saying it was carried out by Khaled al-Khatib, 22, from the Nuseirat refugee camp. Hamas claimed responsibility for the attack near Netzarim, identifying the bomber as Imad Abu Ammouna, 22, from the Shati refugee camp.

Both groups said the bombings were reprisals for Israeli actions, including an explosion last week in Gaza that killed a Hamas leader. Israel and the Palestinian Authority had said the explosion was accidentally set off in a Hamas bomb factory. Hamas called it an Israeli assassination and vowed revenge.

Mr. Rabin asserted that an Israeli closing of the Gaza Strip, imposed after previous suicide bombings, had prevented today's attacks from occurring inside Israel. But he vowed to protect Israelis in the Gaza Strip and rejected proposals to remove the settlers, saying that under the accord with the Palestinians, settlements are to remain in place.

6 ISRAELIS KILLED IN GAZA BOMBINGS BY ARAB MILITANTS

The attacks today revived calls by right-wing politicians to stop the negotiations with the Palestinians. It prompted Cabinet ministers to warn that a July 1 deadline for an agreement on an Israeli pullback in the West Bank might not be met if the Palestinian Authority does did not wage an all-out campaign against the Muslim militants and disarm them.

President Ezer Weizman, who had suggested a suspension of peace talks after a suicide attack in January, made a similar proposal today.

"We have to check again to what extent matters are under control in Gaza," he said.

Graphic

Photo: The Israeli dead were placed a short distance from a bus hit yesterday by a Palestinian suicide car bomber in the Gaza Strip. Six Israelis died. (Agence France-Presse)(pg. A1)

Map of Israel showing locations of Netzarim and Kfar Darom. (pg. A9)

Load-Date: April 10, 1995

End of Document

***Celebration turns to mourning, anger;
Patrons of a Tel Aviv cafe, many wearing costumes for the Jewish holiday of
Purim, become targets of a bomber - and three women die.***

The Atlanta Journal-Constitution

March 22, 1997, Saturday,

ALL EDITIONS

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Section: FOREIGN NEWS; Pg. 01F

Length: 822 words

Byline: Charles W. Holmes; STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Dateline: Tel Aviv, Israel

Body

All three Israelis killed Friday were women.

A waiter, Tsur Livne, had just delivered bagels and cheese to customers at a patio restaurant when he went inside to pick up another order.

"There was a very strong explosion and the windows shattered," said Livne, 24, who was uninjured. "It took me about 10 seconds to realize it was a bomb, because you never expect such a thing to happen to you."

Among the injured was a 6-month-old girl in a red-and-blue clown costume. Her head was matted with blood as she was carried away screaming by a policewoman, who was unable to locate the baby's mother at the scene.

The baby was in stable condition with leg wounds later in an Israeli hospital, where her mother also was admitted with severe burns and cuts to her face and head, according to Israeli media reports.

A nail-packed bomb ripped through the crowded sidewalk cafe, killing four people including the Muslim suicide bomber, wounding 46 and plunging the Israeli-Palestinian peace process into crisis.

Hamas, the leading Palestinian Islamic fundamentalist movement, claimed responsibility for the attack, the first of its kind in a year.

The bombing came after weeks of mounting tension in Israeli- Palestinian relations over the Israeli government's decision to build a new Jewish settlement on the outskirts of East Jerusalem.

Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu, who earlier this week had suggested alterations in the peace talks, suggested that Israel may respond to the bombing by postponing negotiations.

"We are not prepared to go on this way," Netanyahu said after visiting the wounded at a Tel Aviv hospital.

Celebration turns to mourning, anger; Patrons of a Tel Aviv cafe, many wearing costumes for the Jewish holiday of Purim, become targets of a bomber - and three

Netanyahu suggested that Yasser Arafat's Palestinian Authority gave Hamas and other militant groups the green light for such attacks by recently releasing some of their leaders from prison. Palestinian leaders angrily denied Netanyahu's claim, and Arafat telephoned Israeli President Ezer Weizman to express his condolences.

The trendy Apropos cafe in downtown Tel Aviv was busy with lunchtime patrons, many of them dressed in costumes celebrating the festive Jewish holiday of Purim, which celebrates the deliverance of the Jews of ancient Persia from a plot to slaughter them.

Witnesses recalled a man carrying a yellow duffel bag, who asked to be seated at a central table on the patio. In a deadly flash, the cafe was a scene of carnage and confusion. Bodies lay amid broken glass and gnarled tables. The restaurant's whitewashed walls were stained with blood.

"It's a crowded area. It's Tel Aviv, the largest city in Israel. It's a very good place to achieve their goals," said the police commissioner, Assaf Hefetz, as he toured the site.

The charred body of the bomber lay on the cafe patio for hours, partially covered by a blanket, as scores of investigators combed the site and hundreds of armed Israeli police cordoned off the palm-tree-lined block. Israel TV said papers on the bomber's body identified him as a 28-year-old resident of the West Bank village of Zurif, near Hebron.

Last March, also during the Halloween-like Purim holiday, a suicide bomb exploded at Tel Aviv's Dizengoff Center shopping mall. That attack killed 13 Israelis and wounded more than 100, many of them children, and came after a string of deadly bus bombings.

After the blast Friday, Israel sealed its borders with the West Bank and Gaza Strip, preventing Palestinian workers from entering.

Arafat and other Palestinian leaders condemned the bombing and blamed the Netanyahu government for provoking militants by breaking ground this week on the Jewish settlement at a place the Israelis call Har Homa, south of Jerusalem.

The settlement issue also provoked clashes Friday in the West Bank cities of Hebron and Bethlehem, where stone-throwing Palestinian youths battled Israeli soldiers, who fired tear gas and rubber bullets.

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

"The person ultimately responsible for this painful deed is Netanyahu himself, who did not listen to the advice of the international community."

Israeli and Palestinian security officials met to discuss anti-terrorism measures. Israel urged the Palestinian Authority to re-arrest members of Hamas and other resistance groups.

Even as Friday's attack was being carried out, Hamas and other Palestinian groups opposed to the Israeli-Palestinian peace process were holding a rally sanctioned by the Palestinian Authority in the city of Khan Yunis, in the Gaza Strip.

"Jerusalem will not be restored by negotiations, but only with holy war, whatever the sacrifices," a Hamas leader, Ibrahim Maqadmeh, recently released from detention by the Palestinian Authority, told a crowd of 50,000.

A leading architect of the landmark 1993 Israeli-Palestinian accord, Yossi Beilin, said Israel's right-wing coalition government must find a moderate path to preserve the peace process.

Celebration turns to mourning, anger; Patrons of a Tel Aviv cafe, many wearing costumes for the Jewish holiday of Purim, become targets of a bomber - and three

Graphic

Color photo and teaser box (appeared on A/01 with reference to F/01

story): A police officer looks for the mother of a 6-month-old girl,

injured Friday in the bombing of a Tel Aviv cafe./ MICHAEL KRAMER /

Associated Press

Color: Israeli soldiers are set afire Friday by a Molotov cocktail thrown

by Palestinian youths in the West Bank town of Hebron./ EYAL WARSHAVSKY /

Associated Press

Color: A bloodied victim of the attack by a suicide bomber in a Tel Aviv

cafe Friday is escorted to an ambulance./ BARKAI WOLFSON / Associated

Press

Load-Date: March 23, 1997

End of Document

Arabs ponder thinking behind US 'terror' list

The Independent (London)

March 8, 1993, Monday

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Section: INTERNATIONAL NEWS PAGE; Page 11

Length: 636 words

Byline: From ROBERT FISK in Beirut

Body

WHAT is going on in the United States? In less than a week, an Arab is accused of bombing the World Trade Center, Iran is singled out by the State Department as "the world's leading state supporter of terrorism", and Congress forbids US diplomats to talk to members of the anti-Israeli Hamas resistance. "Israeli intelligence sources" are quoted in reports linking Iran, the Palestinians and Egyptian fundamentalists in a plot against the West. And suddenly, no one talks about Saddam Hussein any more.

Middle East Muslims were the first to understand the dangers behind these developments. Iran has accused the US of trying to distract the world's attention from the massacre of Bosnian Muslims and the plight of the Palestinian deportees in southern Lebanon. In Lebanon, journalistic wrath knew no bounds.

"The Arab is the killer; his crime is defined later," the Beirut daily as-Safir thundered at the weekend. "Every Arab is a terrorist until he proves otherwise . . . No matter whether his nationality is Egyptian, or Palestinian or Algerian, he is a Muslim Arab, he is a killer."

That old, dangerous phrase "Arab terrorist" is back in vogue in the West. But President Saddam, who only two months ago was still being demonised as the West's most sinister enemy in the Middle East, has - remarkably - avoided any condemnation during the events of the past week. Does the West, yet again, need President Saddam as a bulwark against "terrorist" Iran?

Arab journalists are puzzled by a number of developments:

- Why should the Jordanian-Palestinian Mohamed Salameh - if he is so professional a "terrorist" - have hired a van in his own name and claimed back a deposit on the vehicle allegedly used in the Manhattan bombing after saying it had been stolen? And why should he have left a trail that led so directly towards Sheikh Omar Abdul Rahman, at whose Jersey City mosque Mr Salameh worshipped and whose arrest and deportation to Egypt - where he is a wanted man - would deprive the Islamic opposition there of their most revered leader?

- Why should the New York bombing coincide with a written State Department claim that censures Iran in almost the same words with which the Americans recently condemned Iraq? And if Iran is guilty of "terrorism", was not Serbia a thousand times more guilty after the mass rape of Muslim women in Bosnia?

- Why should Congressman Alphonse D'Amato claim that Hamas is a "terrorist" movement at the very moment when hundreds of Hamas supporters, expelled by Israel against international law and in defiance of a UN Security Council resolution, remain stranded in southern Lebanon?

Arabs ponder thinking behind US 'terror' list

No evidence has yet been produced as to why Mr Salameh may have wanted to place a bomb in Manhattan. Nor has any direct link been established between the bombing and the Sheikh. Sheikh Omar has hardly concealed his views. In an interview with me in his Jersey City mosque in November, he openly called for the death of President Hosni Mubarak.

The timing of the State Department's attack on Iran is more mysterious. The Iranians have said it is a prelude to accusing Iran of the New York bombing. Last Friday in Tehran, Ayatollah Ahmed Jannati asked how the US could make such claims when it had given asylum to the "terrorist" Iraqi-based Iranian opposition, the Mujahedin el-Khalq. But last November he claimed "the Americans keep saying Iran is a threat . . . which is true. We're glad to learn we are making our intentions known."

The re-established belief in the US that Israeli and American interests coincide probably made the new anti-**Hamas** restrictions certain. With "fundamentalist" now also inextricably linked to "terrorist", the latest demonisation of Arabs was inevitable. The New York bomb has seen to that. President Saddam will be watching with interest.

End of Document

Jordan's king tells Albright of fears if Mideast peace talks lead nowhere

USA TODAY

September 15, 1997, Monday,

FINAL EDITION

Copyright 1997 Gannett Company, Inc.

Section: NEWS;

Length: 277 words

Byline: Lee Michael Katz

Dateline: AMMAN, Jordan

Body

AMMAN, Jordan -- King Hussein warned Sunday of "explosions" of violence in the Mideast if there is no progress in Israeli-Palestinian talks.

And U.S. Secretary of State Madeleine Albright, who met with Hussein Sunday, said that Palestinian and Israeli leaders had taken only "small steps" toward peace when "big steps were needed."

She wraps up a six-day Mideast trip today.

Meanwhile, Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu's government Sunday made several gestures to ease tension with Yasser Arafat's Palestinian Authority. Israel will:

- Lift an internal closure of Palestinian areas.
- Pay the Palestinians at least \$ 30 million in tax revenues withheld in response to suicide bombings.

Netanyahu also halted construction of a small apartment project in the middle of a Palestinian neighborhood.

Albright may end her first Mideast trip since taking office in January with a dramatic stop in Lebanon today.

Albright recently lifted a ban on U.S. travelers to Lebanon, but there have been numerous clashes in the countryside between Israelis, Hezbollah guerillas and Lebanese troops.

Jordan 's king tells Albright of fears if Mideast peace talks lead nowhere

Hussein applauded Albright, calling her "someone who speaks and talks not diplomatically, but accurately."

Albright asked Arab countries to prevent their citizens contributing to Palestinian radical group **Hamas**. "The Arab states have a responsibility," she said "to support the peace process and work against the enemies of peace."

Hamas has claimed credit for a suicide bombing that killed four Israelis in Jerusalem on Sept. 4.

Albright, the first **female** U.S. secretary of State to visit Saudi Arabia, told her hosts she hoped "when we meet again we can talk about the role of **women** in your societies."

Load-Date: September 15, 1997

In Gaza, Fashion Models Break Tradition

Christian Science Monitor (Boston, MA)

March 9, 1995, Thursday

Copyright 1995 The Christian Science Publishing Society

Section: FEATURE; Pg. 13

Length: 237 words

Byline: Reuters

Dateline: GAZA STRIP

Body

RISKING the anger of Muslim fundamentalists and defying some traditions, Gazans have staged a Western-style fashion show less than a year after Palestinians took over control of the region from the Israelis.

Alcohol was not served in deference to Islamic customs and all but one of the models had to be imported, but the event was nevertheless a sign of the changes taking place in Gaza's conservative, tradition-minded society.

About 200 Palestinians, most of them wealthy, gathered at Gaza's beachfront Cliffs Hotel to watch models, many in off-the-shoulder gowns, strut down a catwalk earlier this week. In some Islamic

states, women are required to cover their heads and wear ankle-length dresses. Gaza and the West Bank have traditionally been more liberal in their dress codes.

"It is a very big challenge. The idea itself was a risk," said Atef Okasha, organizer of Gaza's first fashion show in memory. He said the main obstacle he faced was finding models from Gaza. The

few women willing to participate were forced by families to quit.

"Only one Gazan model remained, so we were compelled to bring Palestinian models from Acre [in Israel]," he said.

Imad al-Fallouji, a leader of Hamas, an Islamic resistance movement, reacted strongly to the fashion show. "Hamas greatly

In Gaza, Fashion Models Break Tradition

resents and opposes the current openness. The fashion show is a step toward imitating the West and is aimed at damaging society ethics and traditions," he said.

Load-Date: March 10, 1995

End of Document

TERRORIST BOMB RIPS TEL AVIV

The Columbian (Vancouver, WA.)

October 19, 1994, Wednesday

Copyright 1994 The Columbian Publishing Co.

Section: A section; Pg. A1

Length: 865 words

Byline: AP

Body

TEL AVIV, Israel (AP) A terrorist bomb shattered a bus in the heart of Tel Aviv's shopping district today in an apparent suicide attack by Islamic militants. Police said 22 people were killed and 48 wounded.

Israeli officials warned of retaliation following the blast, the third major attack in 11 days claimed by radicals of the **Hamas** group who oppose Israel-Arab peacemaking.

Authorities said they believed a suicide bomber, reportedly carrying about 110 pounds of explosives, boarded red-and-white Dan bus No. 5 headed up tree-lined Dizengoff Street in the center of Israel's largest city.

The 9 a.m. explosion ripped apart the northbound commuter bus and wrecked a second bus that was passing in the other direction.

"People went flying into the air, arms and legs. It was a very terrible thing," said Moshe Reiner, who was walking to work when the blast occurred.

The bus, a charred skeleton of twisted metal, stood in the middle of the city's main street with bodies of **women** and a child sprawled on the sidewalk.

Police spokeswoman Eti Greenburg said 22 people were killed and 48 wounded. She said authorities had not ruled out the possibility that the bomb was planted.

Officials threatened reprisals. President Ezer Weizman said Israel would have to take "extraordinary action" to find the roots of the Islamic extremist groups and "rip them to pieces."

The attack exploded the euphoria of recent days surrounding Israel's peacemaking with Jordan and the planned trip of President Clinton for the signing of a peace treaty next week.

"People flew from the sidewalk, the head of the driver was completely cut off," said Eitan Yamini, who witnessed the explosion that occurred between Dizengoff Square and Frishman Street.

Israel immediately closed the West Bank and Gaza Strip, barring thousands of Palestinians from entering Israel. The government called an emergency Cabinet meeting and ordered buses stopped and searched for bombs.

An anonymous caller to Israel Radio claimed responsibility in the name of **Hamas**, an Islamic militant group that opposes Israel's peacemaking with the PLO. The PLO denounced the bombing.

TERRORIST BOMB RIPS TEL AVIV

In a statement read in Gaza mosques, the Izzedine al-Qassam Brigades - the military wing of **Hamas** claimed responsibility and promised more attacks.

Revenge

"God is great. God will torment them with your hands and the hands of the faithful," the statement said. The bombing was in revenge for the killing of three **Hamas** militants who kidnapped and shot to death an Israeli soldier last week, it said.

The latest wave of violence began Oct. 9, when two bystanders were killed by radicals who sprayed a busy Jerusalem cafe district with gunfire. The same day, the Israeli soldier was kidnapped, then killed Oct. 14 by his **Hamas** captors as Israeli soldiers tried to rescue him.

Foreign Minister Shimon Peres vowed that Israel "will not hesitate to find those responsible for this terrible action."

The PLO denounced the attack. But Israel maintains that the PLO has done too little to rein in Islamic radical groups, and Peres said it was "too early" to say if Israel would press ahead with peace talks.

In London, Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin said he would return early from his trip and accused Islamic radicals of trying to destroy the peace process.

"It is a continuation of the attempt by those who are the enemies of peace, the extreme Islamic terror groups," he said.

Liberal members of the Cabinet called for the peace talks with the Palestinians to continue.

Weizman urged Israelis to remain calm. "I appeal to the citizens of Israel to take a deep breath, a lot of patience and forbearance. ... These are enemies of peace who try to torpedo things."

Lt. Gen. Ehud Barak, the military chief of staff, said the bombing appeared to be a suicide attack carried out by a man who boarded the bus with explosives, either in a sack or tied to his body.

Mayor Roni Milo said police delayed removing bodies from the bus because they feared the body of the terrorist was booby-trapped.

Dozens of people ran screaming and in panic along the street after the blast.

"How much more can we take?" screamed one young girl.

Another teen-ager stood near the site, sobbing for a boyfriend who apparently did not survive.

"The whole house swayed, and the windows shook," said Liora Cohen, who lived close to the site of today's attack. "I saw flames shooting up from the bus and then smoke. People were running around screaming."

Police pushed back bystanders and sent in bomb squad experts after a suspected second bomb was found.

A helicopter flew overhead and dozens of ambulances raced to pick up the wounded and dead.

Israel's right-wing leader Benjamin Netanyahu said Israel should permanently close the Gaza Strip, an autonomous Palestinian zone. He warned that if Rabin did not get tougher with the Palestinians he would be "personally responsible for a wave of disasters that will follow."

Yasser Abed Rabbo, a spokesman for Yasser Arafat's PLO-run autonomy government in Gaza, condemned the attack and called it a "horrible action."

"We denounce it completely, and we consider that this crime is against the relations between the Israeli people and the Palestinian people," he said today on Israel Radio.

TERRORIST BOMB RIPS TEL AVIV

Load-Date: October 20, 1994

End of Document

***U.S., Israel see Arafat as coddling terrorists;
Palestinian leader was warned that he was letting extremists get out of hand.***

The Atlanta Journal-Constitution

March 24, 1997, Monday,

CONSTITUTION EDITION

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Section: FOREIGN NEWS; Pg. 09A

Length: 489 words

Byline: FROM OUR NEWS SERVICES

Dateline: Jerusalem

Body

Friday's suicide bombing in Tel Aviv, which broke a year- long silence from the **Hamas** military wing, followed months of private warnings by Israel and the Clinton administration that Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat had loosed the chains on the Islamic extremist group.

In diplomatic contacts with Arafat since January, including a face- to-face admonition by President Clinton at the White House this month and a meeting later with CIA Director-designate George J. Tenet, the United States complained that he had softened the once-ruthless crackdown that left **Hamas** and its ally Islamic Jihad nearly broken, the Washington Post reported, citing unnamed U.S. and Israeli sources.

American and Israeli officials objected particularly to the release from Palestinian prison cells of guerrilla operatives they believed responsible for terror bombings that killed scores of Israelis in February and March 1996.

The three-way diplomatic argument, which took on angry tones in contacts between Israeli and Palestinian security chiefs, Sunday became part of the escalating public crisis between Arafat and Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu.

The Israeli cabinet, repeating Netanyahu's recent charge that Arafat gave "a green light for attacks," voted in effect to freeze political talks with the Palestinian Authority.

Netanyahu, meanwhile, launched a renewed public-relations campaign to discredit Arafat and divert international criticism of Israel. Netanyahu now suggests, and senior aides charge explicitly, that the Palestinian leader deliberately caused a resumption of terrorist attacks.

American officials conversant with shared intelligence said again Sunday the evidence does not support that charge, the Post said. They strongly criticized Arafat, however, saying he has manipulated the threat of violence and taken unacceptable risks with the release of hard-core operatives of Islamic Jihad and the Islamic Resistance Movement, known as **Hamas**.

Palestinian officials strongly denied all accusations of complicity in Friday's attack. They argued that Arafat has sought - at times with Israeli and American approval - to divide and co-opt Islamic extremists by freeing those who

U.S. , Israel see Arafat as coddling terrorists; Palestinian leader was warned that he was letting extremists get out of hand.

submit to his authority and pledge to halt armed attacks on Israel, the Post said. The Palestinians blame the renewal of violence on Netanyahu's government, which has used its superior power in recent days to impose decisions - on construction of a new Jewish neighborhood for 30,000 people in East Jerusalem and on the amount of West Bank land to be transferred next to Palestinian self-rule - that Palestinians regard as central to their continuing negotiations.

The Palestinians' attempts to press their case against Israel diplomatically were rebuffed, with the United States using its veto in the U.N. Security Council to block a resolution backed by all other Security Council members calling on Israel to halt its East Jerusalem housing project.

Graphic

Friends and relatives of Anat Winter-Rosen, 32, one of three women killed when a suicide bomber exploded a device in a Tel Aviv cafe Friday, say their final goodbyes during her funeral Sunday. Winter-Rosen's 6-month-old daughter was also wounded./ NATI HARNIK / Associated Press

Load-Date: March 25, 1997

End of Document

Netanyahu suspends key talks with Arafat

THE AUSTRALIAN

March 24, 1997, Monday

Copyright 1997 Nationwide News Pty Limited

Section: WORLD / LOCAL; Pg. 6

Length: 525 words

Body

THE Israeli Prime Minister, Mr Netanyahu, bowed to intense pressure from right-wing members of his coalition Government yesterday and unilaterally suspended political negotiations with the Palestinian Authority.

"All the political negotiations have been suspended until the Palestinian Authority proves that it is truly determined to battle terrorism," a senior adviser to Mr Netanyahu said.

He added that security discussions between the two sides were continuing.

AFP, The Times, Reuters

The Palestinian leader, Mr Yasser Arafat, said in Islamabad that the Palestinians were trying to "save the peace process" despite obstacles put up by the Israelis that had brought it "almost to a dead end". Apparently unaware of the Israeli decision, he told a special summit of the Organisation of the Islamic Conference in the Pakistani capital: "Despite all the obstacles, we are proceeding in our efforts to save the peace process."

The Israeli decision came after a militant of the Islamic Resistance Movement (***Hamas***) blew himself up in a crowded Tel Aviv cafe on Friday, killing three Israeli ***women*** and wounding nearly 50 people. It also followed more violent clashes between stone-throwing Palestinian youths and Israeli troops in the West Bank town of Hebron.

Until yesterday, Mr Netanyahu had resisted calls from hardliners to call off what little talking was still going on before the bombing.

Members of Tsomet, led by Mr Rafael Eitan, a former army chief of staff, and the National Religious Party -two key members of the right-wing government -had led the demands.

Mr Netanyahu and Mr Arafat had struggled to keep the peace process alive in the face of the bombing and violent clashes in the West Bank towns of Hebron and Bethlehem.

Mr Netanyahu and Mr Arafat spoke on the phone late on Saturday for the first time since the current crisis, which was sparked by last Tuesday's start of construction of homes for 32,000 Jews in Arab East Jerusalem.

Hamas's military leader, Ibrahim al-Mukadmeh, later warned of more bombings, a threat which drew a promise from Mr Arafat to crack down on the radical group.

"If he has done that I'll not keep silent. If he has done that he will be investigated," he said before leaving for Pakistan.

Netanyahu suspends key talks with Arafat

"This terrible act we condemn completely," Mr Arafat said of the Tel Aviv bombing. "At the same time we condemn what happens against our people in Bethlehem, in Hebron," he said, adding that 189 people had been injured during protests against the new Jewish neighbourhood.

Palestinian leaders had said repeatedly that Mr Netanyahu's decision to send the bulldozers to start building at Har Homa in annexed east Jerusalem for 32,000 Jews would spark widespread violence.

Israeli police said the suspected bomber, Mussa Adbel Qader Abu Diya, 20, had been arrested several times for belonging to **Hamas** and for staying illegally in Israel.

Israel arrested 17 Palestinians on Saturday and put police on full alert in Tel Aviv.

Tensions were running high for a third day on the West Bank as violent clashes between rock-throwing Palestinians and Israeli soldiers firing rubber bullets and teargas injured dozens on Saturday.

Load-Date: March 1, 2002

End of Document

'Let's have the flag and the years can take care of the rest'

Scotland on Sunday

September 19, 1993, Sunday

Copyright 1993 The Scotsman Publications Ltd.

Length: 1716 words

Byline: Super Monday In Washington Was But The First Step Of A 1,000 Mile Sojourn Into The Unknown, As Bob Wylie In Gaza Discovered

Body

LAST Saturday at 7am the centre of Jabalia town at the northern end of the Gaza Strip was a cacophony of car horns in the traffic jam mayhem.

Beat up Peugeots and donkey carts jostled to inch forward.

When the pot holed roadway, shadowed by ramshackle two and three storey buildings above it, gives way to sand you know you have reached Jabalia refugee camp.

No matter how many times you have been here, each new visit is a searing shock to the senses.

Every vacant lot around the endless dilapidated shanties of breeze block houses has a plague of rotting rubbish.

The stench is overcome occasionally by the smell of human waste from open sewers.

The camps of Gaza are a canyon of human horror, life on the edge of the abyss.

The nerves jangle sending you fumbling for the fags.

The intifada started in Jabalia camp home to more than 70,000.

It raised expectations that the Israeli occupation could be vanquished by spasmodic riot.

It wasn't.

Corrosive despair followed.

But now faith in the future is fluttering anew in Jabalia, as real as the Palestinian flags above some of the houses.

Ali ElAila owns the El Riyadh pharmacy in Jabalia.

He was among the first flood of quarter of a million people who flocked here as refugees after the 1947-48 war that created Israel.

He was still here when the Israeli army occupied 26 years ago after the 1967 war.

He has lived under British, Egyptian and Israeli occupation.

'Let's have the flag and the years can take care of the rest'

The last has been the worst.

"I am with Arafat and Rabin," he said, "It's simple something is better than nothing.

Living here on our own little piece of land would be better than this occupation.

We live waiting for rifle butts battering our doors.

No work.

No money.

No hope.

Misery."

ElAila spends his days sitting behind the counter of his shop fingering his worry beads as Ihsan ElBurei, his young assistant, dispenses potions.

The best sellers are for "nerves and stomach ache."

Ihsan says that the teeming thousands in Gaza fit into three categories now: the Very Optimistic, the Cautiously Optimistic and the Rejectionist.

ElAila is in the first category.

Rabin, he says, is a brave man, braver than Begin who pulled Israel out of the Sinai to make peace with Sadat's Egypt.

Next door, at the UNRWA clinic United Nation's Relief and Welfare Agency Dr Zehi Wauhaid believed Arafat had no option but to accept the Gaza Jericho First deal.

He had no power to get anything better.

"Of course we have had harsh words from Amman and Damascus but we have to go through the neck of the bottle to save Palestinian nationality. If we insist now on nationality with all the land we will finish as a minority inside a bigger Israel, deserted by the world. Let's have the flag and the years can take care of the rest."

An opinion poll published last week in the Jerusalem Post showed that the overwhelming majority of Gaza's 900,000 people would echo the doctor's sentiments.

Seven out of 10 Gazans favour the deal a higher concentration than in the West Bank, the other half of the Occupied Territories.

Why? Life under Israeli occupation is the answer.

At its sharpest end that is measured in blood.

In the sandy alleys of the eight refugee camps on the Strip the flame of the intifada burned brightest.

When the 1000th victim of the intifada died in March last year Gaza had provided the lion's share of the martyrs.

In May this year 26 perished in one day of riot against the Israeli Defence Force (IDF) the highest daily total for one day since the intifada began in 1987.

But even without this blood and tears normal life here is unrelentingly wearying.

Gaza has been under curfew from 8pm until 3am for the last seven months.

'Let's have the flag and the years can take care of the rest'

The cost to family life where population densities in the camps surrounding Gaza City climb to 5,000 per sq km 42% of Gazans sleep in rooms with more than three others are obvious, if not easy to measure.

Money is short.

Income from those who work daily in Israel has fallen from \$ 750,000 a day to \$ 500,000 since Israel closed the Strip in January.

One third of family income used to come from Gazans who worked abroad.

No more Gone with the tens of thousands of Palestinians who lost their jobs in the Gulf States after the Gulf War.

A study by Fafo, the Norwegian aid organisation, estimates that 19 out of 20 potential breadwinners in Gaza are unemployed.

By the end of last year UNRWA was giving 120,000 Gaza families food relief a nine fold increase on the previous year.

When the agency advertised twelve skilled jobs last November 11,000 people applied.

Given the prospect to change some of this Palestinian state or not are you putting your hand up? The young women at the UNRWA higher education school in Beach camp, next to Jabalia, certainly did.

In the class of '93 twenty seven voted in favour of the Arafat Rabin accord, four against it.

Shining faces, all clad in white head scarves; a miracle of beauty and cleanliness out of these slums.

Hoda spoke for the majority.

An Arab proverb, she declared, says the trip of 1,000 miles starts with the first mile.

This was the first mile for peace.

"Our lives are miserable. We want an end to the killing, the arrests, the curfews. We should learn from Sadat, he got his land back piece by piece. My uncle is in prison. I have not seen him for seven years. I want to see him.

We are voting for our people and for our children."

Iman spoke against: "This is not a real peace. If you want to walk 1,000 miles you have to take the first mile in the right direction. We have suffered but that should not mean we accept less. A false treaty. Gaza Jericho First will be Gaza Jericho Last. Can we go to pray at the Al Aqsa mosque in Jerusalem now? No."

Seventeen out of the 31 thought their children would be brought up in a Palestinian state from the beginnings of Gaza Jericho First.

Still, Iman's words are echoed by some of her elders.

Men who speak of driving the Israelis out of all the Occupied Territories, who say the killing on both sides will never stop, that the deal is a trick.

The shadow of militant Islam.

Its essence is real.

Last Sunday on the eve of the Super Monday signing three Israeli soldiers were ambushed and killed by members of Izzadin Kassem, the military wing of Hamas, the Islamic Resistance Movement.

'Let's have the flag and the years can take care of the rest'

Western journalists have been posing the question all last week of what would happen if the armed supporters of **Hamas** turn their guns on the mainstream Fatah should Arafat's peace not deliver? The spectre of civil war? Such speculation is usually accompanied by estimates of **Hamas** support which run to 40%.

But according to Raj Sourani, the Gaza director of the Centre for Rights and Law, only 18% of political activists in Gaza are **Hamas** supporters and the PLO mainstream's Fatah can claim most of the rest.

Of the 17,000 detainees in jail 3,000 are **Hamas** party members, he says.

But the social base which **Hamas** has goes beyond such percentages.

Sara Roy, a Harvard academic, wrote recently in the Journal of Palestine Studies that **Hamas** runs the best social service network in the Gaza Strip.

Help the poor and hearts and minds will follow has been their rubric.

Roy estimates that **Hamas** has received \$ 30m from Kuwait and Saudi Arabia since the end of the Gulf War and \$ 13m dollars from Iran.

Hamas's appeal would however be sharply undercut if a PLO led administration implements a peace dividend which involved IDF withdrawal and a programme of public works to introduce basic services water supply, electricity, roads, transport and improved housing.

Fatah activists are counting on this.

Alex Pollock, who is an UNRWA field and development officer, thinks that the terrible social conditions of Gaza today are a paradoxical advantage to any new Palestinian authority: "Basic improvements in infrastructure would have a tremendous impact on everyday life," he notes.

From there the evolution of the local domestic economy in services, tourism, a port, and light industry could begin in earnest.

Pollock was preparing a briefing paper on the economic development of Gaza for Bhoutros Ghali, the general secretary of the UN last week.

There are already concrete signs that the money for such development will be forthcoming.

The World Bank has already pledged a \$ 4.3bn loan over the next eight years, the European Commission \$ 600m and more will come from other sources.

The Scandinavian countries have promised \$ 80m on their own.

When chairman Arafat lifts the poison chalice of Gaza it may be full of greenbacks.

STILL, the story of the American Quakers in Gaza is a warning, in microcosm, of the possible strife that awaits those who would build the new Gaza the PLO, the UN and the rest.

The American Friends Service Committee (the Quakers) terminated their preschool programmes in Gaza last week.

They have been running them for more than 40 years.

They did so because of intimidation of their staff by armed men.

It began a month ago when two masked and armed men visited the home of the AFSC's acting director and told him to resign.

'Let's have the flag and the years can take care of the rest'

This followed a letter which demanded that the Quakers turn over all accounts and assets to an elected local committee.

The aim was consistent with factionalism to acquire direct control over foreign money to support the battle for local supremacy.

Pollock at UNRWA acknowledges such problems but says they must be considered with a sense of proportion.

There will be clashes between **Hamas** and Fatah but to talk that up into civil war is "absolute nonsense which has no base in current reality."

Jabr Fadda, a Fatah leader in Gaza, agrees.

The proposals have the support of the overwhelming majority.

When they are implemented actions will speak louder than words and the Rejectionists will be marginalised.

"The majority with an opposition is normal in any democratic society,"he said.

Actions were speaking louder than words in Gaza last Sunday afternoon.

Car cavalcades in Gaza City with Palestinian flags flying were announcing the carnival of joy that would erupt on Super Monday.

In Beach Camp a middle aged man was struggling to ride his bike thorough the sand.

He had tied a car aerial to the back of the bike from which a Palestinian flag waved.

When he saw the camera he raised his left hand in a victory salute.

His smile was bigger than the 28 miles of the Strip.

A terrible beauty is being born.

Graphic

The beautiful and the calmed: children, happier now, gather in Beach Camp outside Gaza City. Behind them is the first Palestinian flag that went up in the camp. Seven out of 10 Gazans favour the deal. Photograph: Bob Wylie

Load-Date: December 3, 1994

REVENGE BOMBING KILLS 8 IN ISRAEL, IMPERILS TALKS

St. Louis Post-Dispatch (Missouri)

April 7, 1994, THURSDAY, FIVE STAR Edition

Copyright 1994 St. Louis Post-Dispatch, Inc.

Section: NEWS; Pg. 1A

Length: 978 words

Dateline: AFULA, ISRAEL

Body

Yaacov Rahamim gestured toward three children wrapped from head to foot in bandages. They were survivors of a car bombing Wednesday that killed eight people and injured 45.

"My feeling is that there will never be peace," Rahamim said as he visited his injured son, Kadouri, 13, in the hospital. The attack burned Kadouri on his forehead, shoulders and hands. "All they know is how to kill children," the father added.

Outside on the front lawn of Haemek Hospital, friends and relatives of the dead flung themselves to the ground and wept. Jaffa Elharar, the mother of one of those killed, sobbed, "Maya! Maya! It's not true. It's not true." She mourned Maya Elharar, 18, a high school student.

The bomb went off about 12:30 p.m. in the northern town of Afula near a bus stop close to three high schools. Witnesses said that as a city bus pulled up to the stop and some students crowded around, a blue Opel that had been shadowing the bus stopped 10 feet in front - and blew up in a cloud of fire. Later, the body of the suicide driver would be found next to the wrecked car.

Killed were four teens, aged 14 to 16; two women - at least one an Arab; one man; and the suicide bomber. Fifteen of the injured are in critical condition.

Albert Amos, 43, a teacher who saw the explosion, said: "Two boys were burning like torches. They came running toward me, and I took one and doused the flames with a rag and then I ripped off his clothes. He was burned all over. When I touched him, pieces of his skin came off in my hand."

Afula, a factory and agriculture town in the Galilee, is surrounded by Arab villages and is six miles from the occupied West Bank town of Jenin. The Islamic militant group Hamas claimed responsibility for the attack, saying it was in revenge for the massacre Feb. 25 in a Hebron mosque.

Like the 30 killings in Hebron, which took place inside a mosque on a day of prayer during the Muslim holy month of Ramadan, the Afula attack was felt intensely. It came on the eve of Holocaust Day, when Israel mourns the killing of 6 million Jews by the Nazis.

President Ezer Weizman said in a nationally broadcast ceremony, "Today, the eve of Holocaust Remembrance Day, we paid a terrible price for being Jews, for wanting to live peacefully and independently in the Land of Israel."

REVENGE BOMBING KILLS 8 IN ISRAEL , IMPERILS TALKS

Foreign Minister Shimon Peres conceded that "it is clear that when an incident like this happens, support for the peace process dwindles." But he and other officials indicated that they would proceed with the peace talks.

"It's irreversible," Peres said in a telephone interview from Israel with American reporters. Nothing can reverse it but war, "and nobody wants war." He called the attack a desperation move by opponents of talks as peace becomes a "real possibility."

"People are trying to kill the peace process, and they are killing innocent people," Peres said. With violence from extremists, he said, peacemaking is dangerous "like war - the difference is the result."

Foes of the peace talks organized demonstrations in numerous cities. In Afula, students chanted "Death to Arabs!" and "Baruch Goldstein, We Love You!" Goldstein, an immigrant from the New York City borough of Brooklyn, carried out the massacre in Hebron.

Benjamin Netanyahu, the leader of the right-wing Likud bloc, urged Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin to suspend the talks, just as the Palestine Liberation Organization did after the Hebron massacre.

Instead Police Commissioner Rafi Peled ordered police forces into nearby Arab villages to protect residents from reprisals. And residents of the occupied territories were barred from entering Israel for at least eight days.

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

Israeli Environment Minister Yossi Sarid said the talks would go on. "Why stop, so that terror will increase, spread and be threatened." But the Israeli negotiators flew home to Israel for three days - frustrating the PLO negotiators.

There had been widespread concern in Israel about such an attack since Hamas vowed revenge for the Hebron massacre. On Wednesday, Mohammed Nazzal, a Hamas spokesman in Jordan, said Hamas launched the attack after the 40th day of mourning for the Hebron victims.

A caller to a Western news agency said the bomb contained 385 pounds of explosives. The caller identified the suicide bomber as Hamas member Ra'id Zakarna, 19, from the West Bank village of Qabatiya. The caller said Zakarna had been imprisoned and told relatives he had been tortured. Consumed With Vengeance

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

"What he did was religious vengeance," said Ali Zakarna, 40, a cousin of Ra'id Zakarna.

He said Ra'id Zakarna joined Hamas in high school, and was a member of the Izedine Qassam Brigades. The youth was jailed for almost two months early last year, and emerged from prison with bruises on his face and abdomen, Ali Zakarna reported. "After his release he started talking about jihad (holy war) as a compulsory duty for Muslims." U.S. Reaction

Commiserating with Israel and the victims' families, the State Department said Wednesday that a peace agreement improving the "quality of life" in the Mideast could reduce attacks like the bombing.

Michael McCurry, a department spokesman, called on PLO Chairman Yasser Arafat to publicly condemn the violence.

Arafat was in Cairo meeting with Egyptian officials Wednesday. But when asked about the bombing, he walked off without comment.

Dyab al-Loh, a spokesman for the PLO in Gaza, said, "What happened in Afula, as well as what happened in Jabaliya and Hebron, hurts me. "I say shame, shame, shame for every drop of blood spilled at the 11th hour."

Graphic

Color Photo - Freewheelin' (With) Dylan - Before starting a monthlong tour that will bring him to the Fox Theatre on Sunday, rock 'n' roll icon Bob Dylan does a rare interview....EVERYDAY 1G

Load-Date: April 8, 1994

End of Document

ISRAELIS BLAST HIZBOLLAH BASES, RAID GAZA STRIP

COURIER-MAIL

May 27, 1992 Wednesday

Copyright 1992 Nationwide News Pty Limited

Length: 455 words

Byline: AAPINTNEWS

Body

Israelis blast Hizbollah bases, raid Gaza strip JERUSALEM: Israel is taking the fight to Islamic fundamentalists with air strikes pounding Hizbollah militia in south Lebanon and troops tracking intifada agents in the occupied territories. Two air raids targeting bases of the pro-Iranian militia in southern Lebanon yesterday maintained pressure on the Hizbollah, or Party of God, a senior officer said. More raids are expected in reply to Hizbollah's increased operations. When warplanes and helicopters swooped over the villages of Jibsheets, Dardarieh and Majd al-Silm yesterday, it was the seventh air strike on Hizbollah bases this year, a military spokesman said. Twenty-four hours earlier a "'counter-terrorist" unit led more than 100 troops searching Gaza City for what Brigadier General Yom Tov Samiah described as some of the most dangerous killers of the anti- Israeli uprising in the occupied territories. A pre-dawn raid on four houses in the Sabra neighborhood ended with three members of the armed wing of the Islamic Fundamentalist organisation Hamas dead and two more wounded and captured. The officer commanding the Gaza Strip said the operation struck a major blow against Hamas, which has killed more than 70 Palestinian "'collaborators" this year, according to army figures. One of the dead, Marwan al-Zayer, was accused of killing 24 collaborators plus three Jewish women and a settler. Rioting erupted on the Gaza Strip over the killings and a Palestinian stabbed to death an Israeli schoolgirl in the Tel Aviv area. The banned group defines itself as a Palestinian offshoot of the Muslim Brotherhood and views the Israeli-Palestinian conflict as a religious struggle between Islam and Judaism.

QNPIt has no links with the Shi'ite Hizbollah, which operates freely in Syrian-controlled Lebanon, but both groups bitterly oppose the peace process. Israeli officials estimate Hizbollah has some 600 men under arms. Hamas, whose leader Sheikh Ahmad Yassin is serving a life term for murder, emerged as a force in the territories in the early months of the intifada in 1988 and has gone from strength to strength on the ticket of an Islamic republic. While the Israeli military talk of their major successes in either arresting or killing scores of wanted men this year, Hizbollah leader Sheikh Hassan Nasrallah typifies the never-say-die determination of the fundamentalists. "'We will pursue the Jihad (holy war) against the Israeli enemy whatever the sacrifices, because we belong to those who believe blood creates justice," he declared. Agence France-Presse CLASSMATES of 15-year-old Helena Rapp break down at her funeral yesterday. The schoolgirl was stabbed by a Palestinian while she waited for a bus on Sunday.

Graphic

PIC OF CLASSMATES OF HELENA RAPP CRYING AT HER FUNERAL AFTER SHE WAS STABBED BY A PALESTINIAN

ISRAELIS BLAST HIZBOLLAH BASES, RAID GAZA STRIP

Load-Date: September 27, 2003

End of Document

Israel concedes PLO help in terror search

Courier Mail (Queensland, Australia)

April 12, 1997, Saturday

Copyright 1997 Nationwide News Pty Limited

Section: NEWS; Pg. 32

Length: 544 words

Byline: HELLER J

Body

ISRAEL yesterday grudgingly acknowledged PLO help in finding the body of a kidnapped soldier, but said Palestinian authorities must still do more to combat Muslim militants before peace talks could restart.

Israeli leaders said gunmen from the Islamic fundamentalist group Hamas abducted and killed Sergeant Sharon Edri, 19, whose body was found in a West Bank village on Thursday seven months after he disappeared outside an army base in central Israel.

Israeli Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu, who has accused Yasser Arafat of giving a "green light" to terrorists to attack Israelis, said the Palestinian leader's security forces had helped to crack the case of the missing soldier.
QNP

"In the last part of the operation . . . the Palestinian Authority arrested two members of the squad and through their arrest we were able to determine finally the place where Edri was buried," he said during a visit to the Netherlands.

But the right-wing leader, who has insisted a return to peace talks was dependent upon action by the Palestine Liberation Organisation to stop "terrorism", said it had yet to start co-operating fully with Israel on security matters.

"We continue to expect from the Palestinian Authority that it needs to do its utmost to fight terror," he said.

PLO officials said Palestinian security chiefs refused a request by United States Central Intelligence Agency and Israeli security officials at a secret meeting attended by Mr Arafat in Gaza on Tuesday to restore security ties with Israel.

Israeli-Palestinian peace talks were halted after Israel started work on a new Jewish settlement in Arab East Jerusalem on March 18 and an explosion in a Tel Aviv cafe three days later killed three Israeli women and a Palestinian bomber.

Violence has flared almost daily in the West Bank, where Israeli troops wounded seven Palestinians with rubber bullets on Thursday in the the partitioned town of Hebron. Israeli soldiers and settlers killed three Palestinians in Hebron on Tuesday.

Mr Netanyahu, trying to soften a statement by his defence chief, said Israel had no desire to retake West Bank towns handed over to Palestinian rule.

Israel concedes PLO help in terror search

Defence Minister Yitzhak Mordechai, replying to soldiers' questions on the Golan Heights, had said Israel would have "no difficulty" in recapturing the eight towns but it did not want to send in troops.

In Washington, US Secretary of State Madeleine Albright warned in a speech of an "unpredictable and dangerous" Middle East situation as PLO officials arrived for talks on reviving the peace process.

Dr Albright was to meet top Palestinian negotiators Saeb Erekat and Mahmoud Abbas in follow-up talks to a White House meeting on Monday between Mr Netanyahu and President Bill Clinton.

But it was the discovery of Edri's body in Sourif, the home village of the Tel Aviv cafe bomber, which grabbed headlines in Israel.

The army said the bomber, Mousa Ghneimat, was one of a six-member **Hamas** squad responsible for kidnapping and killing Edri minutes after his abduction.

It said the **Hamas** men had carried out shootings in or near the West Bank since early last year, killing seven Israelis.

Two members of the squad were in Israeli custody, two were being held by Palestinian forces, one was at large and Ghneimat was dead, it said.

Reuter

Load-Date: March 1, 2002

Israel takes steps to implement West Bank accord

The Ottawa Citizen

October 7, 1995, Saturday, FINAL EDITION

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Section: NEWS; Pg. A9

Length: 277 words

Byline: THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Dateline: JERUSALEM

Body

Israel says it will release 1,200 Palestinian prisoners during the next few days, signalling its intention to swiftly honor a key commitment under the newly ratified accord with the PLO.

Palestinians called Friday's announcement too little too late, and said Israel's refusal to free at least two of 27 **female** detainees broke promises made at the negotiating table.

Israeli Foreign Minister Shimon Peres meets Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat at the Erez crossing between Israel and the PLO-ruled Gaza Strip tonight, apparently to work out final details of the accord's implementation.

Talks were scheduled next week between Israeli and Palestinian officials to work out the takeover that will end 28 years of Israeli occupation in West Bank cities.

In a possible boost for the accord, Palestinian officials said the militant Islamic **Hamas** movement, which vehemently opposes peace with Israel, has tentatively agreed to stop attacking Israelis from PLO-run areas.

A four-man delegation left for Sudan to seek approval from **Hamas** leaders based there, officials said. If the non-violence pact is approved, it would remove a major threat to Israel-PLO peace.

Update

The issue: Israeli Foreign Minister Shimon Peres and Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat meet tonight to work out final details on an accord that will end 28 years of Israeli occupation in West Bank cities.

What's new: Israel says it plans to release 1,200 Palestinian prisoners within the next couple of days to honor a key commitment under the accord.

What's next: Palestinians claim Israel's refusal to free two of 27 **female** detainees is a breach of the negotiations.

Load-Date: October 8, 1995

SIX PALESTINIANS KILLED BY TROOPS

The New York Times

December 20, 1992, Sunday, Late Edition - Final

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Section: Section 1;; Section 1; Page 15; Column 1; Foreign Desk; Column 1;

Length: 864 words

Byline: By CLYDE HABERMAN,

By CLYDE HABERMAN, Special to The New York Times

Dateline: JERUSALEM, Dec. 19

Body

Six Palestinians, including an 8-year-old girl, were shot to death by Israeli soldiers today in the Gaza Strip during street disturbances that erupted after the army briefly lifted a weeklong curfew to let residents buy food.

The death toll was one of the highest for a single day since the start of the Palestinian uprising five years ago, and it intensified already grave concern here that new waves of violence lie ahead after Israel's deportation of 415 Palestinians to Lebanon this week.

A strong condemnation of the expulsions by the United Nations Security Council on Friday night was rejected by Israel today as a "one-sided resolution" that ignored Israel's security fears. Senior officials said they were not about to undo the action, aimed specifically at Islamic fundamentalist groups that have declared themselves committed to killing Israelis and the Middle East peace negotiations.

"It is particularly disappointing," said Gad Ben-Ari, a spokesman for Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin, that the Security Council "chose to totally ignore the nature of Hamas and the Islamic Holy War, to which those who were removed belonged."

Palestinians Dig In

On their second day of exile, the deported Palestinians began to dig in for what looks like a long haul in a strip of southern Lebanon -- commonly dubbed a no man's land but actually Lebanese soil -- that lies between Israeli and Lebanese army checkpoints.

Lebanon has refused to allow the men to enter areas under its military control, and the Israeli Government says that since the Palestinians are now in Lebanese territory they are no longer Israel's responsibility. That position is expected to be tested on Sunday when Israeli civil-rights lawyers ask the Supreme Court here to order that the Palestinians be returned because they were sent to a country unwilling to accept them.

SIX PALESTINIANS KILLED BY TROOPS

"Nobody can say that Lebanon has any obligation whatsoever to accept these people," said Avigdor Feldman, one of the lawyers. "Just imagine if someone tried to send 400 accused terrorists to Israel."

News reports from the so-called no man's land in the Marj al-Zohour area said that the deported fundamentalists had begun to dig drainage ditches in the rocky soil around more than 50 tents that international relief agencies delivered Friday night along with food, clothing and blankets. Some agency representatives expressed concern that the small tent city might turn into a form of refugee camp, and Reuters quoted one Palestinian, Omar Ferdaneh, as saying that "most likely we will be here for a long time, even months."

Pressure on Israel

Despite the physical hardship and emotional toll that the expulsions have inflicted, the fundamentalists have said they do not want Lebanon to take them in. They see each day they spend out in the open as increasing international pressure on Israel to allow them to return to their homes in the occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip.

"The situation is being used -- I'd say abused -- by the Lebanese and Hamas to portray Israel as the aggressor and those expelled as innocent victims," a senior Israeli official charged.

The mass deportation, the largest ordered by Israel since soon after the 1967 Middle East War, had been expected to produce unrest in the occupied territories, which have been entirely sealed off since an Israeli border policeman was kidnapped last weekend. The policeman, Sgt. Maj. Nissim Toledano, was later found stabbed to death, his body dumped alongside a West Bank highway.

His slaying, coming on the heels of the fatal shooting of four soldiers, led to a popular feeling here that strong and swift action had to be taken against Hamas, whose armed guerrillas said they were responsible.

At first, the violence expected in the territories did not materialize. For the most part, the West Bank and Gaza have been quiet for the last two days, with only a few scattered disorders and shootings reported.

Lives at Risk, Army Says

The calm ended this afternoon when the army declared a 75-minute lifting of the curfew in the Gaza town of Khan Yunis so residents could do essential shopping. Only women could leave their houses, soldiers said, leading to protests from men that turned quickly into stone-throwing riots.

An army announcement said that the soldiers had opened fire because they felt their lives were at risk. But Palestinian witnesses said some of the shooting was indiscriminate and, as a result, bystanders had been killed and wounded along with rock throwers. Among those killed was Rana Abu Tyur, 8, who was shot in the chest.

In all, the army put the number of wounded at 15; residents said 30. Either way, a strict curfew was immediately reimposed on Khan Yunis, along with the rest of the turbulent Gaza Strip, where Hamas support runs deep. It seemed unlikely to be eased soon, especially with the leadership of the Palestinian uprising having called for 10 days of "fire and rage" to protest the expulsions.

With a newspaper poll showing overwhelming support for his decision, Mr. Rabin has defended the deportations as necessary to weaken Hamas and create a political climate in the territories more favorable to moderate Palestinians involved in peace talks with Israel.

Load-Date: December 20, 1992

CHILDREN IN BOMB HORROR;
Victims 'burning like torches' after suicide attack on Israeli pupils

Evening Standard (London)

April 6, 1994

Copyright 1994 Associated Newspapers Ltd.

Section: Pg. 1

Length: 425 words

Byline: Theodore Levite

Body

CHILDREN were burning like torches after an Arab guerrilla suicide car bomb blew up at a bus stop in Israel today, killing at least nine people and injuring more than 50.

Police said the attack in the northern Israel town of Afula was carried out by the militant Islamic group Hamas in revenge for February's West Bank massacre in Hebron by a Jewish settler, in which 29 died.

'I saw screaming children get out of the bus and they were burning like torches,' said witness Albert Amos.

'I saw people torn to bits, some without eyes, brains spilled on the road and children without hair,' he added.

'The children were shouting: 'Save me, what happened to me' and there was a young girl who saw her mother dead. She was shouting, 'mummy, mummy'.' Police said the massive car bomb exploded as the bus stopped to pick up passengers in the heart of the working-class town near the northern edge of the occupied West Bank.

Hospital officials said the dead included four teenagers, aged 14 to 16, two women, a man and the car bomber.

A Hamas spokesman said they used 385lbs of explosive. The caller named the suicide bomber as Raed Zakarneh, 19, of Qabatyeh in the West Bank.

The anonymous caller said the Hamas military wing, the Izz el-Din al-Qassam Brigades, carried out the attack and warned of more suicide bombings. 'We claim responsibility for the suicide operation in the town of Afula which killed eight people. We tell Rabin that suicide operations in the coming period will increase,' he said.

The blast was so fierce that the car's steering wheel was found 100ft away.

The explosion coincided with talks in Cairo between Israel and the PLO on implementing their peace deal and came a day after the end of a 40-day Moslem mourning period for the Hebron victims.

Environment minister Yossi Sarid, who has negotiated with the PLO in previous rounds, said the talks would go on.

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

'Why stop, so that terror will increase, spread and be threatened,' said Mr Sarid.

CHILDREN IN BOMB HORROR; Victims 'burning like torches' after suicide attack on Israeli pupils

'If the peace process is stopped, we are placing our fate in the hands of these suicide bombers - and that is their wish.'

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

'It is one of the reasons we are pushing for a signing of this agreement - to stop the killings on all sides, whether in Gaza, Hebron or Afula,' said Nabil Shaath.

Israelis shouting 'Death to the Arabs' gathered near the scene.

Load-Date: April 8, 1994

End of Document

Israelis quell Palestinian rioting

Telegraph Herald (Dubuque, IA)

March 23, 1997, Sunday

Copyright 1997 Telegraph Herald

Section: National/World; Pg. c 15

Length: 288 words

Byline: Associated Press

Dateline: HEBRON, West Bank (AP)

Body

A day after a suicide bomber killed three women in a Tel Aviv cafe, Israeli troops used bullets and tear gas Saturday to quell riots by hundreds of Palestinians in the worst West Bank clash in months.

More than 100 Palestinians were injured from live bullets, rubber bullets, tear gas and stun grenades.

"We don't want peace, we want Hamas," shouted Palestinians, referring to the Islamic militant group that claimed responsibility for Friday's blast.

Tensions between the two sides are at a new high and the peace process is paralyzed after Israeli's decision to build more Jewish housing in east Jerusalem apparently prompted the attack.

Palestinians pelted soldiers and military vehicles with stones, and some threw firebombs at the soldiers. Israel radio reported that firebombs were hurled towards the homes of the 500 Jewish settlers who live in the city among 130,000 Arabs.

Seven Israeli soldiers and several Palestinian police were injured in the clashes, which took place along the border between the part of Hebron that is Palestinian-controlled and the Israeli-controlled downtown.

Israel imposed a curfew downtown, and the clashes quieted at nightfall.

The clashes broke out one day after Mussa Abu Deiyah Ghneimat, a Hamas member from a village near Hebron, set off an explosion at a Tel Aviv cafe that killed himself and three Israeli women.

In reaction, Israel barred thousands of Palestinians from entering Israel from the West Bank and Gaza Strip. The army also placed a curfew on the bomber's home village of Zurif.

In Sidon, Lebanon, hundreds of Palestinians burned tires and shouted anti-Israel slogans at Lebanon's largest refugee camp to protest the Jerusalem construction. The camp is home to 75,000 Palestinians.

Graphic

Israelis quell Palestinian rioting

AP

Under a hail of rocks and bottles, Israeli soldiers with riot shields fire at rioting Palestinians Saturday during clashes in Hebron.

Load-Date: April 7, 1997

End of Document

Opponents get together to swoop on terror group

Sydney Morning Herald (Australia)

April 12, 1997 Saturday

Late Edition

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Section: NEWS AND FEATURES; INTERNATIONAL NEWS; Pg. 20

Length: 466 words

Byline: ROSS DUNN Herald Correspondent in Jerusalem

Body

Israeli security forces - with the help of the Palestinian Authority - have smashed an Islamic terror cell accused of murdering at least 11 people and wounding 49 more.

Two of the alleged terrorists in the cell are being held by Israel and three by the Palestinians. A sixth, Moussa Ranimat, blew himself up, possibly unintentionally, at a Tel Aviv cafe last month, killing three women.

The botched bombing led to the capture of members of the cell, which is part of the armed wing of Hamas, the Islamic Resistance Movement.

Israel sought and received the help of the Palestinian Authority, which arrested two cell members in the West Bank town of Hebron and took them to the village of Kafr Tzurif. The alleged killers showed them the burial place of an Israeli soldier, Staff Sergeant Sharon Edri, 21, who had been missing since September 9. His father, Mr Yitzhak Edri, demanded revenge. "Until now we had hoped to see him alive but those cruel terrorists shot him and buried his body. I demand to be allowed to kill the terrorist who did this," he said.

Sharon Edri's mother said: "They should bomb Kafr Tzurif and kill them all. In another few years, they will release the terrorist who murdered my son." But the political reaction, from the Israeli Prime Minister, Mr Benjamin Netanyahu, at least, was more positive.

In The Netherlands, he credited the Palestinians with their cooperation in locating the body. Speaking from The Hague, he said the Palestinian Authority's arrest of two cell members had led Israel to the burial site.

But the Palestinians, who arrested a third cell member yesterday, were quick to deny that the arrests meant the Palestinian Authority had resumed full security co-operation with Israel. Rather than seeking credit, the Palestinian President, Mr Yasser Arafat, downplayed the significance of the arrests. His spokesman, Mr Marwan Kanafani, said: "All this means is that we are concerned with human aspects of the conflict between us. It has nothing to do with politics or security. We still have a problem with the Israelis and the problem of security is a direct result of the political problem."

Israel's Defence Minister, Mr Yitzhak Mordechai, also said the breaking up of the cell was no cause for concluding that the two sides had joined forces in an all-out war against terrorism.

Mr Mordechai said Israel was demanding the extradition of the terrorists held by the Palestinians.

Opponents get together to swoop on terror group

Israel's military commander, Major-General Uzi Dayan, said the **Hamas** cell had been responsible for murdering 11 Israelis in a series of attacks since 1995.

The two members being held by Israel reportedly told their interrogators they underwent military training, and claimed at least five drive-by shootings, the Edri kidnap-murder and the planting of a bomb at the cafe in Tel Aviv.

Graphic

Two illus: A handcuffed **Hamas** member shows Israeli security agents where an Israeli soldier was buried after he was kidnapped and killed last September. Inset: the dead soldier, Sergeant Sharon Edri. Photograph by ASSOCIATED PRESS

Load-Date: July 23, 2007

End of Document

Islamist leaders flee Gaza sweep

Guardian Weekly

April 16, 1995

Copyright 1995 Guardian Publication, Ltd.

Section: Pg. 1

Length: 500 words

Byline: Derek Brown in Jerusalem

Body

ISLAMIST leaders have fled their homes in the Gaza Strip as Palestinian security forces rounded up scores of their supporters in the wake of last Sunday's suicide bombings.

Even before the eight victims were buried, troops and police of the fledgling Palestinian Authority were sweeping through strongholds of the **Hamas** and Islamic Jihad movements. By Monday evening, they had picked up some 170 alleged Islamist activists.

The death toll in the attacks near Jewish settlements rose to eight on Monday after an American tourist -- a woman, aged 20 -- and another soldier died from wounds sustained in one of the attacks. Seven of the dead were soldiers, including two **Women**.

In another signal that the Palestine Liberation Organisation's patience has run out, a military court sentenced a member of Islamic Jihad to 15 years in prison. Samir All al-Jedi was said to have recruited and trained children aged as young as 10. He was the first prisoner to appear before the military tribunals that were established by the PLO chairman Yasser Arafat two months ago.

Mr Arafat told his higher security council on Monday he had information that the Islamists had instructions from abroad to step up violent attacks on Israelis in Palestinian-ruled areas to weaken the self-rule authority.

Israel called on the international community to co-operate in combating the terrorist threat posed by the Islamists. In a letter to the United Nations secretary-general, Boutros Boutros-Ghali, Israel's UN envoy, Gad Yaacobi, called for unequivocal condemnation of the violence.

The PLO's campaign against the militants has been given a muted welcome by Israel.

Yoel Singer, a senior foreign ministry official heading Israel's team in talks on Palestinian elections, said in Cairo on Monday that the PLO authority must take stronger steps. "We hope they will make the right decision and fight against such acts of terrorism in a better way than they have been doing so far," he said.

Israeli troops, meanwhile, enforced their own crackdown, closing key roads in the Gaza Strip to Palestinian vehicles. Sunday's bombings took place near the small and isolated Jewish settlements of Kfar Darom and Netzarim. Islamic Jihad and **Hamas** each claimed responsibility for one of the bombings, and released videotapes of farewell addresses by the "martyrs".

Islamist leaders flee Gaza sweep

The Palestinians have repeatedly complained that the tiny settlements -- where some 4,000 Jews live amid 800,000 Gazans -- are an obstacle to peace. The Israeli government has insisted they stay until a long-term peace accord is agreed.

A dangerous confrontation is developing within the serf-rule areas. In the southern Gaza Strip town of Khan Younis, Palestinian police exchanged fire with **Hamas** activists before arresting two of them on Monday.

The latest bloody gash in the peace process has opened up a furious row in the Israeli government, with leftwing ministers who want to dismantle more vulnerable settlements being accused by rightwingers of caving in to terrorism.

Load-Date: April 26, 1995

End of Document

ISRAEL UNDER SEIGE

THE AUSTRALIAN

July 31, 1997, Thursday

Copyright 1997 Nationwide News Pty Limited

Section: WORLD; Pg. 7

Length: 322 words

Body

JERUSALEM: The double suicide-bombing in Jerusalem's Jewish market that killed at least 13 people last night was one of the deadliest attacks on Israelis by Palestinians since the beginning of Palestinian autonomy in May 1994.

1994

October 19: An Islamic Resistance Movement (**Hamas**) militant sets off a bomb on a Tel Aviv bus, killing 23 passengers.

November 11: An Islamic Jihad member detonates a bomb near an Israeli military position in Netzarim, site of a Jewish settlement in the autonomous Gaza Strip, killing three officers.

AFP

1995

January 22: Two Islamic Jihad militants blow themselves up amid a group of Israeli troops at the Beit Lid crossing near Netanya, killing 21 soldiers.

April 9: An Islamic Jihad suicide bomber strikes in the middle of an Israeli military convoy near the Kfar Darom settlement in Gaza Strip, killing seven soldiers and a US tourist.

July 24: An unidentified suicide bomber activates a bomb on board a bus in Ramat Gan, near Tel Aviv, killing six passengers.

August 21: An unidentified attacker sets off a bomb in a Jerusalem bus, killing five people, including an American, and wounding 89.

1996

February 25: A double suicide bombing in Jerusalem and Ashkelon, claimed by **Hamas**, kills 26 people. Twenty-five people died in the first attack, against a bus: 22 Israelis, including eight soldiers; two Americans and a Palestinian.

The second bombing, in Ashkelon, kills an Israeli soldier.

March 3: A suicide bombing on a Jerusalem bus kills 19 people including 10 Israelis, seven Romanians, an Ethiopian and a Palestinian.

ISRAEL UNDER SEIGE

March 4: A bomb attack in Tel Aviv kills 13 Israelis, including a soldier.

1997

January 9: A double bombing in Tel Aviv wounds 13 people.

March 13: A Jordanian soldier shoots dead seven Israeli schoolgirls on a field trip in Bakura, Jordan.

March 21: A suicide bombing at a sidewalk cafe in Tel Aviv kills three Israeli women and the Palestinian bomber and wounds 46 other people.

AFP

Load-Date: March 1, 2002

End of Document

NATION IN BRIEF;
MEDICINE;
Puberty at earlier age

The Atlanta Journal-Constitution

April 8, 1997, Tuesday,

JOURNAL EDITION

Copyright 1997 The Atlanta Constitution

Section: NATIONAL NEWS; Pg. 04A

Length: 318 words

Byline: Staff and news services

Series: Final

Body

American girls reach puberty earlier than commonly believed, with nearly half of black girls and 15 percent of white ones beginning to develop sexually by age 8, a study indicates. The study raises troubling questions about whether environmental estrogens, chemicals that mimic the **female** hormone estrogen, are bringing on puberty at an earlier age. At age 8, 48.3 percent of black girls and 14.7 percent of white girls had begun developing breasts, pubic hair or both. Menstruation occurred at 12.16 years in blacks on average and at 12.88 years in whites.

COURTS **Hamas** leader loses bid

A federal judge in New York has dismissed a request by **Hamas** leader Mousa Abu Marzook to be released from jail or deported. Judge Denise Cote said she has no jurisdiction over the case because Israel withdrew its request to extradite the leader of the political wing of the terrorist group. Abu Marzook, who has been jailed since July 1995, is now being held on an Immigration and Naturalization Service order. Israel had sought the extradition because Abu Marzook is a suspect in 10 terrorist attacks from 1990 to 1994 that killed 47 people. The request was recently dropped because Israel said it feared the extradition would increase tension in the region.

INVESTIGATIONS Slain teen shot in back

Authorities stopped asserting that a police officer acted properly when he shot a 16-year-old to death after an autopsy concluded that the boy was shot in the back. They pledged a thorough investigation of the shooting in a Manhattan neighborhood that in 1992 erupted into several nights of arson and violence after an officer shot a reputed drug dealer. Police originally said that Officer Anthony Pellegrini, 25, feared for his life because Kevin Cedeno threatened the officers with a machete and acted properly when he fired a single shot. But on Monday, Dr. Charles Hirsch, determined that the bullet entered Cedeno's back.

Load-Date: April 9, 1997

End of Document

Islamist leaders flee Gaza sweep

Guardian Weekly

April 16, 1995

Copyright 1995 Guardian Publication, Ltd.

Section: Pg. 1

Length: 500 words

Byline: Derek Brown in Jerusalem

Body

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Load-Date: April 26, 1995

End of Document

Arab kills Israeli soldier with axe

The Record (Kitchener-Waterloo, Ontario)

December 1, 1994 Thursday Final Edition

Copyright 1994 Metroland Media Group Ltd

Section: NEWS; Pg. E7; News

Length: 272 words

Dateline: JERUSALEM

Body

An Arab man with an axe killed a ***female*** Israeli soldier in Afula today, raising fears of reprisals in the northern city where a suicide bomber killed eight Israelis in April.

Israel sent 150 soldiers to reinforce police who escorted Arabs home as angry Jewish residents gathered in the streets.

ASSOCIATED PRESS/REUTERSPolice also went to factories and advised Arab workers to go home.

Afula, 100 kilometres north of Jerusalem, has a large population of Arabs with Israeli citizenship. Its factories also bring in Palestinian workers from the occupied territories.

The soldier was waiting at the city's bus station when the attacker hit her in the head with the axe several times before he was chased down by passers-by.

"A young woman lay on the ground, the axe was stuck in her head, above the forehead," witness Avi Matzliach told Israel radio.

Liat Gabai died a few hours later in a hospital in the coastal city of Haifa.

Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin condemned the attack but said violence would not stop peace talks.

"We shall continue on the way to peace, and fight those who oppose it," Rabin said.

The captured man was identified as Wahib Abu Rub, an unemployed 24-year-old from Qabatiya, in the occupied West Bank. His brother is a jailed ***Hamas*** member.

West Bank police recently cracked down on ***Hamas***, arresting about 400 members of the Muslim militant group that has claimed responsibility for a recent wave of terror attacks.

One of the bloodiest was the suicide attack in Afula in April that killed eight Israelis.

Violence has claimed the lives of 93 Israelis and 187 Palestinians since the peace accord was signed in September 1993.

Load-Date: September 21, 2002

Arab kills Israeli soldier with axe

End of Document

Arafat faces dilemma at every turn

Telegraph Herald (Dubuque, IA)

August 11, 1996, Sunday

Copyright 1996 Telegraph Herald

Section: National/World, Pg. c 12

Length: 530 words

Byline: Associated Press

Dateline: JERICHO, West Bank

Body

Worry is keeping Yasser Arafat awake at night.

Israel's hardline prime minister has ignored the Palestinian leader and put peace talks on ice.

Palestinians rioted in Nablus and Tulkarem after Arafat's security forces beat a prisoner to death and killed a demonstrator. Staging a one-day strike, university students denounced Arafat for repressive rule.

A six-month Israeli blockade of the West Bank and Gaza Strip has cost tens of thousands of Palestinians their jobs. Arafat's wife, Soha, says Palestinian women are knocking on her door every day to blame Arafat for empty cupboards and idle husbands.

There is little doubt that Arafat, who took charge of the Palestinian Authority in the West Bank and Gaza in 1994, is facing one of the most serious challenges to his leadership of the Palestinian cause in three decades.

If Arafat loses his grip, even if he doesn't lose power, the result could be turmoil in the West Bank and Gaza because he has never established a chain of succession.

A close aide to Arafat said the strains since the May 29 election of Israeli right-wing leader Benjamin Netanyahu have taken their toll on the Palestinian leader.

Always a night owl, Arafat now rarely gets to bed before daybreak and is up again by mid-morning, anxiously asking advisers for the latest developments, the aide said.

"He keeps asking ... what's new on Tulkarem, on Nablus, on the (Jewish) settlements," said the aide, who agreed to discuss his boss only on condition of anonymity. "He feels frustrated and hopeless."

Wherever Arafat turns these days, he faces a dilemma.

Netanyahu has told Arafat he will consider starting talks on a final peace agreement only if the Palestinian leader proves he is doing everything in his power to prevent terrorist attacks in Israel.

This means that if Arafat hopes to win any concessions from Israel, he will have to tighten the squeeze on his militant Islamic opponents from the Hamas and Islamic Jihad groups. But a new crackdown probably would prompt further street protests.

Arafat faces dilemma at every turn

With the economy in a shambles and no progress in peace talks, it will become increasingly difficult for Arafat to justify holding hundreds of Palestinians in jail to meet Israeli demands.

The Netanyahu government appears indifferent to Arafat's fate.

Many Palestinians link Israel's non-compromising attitude to the recent West Bank unrest.

"The stagnation in the peace process creates anger and frustration in the Palestinian public," said Ghassan Khatib, an Arafat critic who runs a Jerusalem media center.

The Palestinians cannot take out their anger on Israel, so instead direct it at Arafat's Palestinian Authority, he said.

Arafat apparently is trying to block any attempts by Hamas to harness the growing dissatisfaction.

Israel tried to help Arafat by allowing three senior Hamas members to travel from Gaza to the West Bank last week to negotiate a truce.

Despite mounting signs of trouble, some observers expect Arafat to survive the latest crisis.

"By instinct and by track record, Arafat is the captain of a boat in stormy seas," said Ehud Yaari, an Israeli TV commentator on Arab affairs. "Only when it comes to navigating in calm waters, he sometimes loses his way."

Load-Date: December 9, 1996

End of Document

ISRAELI GUNS KILL 6 PEOPLE IN LEBANON

The Columbian (Vancouver, WA.)

October 20, 1994, Thursday

Copyright 1994 The Columbian Publishing Co.

Section: A section; Pg. A1

Length: 305 words

Byline: AP

Body

NABATIYEH, Lebanon (AP) Israeli and allied militia gunners blasted a market town in southern Beirut with sustained artillery barrages that killed six people and wounded five, police said today.

State-run radio Beirut said the bombardment resulted from "the state of shock that gripped Israel's leadership" after a suicide bomber blew up a crowded bus in Tel Aviv Wednesday, killing 21 people and wounding dozens.

"Whenever the Israeli government gets frustrated because of resistance operations, it pours its wrath out on south Lebanon," the broadcast said.

Izzedine al-Qassam, the military wing of the Palestinian fundamentalist group **Hamas**, claimed responsibility for the Tel Aviv bombing, and said it was carried out by its Marj al-Zohour squad.

Marj al-Zohour is a barren strip between Lebanese and Israeli army lines where hundreds of **Hamas** activists deported from Israel spent last year in a makeshift tent camp.

A police statement said Nabatiyeh was pounded overnight with 155mm howitzer shells from positions in the Israeli-controlled border enclave controlled by Israel and the allied South Lebanon Army.

Four people, including a Lebanese army officer, were killed and five people were wounded, police said.

On Wednesday, two Lebanese **women** were killed in an Israeli and SLA bombardment of the village of Barti, 10 miles north of Nabatiyeh, police said.

The attack today followed roadside bomb explosions that wounded two pro-Israeli militiamen in Israeli-occupied southern Lebanon.

The Lebanese army said in a communique that it retaliated by blasting two Israeli and SLA positions in the border enclave Israel carved out in 1985 to shield its northern flank from cross-border guerrilla attacks.

The exchanges shattered a week-long lull during which hostilities on the last active Arab-Israeli war front dwindled to minor skirmishes.

Load-Date: October 20, 1994

ISRAELI GUNS KILL 6 PEOPLE IN LEBANON

End of Document

BORDER FIGHT THREATENS BOSNIA CEASE-FIRE

Charleston Gazette (West Virginia)

January 4, 1995, Wednesday

Copyright 1995 Charleston Newspapers

Section: News; Pg. P3A

Length: 773 words

Byline: VIC BURKHAMMER

Body

SARAJEVO, Bosnia-Herzegovina - Mortar and artillery fire rocked a northwest Bosnian border region Tuesday in new combat that threatened the battle-weary republic's latest hope for peace.

The worst of the fighting was around Velika Kladusa, 25 miles north of the U.N. "safe area" of Bihac. Velika Kladusa is the stronghold of Fikret Abdic, a renegade Muslim leader who joined forces with Serbs from Bosnia and Croatia in a two-month assault on the government-held Bihac enclave.

Neither Abdic nor the Croatian Serbs have joined the four-month cease-fire agreement.

Palestinian police vow to avenge deaths

GAZA CITY, Gaza Strip - Palestinian police burying three colleagues killed by Israeli troops vowed Tuesday to exact revenge for the bloodiest clash since autonomy started.

Israeli and Palestinian officials blamed each other for Monday's confrontations, which threatened to set back PLO-Israeli talks on extending autonomy from Gaza to the West Bank.

Citing security considerations, the army indefinitely closed the road through Jericho, virtually sealing off the West Bank enclave.

BORDER FIGHT THREATENS BOSNIA CEASE-FIRE

In a development that could further undermine

Israeli-Palestinian ties, an anonymous caller to Israel radio claimed the militant Muslim organization **Hamas** kidnapped an Israeli soldier.

Arab-American sentenced to prison

TEL AVIV, Israel _ An Israeli military court has convicted an

Arab-American of channeling funds to Islamic militants and sentenced him to five years in prison.

Mohammed Salah, 41, a naturalized U.S. citizen from the Chicago area, was arrested in January 1993 and has been on trial behind closed doors for the past year.

A military court in the West Bank town of Ramallah sentenced Salah on Monday after convicting him of belonging to **Hamas** and bringing in funds for the outlawed group, a military spokesman said . He spoke on condition of anonymity.

Israel accused Salah and another naturalized American arrested at the same time, Mohammed Jarad, of funneling \$ 650,000 to **Hamas** activists. Jarad, also from the Chicago area, was released in July 1993 after serving a six-month sentence.

Hamas is the main fundamentalist group opposed to Yasser Arafat's peacemaking with Israel.

Fundamentalists threaten embassies

LONDON - A series of letters, purportedly from the Muslim extremist group that hijacked an Air France jet, threatened to kill Americans, Britons and Germans in Algeria if their embassies do not close by Saturday.

The letters were signed by the Armed Islamic Group, the most radical group fighting a three-year-old insurgency against Algeria's military-installed government.

Britain and the United States said their embassies in

Switzerland received warning letters signed by the group. Germany's

BORDER FIGHT THREATENS BOSNIA CEASE-FIRE

foreign minister said its embassy in Algiers received a similar letter.

The Armed Islamic Group claimed responsibility for the hijacking of an Air France jet in Algiers on Christmas Eve. All four hijackers were killed when French commandos stormed the plane in Marseille and freed 171 hostages.

Khmer Rouge kill 8 in train attack

PHNOM PENH, Cambodia _ Khmer Rouge guerrillas attacked a train in northwestern Cambodia, killing eight passengers and wounding 40 others, an official said Tuesday.

The train was carrying hundreds of passengers from Battambang province to Phnom Penh when it was attacked Monday by about 20 Khmer Rouge guerrillas, Railways Station chief Pich Kim Sreang told The Associated Press.

In 1994, at least 39 people died and 98 were injured in attacks on trains by the Khmer Rouge.

Serial suspect's wife may escape charges

LONDON _ The apparent suicide of suspected serial killer Frederick West raised doubts Tuesday about whether his widow will be tried.

Rosemary West, 41, dry-eyed when told that her husband was found hanged in his cell on New Year's Day, is charged jointly with murdering nine of the 12 young women and girls he allegedly killed. Most of the victims' bodies were found buried around the couple's house in Gloucester in western England.

The case of West, 53, a builder suspected of sexually abusing and killing a string of victims over 27 years, ranks among the worst serial murders in British history.

Mexican president OKs wage, price restrictions

MEXICO CITY _ President Ernesto Zedillo signed an accord for

BORDER FIGHT THREATENS BOSNIA CEASE-FIRE

emergency wage and price restraints Tuesday, vowing to stabilize a battered peso and prevent a surge in inflation.

The peso, however, weakened further on market fears of surging inflation, sliding from 4.925 to close at 5.325 to the dollar. Many Mexicans were skeptical that Zedillo's measures could bring the crisis under control.

The stock market fell in late heavy trading. The key IPC index closed down 3.22 percent to 2278.47.

Compiled from wire reports

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End of Document

NYC:
A 'Bomb' Ticks in a Cell Downtown

The New York Times

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Byline: By CLYDE HABERMAN

By CLYDE HABERMAN

Body

WHILE Israel's attention is understandably focused on nursing its wounds from the latest terrorist bombing, it cannot ignore a legal time bomb that is ticking away in, of all places, lower Manhattan.

There, in a Federal prison, the Metropolitan Correctional Center, Mousa Mohammed Abu Marzook sits in a 6-foot-by-8-foot cell, counting the hours until a deadline that requires that he be freed under the law. More on the legalisms in a moment.

The pivotal point for now is that the way things are going, Mr. Abu Marzook may walk in a matter of days, even though Israel and the United States have identified him as a leader of Hamas, the militant Palestinian group whose idea of political discourse is to dispatch fanatical young men to blow up Israeli streets and buses. Its TNT-laden agents have killed scores of Israelis in the last three years alone, including the three women who died in the latest suicide mission, at a Tel Aviv cafe last Friday.

Israel does not want to see Mr. Abu Marzook go free. Presumably, neither does the United States, but who knows? Trying to get the State and Justice Departments to discuss the case yesterday was like urging the Price-Waterhouse people to leak the list of Oscar winners in advance.

CERTAINLY, many New Yorkers will not feel comfortable if the cell door opens and Mr. Abu Marzook steps out onto Manhattan's streets.

Not that they have to worry about his running right off to blow up something in town. For starters, he is accused not of planting bombs himself but of raising large sums that Hamas has channeled into terrorist attacks. Second, he says that his Hamas activities are solely political and that he has nothing to do with violence. The last time we checked the Constitution, a presumption of innocence still prevailed, even for a Gaza-born businessman with a green card who has expressed open disdain for American processes.

But it would be asking a lot of New Yorkers to expect that they sit back in total calm while an accused terrorist leader walks out the jailhouse door. This is a city where the Middle East's explosive politics has had its share of

NYC; A 'Bomb' Ticks in a Cell Downtown

menacing echoes, from the World Trade Center bombing to the shootup at the Empire State Building last month by a Palestinian teacher who said in a letter that he singled out New York because it is a "den" of Zionists.

So New Yorkers have more than a passing interest in what happens in this case, which an Israeli official acknowledged yesterday is developing into "almost a no-win situation."

THE time bomb began ticking nearly two months ago when Mr. Abu Marzook suddenly changed his tactics and agreed to be extradited to stand trial in Israel, something he had been resisting since his arrest at Kennedy International Airport in July 1995. That legal maneuver put a new clock in motion. It gave Israel and the United States 60 days to complete the extradition, or face having to let the prisoner go.

There is a disagreement over when the countdown officially began. The Israelis and Americans say they have until April 6 to act, while Simone Monasebian, one of Mr. Abu Marzook's lawyers, insists that the deadline is this Friday. Bet on officialdom's winning this point. Either way, however, mere days remain before a critical decision must be made.

What makes it tricky is that the Israelis no longer are eager to extradite Mr. Abu Marzook. They were glad to have him sit indefinitely in a New York cell while he resisted attempts to take him out of this country. Now that he has in effect called their bluff, they fear that putting him on trial may lead to reprisal **Hamas** bombings.

It's too risky. On the other hand, the troubled Likud-led Government hardly wants to appear to be caving in to a threat of terror by allowing this accused terrorist leader to take a convenient walk.

"We kind of hoped that Jordan would take him off our hands, but they don't want him," an Israeli official said. Egypt is understood to have been approached, too, but it has no interest in bailing out Israel. And for sure, another Israeli said, "We don't want him to go to Gaza."

It is, in short, a dilemma.

An American official raised a possibility of getting around the extradition deadline by invoking United States laws in some fashion that keeps Mr. Abu Marzook on ice. Nothing seems solid, though, except perhaps this assessment from a top official of an American Jewish group:

"I find it hard to believe," he said, "that the parties are just going to let him walk."

Load-Date: March 25, 1997

MRS. ARAFAT REJECTS WEARING VEIL

Pittsburgh Post-Gazette (Pennsylvania)

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Dateline: GAZA CITY, GAZA STRIP

Body

Suha Arafat yesterday gathered a group of other cosmopolitan Palestinian women on the steps of her villa to make a point on her first day in Gaza.

"No, I will not wear the veil," said Mrs. Arafat.

"I don't think Gaza women are asked to wear a veil."

Mrs. Arafat -- with her elegant suit, diamond studs and long blond hair -- is not your typical conservative Gaza woman who covers herself in a traditional show of modesty.

As the de facto "first lady" of the autonomous areas, the 30-year-old Mrs. Arafat pledged to make humanitarian and women's issues her top priority. She said she has Yasser Arafat's support for that.

It is still unclear how much support Mrs. Arafat, born Suha Tawil, will get from Gazans.

Born to a Westernized Christian family, she was raised in the West Bank town of Ramallah and lived in France for a time. She converted to Islam to marry Arafat.

Her remarks about the veil were not popular with leaders of Hamas, the Islamic Resistance Movement.

"Our women are conservative women who follow the laws of Islam," said Hamas activist Salem Salameh. "She isn't familiar with Gaza society and may still be under the influence of her French surroundings."

Mrs. Arafat said she is determined to change the image of the Gaza Strip as a backward and impoverished place.

"If Gaza is conservative and poor, it's because of the occupation. The Palestinians are not a backward people. The occupation destroyed the infrastructure, and it's not our fault that we are in this situation."

Graphic

MRS. ARAFAT REJECTS WEARING VEIL

PHOTO, Suha Arafat

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End of Document

**World Within a Fence: A special report.;
Palestinians in Gaza Find Freedom's Joy Has Limits**

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Byline: By SERGE SCHMEMANN

By SERGE SCHMEMANN

Dateline: GAZA, Aug. 23

Body

Fifteen months into self-rule, Gaza wears two masks.

The first is the string of end-to-end cafes stretched for miles along the sea that come alive at night with music, gossip and water pipes, and the innumerable concrete skeletons of new buildings rising on every street, down the coast, over former orange groves.

The other mask is one of wire fences and sandbagged bunkers that plug the Erez Crossing to the north and the swirls of concertina wire that seal the Egyptian border to the south, the open sewers of the teeming refugee camps and the writing on the walls: "Arafat, stop carrying out the orders of Rabin and Clinton. Your bullets do not terrify us."

Nobody has taken a tally of the unemployed, but by rough count, one working Gazan feeds 20 hungry mouths.

"In the beginning, it was all euphoria," said a long-time United Nations worker, remembering when Israeli soldiers withdrew in May 1994, taking with them the curfew, the identification checks and all the small and large humiliations of occupation. "But now the celebration and the misery have come into rough balance."

For now, the celebrations and novelties are still more striking than the misery, perhaps because the misery has always been there.

Each balmy night, it seems that everyone is out on the beach, in dramatic contrast to the years of the intifada, the street war against the Israelis, when Israeli soldiers enforced an 8-P.M.-to-4-A.M. curfew by night, and Islamic militants imposed rigorous social discipline by day.

Now cars line the dunes on either side of the coastal road for miles as whole families crowd the seashore into the small hours of the morning, the children scampering in the sand and surf, the women in demure head coverings and floor-length dresses sipping cola, the men drawing on water pipes under the fronds of sprawling beach cafes. Beer and alcohol, however, are still alien here.

World Within a Fence: A special report.; Palestinians in Gaza Find Freedom's Joy Has Limits

New cafes open daily, along with hotels and wedding halls. A modern new playground in the center of Gaza City, built with foreign donations, is jam-packed. A few blocks away, in the shadow of the venerated Al-Kateba Mosque, young women, with all but their hands and faces covered, scream in delight as they spin in an amusement-park ride, one of several old Soviet-made rides that an enterprising Gazan recently leased from Israel.

That novelty is nothing compared with the circus from Uzbekistan that recently packed up. Though stern Islamic moralists from Hamas, the Islamic opposition movement, inveighed against the scantily clad performers and the frivolity of it all, the circus was packed for all three weeks it was here.

This is the season of weddings. During the day men gather under awnings at the groom's home for feasts of meat and spicy rice called qedra and wedding corteges wind constantly through the city with blaring horns. At night whole clans take over beachfront wedding clubs.

In the daytime, Gaza City and much of the 30-mile-long Strip seem like one endless construction site, with palisades of scaffolding and concrete slabs in every size and shape -- apartment blocks, hotels, villas, shops.

Nobody seems to know how many buildings are going up, and nobody is entirely sure what will happen when they all try to plug into electrical, water and sewage systems that have long been overtaxed. Power, normally at 240 volts, is down to 170 most of the time; the tap water has turned too brackish to drink, and disposal of sewage is roughly divided between what is pumped into the sea and what is dumped into the streets.

The building boom is tangible evidence that there is money here, and at least some faith in the future. Much of the money has come with Gazans returning to test the economic waters of self-rule and to give their families that promised home.

Cars are another new phenomenon in this land without a single functioning traffic light. Soaring numbers of cars fill the sand-clogged streets with a constant blare of horns as they lurch among barefoot children and donkey carts.

It is an open secret that many of the cars were stolen in Israel. In fact, it is no secret at all, since the Palestinian Authority issues special purple plates for cars that have no documentation. So far, their police have done nothing about it, perhaps because many of their patrol cars also have the purple plates.

Powder Keg

To Many, Freedom Brings Frustration

Gaza's other mask is revealed when Kalashnikov rifle fire erupts on a sweltering Friday afternoon in the teeming Sheik Radwan neighborhood of Gaza, a Hamas stronghold.

At about 3:30 P.M., when the baking streets are overflowing, Palestinian Authority police suddenly descend on an apartment building. Someone shoots from inside, and within minutes the street is a mass of screaming humanity, with excited children underfoot. As the sound of sirens fills fetid side streets, the people alternately harangue the police and flee in panic as officers fire into the air.

After two hours, Hamas leaders summoned by the police succeed in negotiating the surrender of a 23-year-old Hamas member named Wael Nassar and two comrades. There are only injuries, no deaths.

Israel proclaims the catch a big one. For 10 days, the Israeli Army has kept Gaza totally sealed off, based on information that Mr. Nassar had prepared a farewell videotape and was about to leave on a suicide mission inside Israel.

Inside Gaza, the arrest is little more than street theater. Word circulates that Mr. Nassar agreed to surrender when the Palestinian Authority promised to release him after a few weeks.

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Three days later, a suicide bomber strikes in Jerusalem. In Gazan streets, that means only one thing -- that the border will be sealed again. This time, the bomber is soon identified as a West Bank resident, and the checkpoint is opened to Arabs again.

But there is another hurdle. Israel has announced that all Gazans entering Israel will need a new magnetic identification card -- the old ones, it seems, can be forged. The new ones are in Hebrew only -- another reminder, the Arabs grumble, that self-rule is hardly independence.

Lines at the Erez checkpoint form at dawn for the new cards, but by closing time at 2 P.M. thousands of Gazans are still waiting for cards to be issued. Horns blare, voices rise, and Palestinian police move in to clear the checkpoint for the day.

"I've never seen anything good in this place, either in the era of the Jews or in the era" of the Palestinian Authority, said Sami Zin-Eldir, 33. "If I was asked before I was born whether I wanted to be born here, I'd definitely have said no."

His companion, Bashir Nashwan, 33, whose Gaza photo shop depends entirely on supplies he buys in Israel, said: "We expected that things would improve. But everything we dreamed of we've lost -- freedom to travel, to export and import, jobs. We live in a prison."

The image of a prison recurs in every conversation. "We are in a big jail here," said Nasser R. Sarraj, the Minister of Industry in the Palestinian Authority. "We stopped the killing, we stopped the shooting, but we lose the right even to go to the West Bank. I am a Government Minister, and I can't go to Jericho."

Jericho, in the West Bank, came under the administration of the Palestinian Authority at the same time as Gaza. But even Mr. Arafat cannot commute between the two by land or in his own helicopter. He travels on an Egyptian plane that follows a circuitous route that Israelis insist is necessary for their security.

The Israeli explanation is "security," always "security." It is for reasons of security that more than 50,000 Palestinian workers have been replaced inside Israel by imported Romanians and Thais, that one-third of Gaza's cramped land is settled by Israelis and ringed with electric fences and soldiers, that the crossing points have been closed for almost half of the days that Gaza has known self-rule.

Compelling as the need for security may seem when a bus explodes in a quiet Jerusalem neighborhood, the consequences are hard to understand for people who have lived through the humiliation of occupation, the daily violence of the intifada and the menial jobs in Israel to provide sustenance.

By all accounts, the border closings have become the single most damaging aspect of life under self-rule. When they are imposed, the 16,800 workers who do have permits to work in Israel are sealed in, goods are blocked, travelers miss flights, and the claustrophobia builds. The dependence on Israel is so complete that, according to the United Nations, losses during a closing amount to between \$1 million and \$2 million a day in Gaza.

"Closures are the biggest problem we have," said Marwan Kanafani, Mr. Arafat's spokesman.

Referring to the period of self-rule under the agreement with Israel, he said that, "Two hundred of the 450 days we've had freedom in Gaza have been closure days. This is a catastrophe. For 200 days, workers stay at home, they don't buy food, grocery stores stop working, the whole economic cycle stops. This encourages extremists who say that peace has brought nothing.

"The entire homeland of Gaza is held hostage. We did not sign this agreement to be kept like animals behind bars."

Potential

Cautious Optimism For Gaza's Growth

World Within a Fence: A special report.; Palestinians in Gaza Find Freedom's Joy Has Limits

Sami Mourtaga runs a bottling plant that employs 85 workers and normally does a thriving business selling cola and orange soda. But Mr. Mourtaga's cola syrup comes from Ireland, the orange syrup from Austria, the carbon dioxide gas for carbonation from Israel, and everything goes through Erez.

During the last big closing, the supplies ran out and his workers sat idle for a month. When the border opened, he lost another month when Israelis insisted that the gas -- like all other wares -- be transferred from Israeli to Gazan trucks, though no appropriate truck was available in Gaza. "They make life much more complicated than it needs to be," Mr. Mourtaga said.

Mr. Mourtaga said the business he and his brothers run is one of about 50,000, big and small, making a go of it in Gaza. "On balance, I guess things have become better for us," he said. "I'm an optimist -- I have to be, there's no other way. Israel will change. It knows that it's good for Israel for Gaza to succeed."

But even in the most optimistic development scenarios, Gaza can never hope to create enough work for a population that is not only huge, but expanding at a dizzying rate. With as many as a million people packed into the 147 square miles of the Band-Aid-shaped Strip, Gaza has one of the world's highest population densities. And more than half of Gazans are under age 16, so even if no more expatriate Palestinians return, the population is expected to double in 17 years. It could expand out of control if there is another crisis like the Persian Gulf war, which sent 250,000 Palestinians flooding back into Gaza.

"Gaza makes no sense from an economic point of view," said Robert M. Gallagher, the deputy United Nations Special Coordinator in the Occupied Territories. "Ultimately there has to be a regional solution."

Economic planners see the construction of a port and an airport as critical to giving Gaza an outlet to the world independent of Israel. But the bottom line is still whether Israel will feel secure enough in the near future to let Palestinians work there again in large numbers.

Progress

Learning Process Shaping Self-Rule

Despite the hardships, there is evidence that Mr. Arafat has begun making progress in his leadership after a shaky start. He is still criticized for cronyism in his appointments, for his bullying militias, for flaws in the agreement he struck with Israel.

But Mr. Arafat is given credit for actually living in Gaza most of the time, which nobody thought he would, and for bringing a modicum of security. And little by little, his administration is learning the ropes.

"There are a lot of things that went wrong at first, that satisfied us neither as an authority nor as people," Mr. Kanafani acknowledged. "We had no experience, no means. But we have learned a lot."

One problem facing the Palestinian Authority is that the Israelis did precious little for Gaza in the 27 years of their occupation. United Nations officials said that Gaza's development actually retrogressed in those years -- water resources were channeled to Israeli settlers, medical services were neglected, any sign of political activity was blocked, and construction permits were used as a tool of power, to be swapped for collaboration.

"As an occupation power, Israel was not interested in developing services here," said Dr. Hatem Abu Ghazaleh, who organized a center for handicapped children in 1975. "They didn't want us to develop our own services. They didn't differentiate between humane and nonhumane services, it made no difference whether it was a bank or a society for the handicapped."

By most accounts, ***Hamas*** has lost ground since the Israelis pulled out, less because of its militant anti-Israeli stance than because most Gazans are happy to be able to stroll on the beach or watch a Western movie, and are not prepared to let Islamic zealots deny them the small pleasures of peace.

World Within a Fence: A special report.; Palestinians in Gaza Find Freedom's Joy Has Limits

Hamas is aware that it would lose in a head-to-head confrontation with Mr. Arafat, who controls most of the arms in Gaza and has already imprisoned several **Hamas** leaders. After the last two bus bombings, **Hamas** deliberately avoided linking the attacks to territories under Mr. Arafat's control in order not to provoke him.

There is also no serious doubt here that Mr. Arafat will win when elections are finally held for the Palestinian Authority. **Hamas** leaders said they had not decided yet whether to participate.

Sitting in a beachfront cafe late one night, Imad el-Falouji, a soft-spoken and scholarly man who is one of the main political leaders of **Hamas** inside Gaza, spoke of the movement's options.

Mr. Falouji studied in Kharkov, in Soviet Ukraine, where he spent seven months in jail for propagating Islam among Central Asian students. On his return he spent another four years in an Israeli prison during the intifada before he returned to Gaza. Yet Mr. Falouji is not among the **Hamas** leaders threatened with arrest; he meets often with the Palestinian Authority, and the police asked him to mediate after the shootout in the Sheik Radwan neighborhood.

"Nobody can understand Arafat," he said. "Sometimes our relations are good, sometimes bad. Now they're not so good -- he has arrested our leaders, killed our people. But we totally reject war with him. Totally."

Hamas's conflict was with Israel, not Mr. Arafat, Mr. Falouji said. "Israel does not want peace. It wants security, and we hold the key to that. And if they want their security, they have to listen to us. This is not peace yet."

Graphic

Photo: It is the season of weddings in Gaza, and new cafes and hotels open daily. But there is misery amid the mirth. (Rina Castelnuevo for The New York Times)(pg. A12)

Map of Gaza showing location of the Eretz Checkpoint. (pg. A12)

Load-Date: August 25, 1995

**SUICIDE BOMBER KILLS EIGHT;
KIDS DIE IN BUS ATTACK;
BOMB ATTACK IN ISRAEL - 8 KILLED**

Daily Record

April 7, 1994, Thursday

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Section: Page 2

Length: 280 words

Body

Eight people were slaughtered yesterday after a crazed Arab terrorist drove a car packed with explosives at a bus in Israel.

The car exploded as the bus stopped to pick up passengers in the working-class town of Afula, near the northern edge of the occupied West Bank.

Witnesses shuddered in horror as they described the carnage which also left about 50 people injured.

One said: "I saw burning children get out of the bus, they were burning like torches." Another witness said: "We saw people torn to bits, some people without eyes. We saw children without hair." Hospital officials said the dead were four youths aged 14 to 16, two women, one man and the bomber himself.

The militant Islamic group Hamas said it carried out the attack in revenge for the massacre of 30 Arabs by a Jewish settler in a Hebron mosque in February.

A caller claiming to be speak for Hamas told a Western news agency that 385 lbs of explosive were detonated. He named the suicide bomber as Raed Zakarneh, 19, from the West Bank.

Demonstrators later denounced peace talks with the Palestinians, but the government said the attack would not halt the negotiations.

The explosion - hours after the end of a 40-day Muslim mourning period for the Hebron victims - coincided with talks in Cairo between Israel and the Palestine Liberation Organisation on implementing their peace deal.

Environment minister Yossi Sarid said the talks would go on. "Why stop, so that terror will increase?" he said. "If the peace process is stopped we are placing our fate in the hands of these suicide bombers, and that is their wish." PLO negotiator Nabil Shaath said the attack showed the need to sign an agreement quickly.

Load-Date: October 25, 1994