

Date and Time: Friday, May 3, 2024 4:06:00PM EEST

Job Number: 223445341

## Documents (100)

1. [Can soap change a culture? Mideast mania for Turkish export "shows there are Muslims who live differently"](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language

Narrowed by:

Content Type  
News

Narrowed by

Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Sep 30, 2007 to  
Sep 30, 2008

2. [Sick told to spy in return for treatment](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language

Narrowed by:

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News

Narrowed by

Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Sep 30, 2007 to  
Sep 30, 2008

3. [Town straddling Gaza- Egypt border reunited](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language

Narrowed by:

Content Type  
News

Narrowed by

Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Sep 30, 2007 to  
Sep 30, 2008

4. [Freed prisoners receive hero's welcome in Ramallah . Abbas: PA won't rest until all prisoners are free \\*  
Netanyahu, Mofaz slam release as 'big mistake'](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language

Narrowed by:

Content Type  
News

Narrowed by

Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Sep 30, 2007 to  
Sep 30, 2008

5. [LET OLD GLORY BE OUR RESPONSE](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

**Search Terms:** Hamas

**Search Type:** Natural Language

**Narrowed by:**

**Content Type**  
News

**Narrowed by**

Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Sep 30, 2007 to Sep 30, 2008

6. [Israel's accountability problem](#)

**Client/Matter:** -None-

**Search Terms:** Hamas

**Search Type:** Natural Language

**Narrowed by:**

**Content Type**  
News

**Narrowed by**

Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Sep 30, 2007 to Sep 30, 2008

7. [World datelines](#)

**Client/Matter:** -None-

**Search Terms:** Hamas

**Search Type:** Natural Language

**Narrowed by:**

**Content Type**  
News

**Narrowed by**

Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Sep 30, 2007 to Sep 30, 2008

8. [In short](#)

**Client/Matter:** -None-

**Search Terms:** Hamas

**Search Type:** Natural Language

**Narrowed by:**

**Content Type**  
News

**Narrowed by**

Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Sep 30, 2007 to Sep 30, 2008

9. [Israel lets supplies through](#)

**Client/Matter:** -None-

**Search Terms:** Hamas

**Search Type:** Natural Language

**Narrowed by:**

**Content Type**  
News

**Narrowed by**

Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Sep 30, 2007 to Sep 30, 2008

10. [Israel's next big hope](#)

**Client/Matter:** -None-

**Search Terms:** Hamas

**Search Type:** Natural Language

**Narrowed by:**

**Content Type**  
News

**Narrowed by**

Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Sep 30, 2007 to Sep 30, 2008

11. [\*Aid trickles in as women stage border protest\*](#)

**Client/Matter:** -None-

**Search Terms:** Hamas

**Search Type:** Natural Language

**Narrowed by:**

**Content Type**  
News

**Narrowed by**

Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Sep 30, 2007 to Sep 30, 2008

12. [\*POPE, MALIKI DISCUSS PLIGHT OF IRAQI REFUGEES\*](#)

**Client/Matter:** -None-

**Search Terms:** Hamas

**Search Type:** Natural Language

**Narrowed by:**

**Content Type**  
News

**Narrowed by**

Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Sep 30, 2007 to Sep 30, 2008

13. [\*World datelines\*](#)

**Client/Matter:** -None-

**Search Terms:** Hamas

**Search Type:** Natural Language

**Narrowed by:**

**Content Type**  
News

**Narrowed by**

Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Sep 30, 2007 to Sep 30, 2008

14. [\*Today in History\*](#)

**Client/Matter:** -None-

**Search Terms:** Hamas

**Search Type:** Natural Language

**Narrowed by:**

**Content Type**  
News

**Narrowed by**

Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Sep 30, 2007 to Sep 30, 2008

15. [\*JOURNALS\*](#)

**Client/Matter:** -None-

**Search Terms:** Hamas

**Search Type:** Natural Language

**Narrowed by:**

**Content Type**

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News

Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Sep 30, 2007 to Sep 30, 2008

16. [Humanitarian crisis looms as Israeli siege throws Gaza into darkness](#)

**Client/Matter:** -None-

**Search Terms:** Hamas

**Search Type:** Natural Language

**Narrowed by:**

**Content Type**  
News

**Narrowed by**  
Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Sep 30, 2007 to Sep 30, 2008

17. [A mandate to 'understand'](#)

**Client/Matter:** -None-

**Search Terms:** Hamas

**Search Type:** Natural Language

**Narrowed by:**

**Content Type**  
News

**Narrowed by**  
Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Sep 30, 2007 to Sep 30, 2008

18. [World Report](#)

**Client/Matter:** -None-

**Search Terms:** Hamas

**Search Type:** Natural Language

**Narrowed by:**

**Content Type**  
News

**Narrowed by**  
Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Sep 30, 2007 to Sep 30, 2008

19. [In short](#)

**Client/Matter:** -None-

**Search Terms:** Hamas

**Search Type:** Natural Language

**Narrowed by:**

**Content Type**  
News

**Narrowed by**  
Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Sep 30, 2007 to Sep 30, 2008

20. [International briefs](#)

**Client/Matter:** -None-

**Search Terms:** Hamas

**Search Type:** Natural Language

**Narrowed by:**

**Content Type**  
News

**Narrowed by**  
Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Sep 30, 2007 to Sep 30, 2008

21. [LETTERS TO THE EDITOR](#)

**Client/Matter:** -None-

**Search Terms:** Hamas

**Search Type:** Natural Language

**Narrowed by:**

**Content Type**  
News

**Narrowed by**

Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Sep 30, 2007 to Sep 30, 2008

22. [Eight dead in bogus rabbi's gun spree](#)

**Client/Matter:** -None-

**Search Terms:** Hamas

**Search Type:** Natural Language

**Narrowed by:**

**Content Type**  
News

**Narrowed by**

Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Sep 30, 2007 to Sep 30, 2008

23. [Opposition leader to face sodomy charge](#)

**Client/Matter:** -None-

**Search Terms:** Hamas

**Search Type:** Natural Language

**Narrowed by:**

**Content Type**  
News

**Narrowed by**

Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Sep 30, 2007 to Sep 30, 2008

24. [Gaza escape: too little, too late](#)

**Client/Matter:** -None-

**Search Terms:** Hamas

**Search Type:** Natural Language

**Narrowed by:**

**Content Type**  
News

**Narrowed by**

Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Sep 30, 2007 to Sep 30, 2008

25. [Soap opera shakes Arab customs](#)

**Client/Matter:** -None-

**Search Terms:** Hamas

**Search Type:** Natural Language

**Narrowed by:**

**Content Type**  
News

**Narrowed by**

Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Sep 30, 2007 to Sep 30, 2008

26. [Soap opera shakes up customs of Muslim married life](#)

**Client/Matter:** -None-

**Search Terms:** Hamas

**Search Type:** Natural Language

**Narrowed by:**

**Content Type**  
News

**Narrowed by**  
Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Sep 30, 2007 to  
Sep 30, 2008

27. [Latest Israeli assault Friday on Bureij Camp in Gaza Strip MIDEAST: Many Die With Targeted Leader](#)

**Client/Matter:** -None-

**Search Terms:** Hamas

**Search Type:** Natural Language

**Narrowed by:**

**Content Type**  
News

**Narrowed by**  
Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Sep 30, 2007 to  
Sep 30, 2008

28. [World](#)

**Client/Matter:** -None-

**Search Terms:** Hamas

**Search Type:** Natural Language

**Narrowed by:**

**Content Type**  
News

**Narrowed by**  
Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Sep 30, 2007 to  
Sep 30, 2008

29. [Palestinian hope withers, Hizb al-Tahrir flourishes](#)

**Client/Matter:** -None-

**Search Terms:** Hamas

**Search Type:** Natural Language

**Narrowed by:**

**Content Type**  
News

**Narrowed by**  
Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Sep 30, 2007 to  
Sep 30, 2008

30. [Israel to allow some supplies into Gaza](#)

**Client/Matter:** -None-

**Search Terms:** Hamas

**Search Type:** Natural Language

**Narrowed by:**

**Content Type**  
News

**Narrowed by**  
Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Sep 30, 2007 to  
Sep 30, 2008

31. [Out of the mouths of bombers](#)

**Client/Matter:** -None-

**Search Terms:** Hamas

**Search Type:** Natural Language

**Narrowed by:**

**Content Type**  
News

**Narrowed by**

Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Sep 30, 2007 to Sep 30, 2008

32. [\*Abbas, Olmert agree to talk\*](#)

**Client/Matter:** -None-

**Search Terms:** Hamas

**Search Type:** Natural Language

**Narrowed by:**

**Content Type**  
News

**Narrowed by**

Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Sep 30, 2007 to Sep 30, 2008

33. [\*Israelis, Palestinians set talks\*](#)

**Client/Matter:** -None-

**Search Terms:** Hamas

**Search Type:** Natural Language

**Narrowed by:**

**Content Type**  
News

**Narrowed by**

Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Sep 30, 2007 to Sep 30, 2008

34. [\*Hole in the wall provides relief from misery of Israeli blockade\*](#)

**Client/Matter:** -None-

**Search Terms:** Hamas

**Search Type:** Natural Language

**Narrowed by:**

**Content Type**  
News

**Narrowed by**

Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Sep 30, 2007 to Sep 30, 2008

35. [\*New Israeli PM feels heat; Livni has six weeks to form coalition\*](#)

**Client/Matter:** -None-

**Search Terms:** Hamas

**Search Type:** Natural Language

**Narrowed by:**

**Content Type**  
News

**Narrowed by**

Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Sep 30, 2007 to Sep 30, 2008

36. [\*Speaking to the region across a wide gulf\*](#)

**Client/Matter:** -None-

**Search Terms:** Hamas

**Search Type:** Natural Language

**Narrowed by:**

**Content Type**

**Narrowed by**

37. [PEACE MISSION OR COSTLY PR STUNT? Tony Blair 's much trumpeted Middle East role costs Britain £400,000 a year. An entire floor of the best hotel in Jerusalem is permanently reserved for him, although he is hardly ever there. But with BOTH sides growing increasingly frustrated, what has he achieved?](#)

**Client/Matter:** -None-

**Search Terms:** Hamas

**Search Type:** Natural Language

**Narrowed by:**

**Content Type**  
News

**Narrowed by**  
Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Sep 30, 2007 to  
Sep 30, 2008

38. [Israel frees 198 Palestinians from jail Rice, arriving for visit, acknowledges 'work ahead' on peace](#)

**Client/Matter:** -None-

**Search Terms:** Hamas

**Search Type:** Natural Language

**Narrowed by:**

**Content Type**  
News

**Narrowed by**  
Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Sep 30, 2007 to  
Sep 30, 2008

39. [Turkish TV soap sows seeds of independence](#)

**Client/Matter:** -None-

**Search Terms:** Hamas

**Search Type:** Natural Language

**Narrowed by:**

**Content Type**  
News

**Narrowed by**  
Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Sep 30, 2007 to  
Sep 30, 2008

40. [Protesters arrested as Israeli ambassador's visit sparks row Prosor hits out at Presiding Officer's action](#)

**Client/Matter:** -None-

**Search Terms:** Hamas

**Search Type:** Natural Language

**Narrowed by:**

**Content Type**  
News

**Narrowed by**  
Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Sep 30, 2007 to  
Sep 30, 2008

41. [Breaking bread](#)

**Client/Matter:** -None-

**Search Terms:** Hamas

**Search Type:** Natural Language

**Narrowed by:**

**Content Type**

**Narrowed by**



News

Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Sep 30, 2007 to Sep 30, 2008

42. [Israel's Islamic Movement: Filling the vacuum, aiming for a caliphate](#)

**Client/Matter:** -None-

**Search Terms:** Hamas

**Search Type:** Natural Language

**Narrowed by:**

**Content Type**  
News

**Narrowed by**  
Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Sep 30, 2007 to Sep 30, 2008

43. [Thinking Right: DNA samples, air safety, truck lanes](#)

**Client/Matter:** -None-

**Search Terms:** Hamas

**Search Type:** Natural Language

**Narrowed by:**

**Content Type**  
News

**Narrowed by**  
Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Sep 30, 2007 to Sep 30, 2008

44. [Event Review: Comedy doesnt mask prejudice](#)

**Client/Matter:** -None-

**Search Terms:** Hamas

**Search Type:** Natural Language

**Narrowed by:**

**Content Type**  
News

**Narrowed by**  
Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Sep 30, 2007 to Sep 30, 2008

45. [IDF blasts WHO criticism for 'inhumane' treatment of Gaza sick. Over 90 percent of requests are approved, top officer says](#)

**Client/Matter:** -None-

**Search Terms:** Hamas

**Search Type:** Natural Language

**Narrowed by:**

**Content Type**  
News

**Narrowed by**  
Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Sep 30, 2007 to Sep 30, 2008

46. [World Journal](#)

**Client/Matter:** -None-

**Search Terms:** Hamas

**Search Type:** Natural Language

**Narrowed by:**

**Content Type**  
News

**Narrowed by**  
Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Sep 30, 2007 to Sep 30, 2008

47. [EDITORIAL COMMENT](#)

**Client/Matter:** -None-

**Search Terms:** Hamas

**Search Type:** Natural Language

**Narrowed by:**

**Content Type**  
News

**Narrowed by**  
Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Sep 30, 2007 to Sep 30, 2008

48. [Gaza Strip mortar hits southern Israel](#)

**Client/Matter:** -None-

**Search Terms:** Hamas

**Search Type:** Natural Language

**Narrowed by:**

**Content Type**  
News

**Narrowed by**  
Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Sep 30, 2007 to Sep 30, 2008

49. [Turkey 's abandonment of the West](#)

**Client/Matter:** -None-

**Search Terms:** Hamas

**Search Type:** Natural Language

**Narrowed by:**

**Content Type**  
News

**Narrowed by**  
Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Sep 30, 2007 to Sep 30, 2008

50. [DIGEST](#)

**Client/Matter:** -None-

**Search Terms:** Hamas

**Search Type:** Natural Language

**Narrowed by:**

**Content Type**  
News

**Narrowed by**  
Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Sep 30, 2007 to Sep 30, 2008

51. [Fatah linked to bombing; Israeli Killed; Second bomber with 'twitching' hand shot dead](#)

**Client/Matter:** -None-

**Search Terms:** Hamas

**Search Type:** Natural Language

**Narrowed by:**

**Content Type**  
News

**Narrowed by**  
Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Sep 30, 2007 to Sep 30, 2008

52. [Medical aid trickles into Gaza; 10 injured in protest](#)

**Client/Matter:** -None-

**Search Terms:** Hamas

**Search Type:** Natural Language

**Narrowed by:**

**Content Type**  
News

**Narrowed by**  
Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Sep 30, 2007 to  
Sep 30, 2008

53. [\*Broken wall, reunited town Palestinians crossing into Egypt seek out friends and relatives not seen for years.\*](#)

**Client/Matter:** -None-

**Search Terms:** Hamas

**Search Type:** Natural Language

**Narrowed by:**

**Content Type**  
News

**Narrowed by**  
Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Sep 30, 2007 to  
Sep 30, 2008

54. [\*Lords take moms seriously\*](#)

**Client/Matter:** -None-

**Search Terms:** Hamas

**Search Type:** Natural Language

**Narrowed by:**

**Content Type**  
News

**Narrowed by**  
Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Sep 30, 2007 to  
Sep 30, 2008

55. [\*2-MINUTE T-D\*](#)

**Client/Matter:** -None-

**Search Terms:** Hamas

**Search Type:** Natural Language

**Narrowed by:**

**Content Type**  
News

**Narrowed by**  
Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Sep 30, 2007 to  
Sep 30, 2008

56. [\*Israelis kill 9 in raids into Gaza Katyusha fired by Palestinians shows rocket's longer range\*](#)

**Client/Matter:** -None-

**Search Terms:** Hamas

**Search Type:** Natural Language

**Narrowed by:**

**Content Type**  
News

**Narrowed by**  
Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Sep 30, 2007 to  
Sep 30, 2008

57. [\*Israeli leader busy forging new coalition; Netanyahu demands quick election\*](#)

**Client/Matter:** -None-

**Search Terms:** Hamas

**Search Type:** Natural Language

**Narrowed by:**

**Content Type**  
News

**Narrowed by**

Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Sep 30, 2007 to Sep 30, 2008

58. [\*Welsh villagers in shock after suicide of another youth brings total to 20\*](#)

**Client/Matter:** -None-

**Search Terms:** Hamas

**Search Type:** Natural Language

**Narrowed by:**

**Content Type**  
News

**Narrowed by**

Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Sep 30, 2007 to Sep 30, 2008

59. [\*Islamic group condemns Israeli plan to expand prayer site at Western Wall\*](#)

**Client/Matter:** -None-

**Search Terms:** Hamas

**Search Type:** Natural Language

**Narrowed by:**

**Content Type**  
News

**Narrowed by**

Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Sep 30, 2007 to Sep 30, 2008

60. [\*82 detained in bid to curb terrorism at Olympics\*](#)

**Client/Matter:** -None-

**Search Terms:** Hamas

**Search Type:** Natural Language

**Narrowed by:**

**Content Type**  
News

**Narrowed by**

Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Sep 30, 2007 to Sep 30, 2008

61. [\*Israel reopens crossings\*](#)

**Client/Matter:** -None-

**Search Terms:** Hamas

**Search Type:** Natural Language

**Narrowed by:**

**Content Type**  
News

**Narrowed by**

Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Sep 30, 2007 to Sep 30, 2008

62. [\*2-MINUTE T-D\*](#)

**Client/Matter:** -None-

**Search Terms:** Hamas

**Search Type:** Natural Language

**Narrowed by:**

**Content Type**  
News

**Narrowed by**  
Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Sep 30, 2007 to Sep 30, 2008

63. [Report all viral illness cases, China orders](#)

**Client/Matter:** -None-

**Search Terms:** Hamas

**Search Type:** Natural Language

**Narrowed by:**

**Content Type**  
News

**Narrowed by**  
Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Sep 30, 2007 to Sep 30, 2008

64. [The proud polemicist](#)

**Client/Matter:** -None-

**Search Terms:** Hamas

**Search Type:** Natural Language

**Narrowed by:**

**Content Type**  
News

**Narrowed by**  
Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Sep 30, 2007 to Sep 30, 2008

65. [Ceremony or no ceremony](#)

**Client/Matter:** -None-

**Search Terms:** Hamas

**Search Type:** Natural Language

**Narrowed by:**

**Content Type**  
News

**Narrowed by**  
Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Sep 30, 2007 to Sep 30, 2008

66. [Defensive posturing](#)

**Client/Matter:** -None-

**Search Terms:** Hamas

**Search Type:** Natural Language

**Narrowed by:**

**Content Type**  
News

**Narrowed by**  
Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Sep 30, 2007 to Sep 30, 2008

67. [Pakistani fury at US raid](#)

**Client/Matter:** -None-

**Search Terms:** Hamas

**Search Type:** Natural Language

**Narrowed by:**

**Content Type**  
News

**Narrowed by**  
Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Sep 30, 2007 to Sep 30, 2008

68. [Letters](#)

**Client/Matter:** -None-

**Search Terms:** Hamas

**Search Type:** Natural Language

**Narrowed by:**

**Content Type**  
News

**Narrowed by**

Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Sep 30, 2007 to Sep 30, 2008

69. [Pakistani fury at US raid](#)

**Client/Matter:** -None-

**Search Terms:** Hamas

**Search Type:** Natural Language

**Narrowed by:**

**Content Type**  
News

**Narrowed by**

Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Sep 30, 2007 to Sep 30, 2008

70. [Israel eases Gaza blockade](#)

**Client/Matter:** -None-

**Search Terms:** Hamas

**Search Type:** Natural Language

**Narrowed by:**

**Content Type**  
News

**Narrowed by**

Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Sep 30, 2007 to Sep 30, 2008

71. [TRAVEL BAN FOR GAZANS CRITICIZED RICE URGES ISRAELIS TO LET PALESTINIANS GO ABROAD TO STUDY](#)

**Client/Matter:** -None-

**Search Terms:** Hamas

**Search Type:** Natural Language

**Narrowed by:**

**Content Type**  
News

**Narrowed by**

Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Sep 30, 2007 to Sep 30, 2008

72. [Women debate role in al-Qaida A high official tells them to stay home, but some extremist women want to join the fight.](#)

**Client/Matter:** -None-

**Search Terms:** Hamas

**Search Type:** Natural Language

**Narrowed by:**

**Content Type**  
News

**Narrowed by**

Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Sep 30, 2007 to Sep 30, 2008

73. [\*Malaysia kicks Iran out\*](#)

**Client/Matter:** -None-

**Search Terms:** Hamas

**Search Type:** Natural Language

**Narrowed by:**

**Content Type**  
News

**Narrowed by**  
Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Sep 30, 2007 to Sep 30, 2008

74. [\*Israel eases Gaza blockade\*](#)

**Client/Matter:** -None-

**Search Terms:** Hamas

**Search Type:** Natural Language

**Narrowed by:**

**Content Type**  
News

**Narrowed by**  
Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Sep 30, 2007 to Sep 30, 2008

75. [\*Israel turns 60, still yearning for the peace that never comes\*](#)

**Client/Matter:** -None-

**Search Terms:** Hamas

**Search Type:** Natural Language

**Narrowed by:**

**Content Type**  
News

**Narrowed by**  
Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Sep 30, 2007 to Sep 30, 2008

76. [\*WALES: Euro MP to report to DP on war zone\*](#)

**Client/Matter:** -None-

**Search Terms:** Hamas

**Search Type:** Natural Language

**Narrowed by:**

**Content Type**  
News

**Narrowed by**  
Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Sep 30, 2007 to Sep 30, 2008

77. [\*Hope flickers, again\*](#)

**Client/Matter:** -None-

**Search Terms:** Hamas

**Search Type:** Natural Language

**Narrowed by:**

**Content Type**  
News

**Narrowed by**  
Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Sep 30, 2007 to Sep 30, 2008

78. [\*Volunteers in horror crash\*](#)

**Client/Matter:** -None-

**Search Terms:** Hamas

**Search Type:** Natural Language

**Narrowed by:**

**Content Type**  
News

**Narrowed by**

Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Sep 30, 2007 to Sep 30, 2008

79. [18 years for Communist boss](#)

**Client/Matter:** -None-

**Search Terms:** Hamas

**Search Type:** Natural Language

**Narrowed by:**

**Content Type**  
News

**Narrowed by**

Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Sep 30, 2007 to Sep 30, 2008

80. ['Democracy under fire on a daily basis' INTERNATIONAL Israeli Ambassador Ron Prosor visited Birmingham and talked to Shahid Naqvi about life in one of the most troubled regions](#)

**Client/Matter:** -None-

**Search Terms:** Hamas

**Search Type:** Natural Language

**Narrowed by:**

**Content Type**  
News

**Narrowed by**

Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Sep 30, 2007 to Sep 30, 2008

81. [Israeli Arab shot students, say police](#)

**Client/Matter:** -None-

**Search Terms:** Hamas

**Search Type:** Natural Language

**Narrowed by:**

**Content Type**  
News

**Narrowed by**

Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Sep 30, 2007 to Sep 30, 2008

82. [Picking apart the Al-Jazeera puzzle](#)

**Client/Matter:** -None-

**Search Terms:** Hamas

**Search Type:** Natural Language

**Narrowed by:**

**Content Type**  
News

**Narrowed by**

Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Sep 30, 2007 to Sep 30, 2008

83. [Conflict](#)

**Client/Matter:** -None-



**Search Terms:** Hamas

**Search Type:** Natural Language

**Narrowed by:**

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News

**Narrowed by**  
Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Sep 30, 2007 to Sep 30, 2008

84. [Holy City covered in white](#)

**Client/Matter:** -None-

**Search Terms:** Hamas

**Search Type:** Natural Language

**Narrowed by:**

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News

**Narrowed by**  
Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Sep 30, 2007 to Sep 30, 2008

85. [Raids raise Mideast tension](#)

**Client/Matter:** -None-

**Search Terms:** Hamas

**Search Type:** Natural Language

**Narrowed by:**

**Content Type**  
News

**Narrowed by**  
Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Sep 30, 2007 to Sep 30, 2008

86. [Bush Lauds Egypt Leader, Avoiding Record on Dissent](#)

**Client/Matter:** -None-

**Search Terms:** Hamas

**Search Type:** Natural Language

**Narrowed by:**

**Content Type**  
News

**Narrowed by**  
Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Sep 30, 2007 to Sep 30, 2008

87. [Israel upset over reports PA plans to honor terrorists](#)

**Client/Matter:** -None-

**Search Terms:** Hamas

**Search Type:** Natural Language

**Narrowed by:**

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News

**Narrowed by**  
Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Sep 30, 2007 to Sep 30, 2008

88. [World - Israel 'allows' Fatah weapons shipment](#)

**Client/Matter:** -None-

**Search Terms:** Hamas

**Search Type:** Natural Language

**Narrowed by:**

**Content Type**  
News

**Narrowed by**

Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Sep 30, 2007 to Sep 30, 2008

89. [Glimpse of Gaza](#)

**Client/Matter:** -None-

**Search Terms:** Hamas

**Search Type:** Natural Language

**Narrowed by:**

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News

**Narrowed by**

Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Sep 30, 2007 to Sep 30, 2008

90. [Peace activists 'hypocritical'](#)

**Client/Matter:** -None-

**Search Terms:** Hamas

**Search Type:** Natural Language

**Narrowed by:**

**Content Type**  
News

**Narrowed by**

Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Sep 30, 2007 to Sep 30, 2008

91. [World - Spain ruling gives hope to Palestinians](#)

**Client/Matter:** -None-

**Search Terms:** Hamas

**Search Type:** Natural Language

**Narrowed by:**

**Content Type**  
News

**Narrowed by**

Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Sep 30, 2007 to Sep 30, 2008

92. [Palestinian authorities to start Gaza power cuts](#)

**Client/Matter:** -None-

**Search Terms:** Hamas

**Search Type:** Natural Language

**Narrowed by:**

**Content Type**  
News

**Narrowed by**

Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Sep 30, 2007 to Sep 30, 2008

93. [Palestinian authorities to start Gaza power cuts](#)

**Client/Matter:** -None-

**Search Terms:** Hamas

**Search Type:** Natural Language

**Narrowed by:**

**Content Type**

**Narrowed by**

News

Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Sep 30, 2007 to Sep 30, 2008

94. [\*Terrorist females used for single targets\*](#)

**Client/Matter:** -None-

**Search Terms:** Hamas

**Search Type:** Natural Language

**Narrowed by:**

**Content Type**  
News

**Narrowed by**  
Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Sep 30, 2007 to Sep 30, 2008

95. [\*Why terror thrives\*](#)

**Client/Matter:** -None-

**Search Terms:** Hamas

**Search Type:** Natural Language

**Narrowed by:**

**Content Type**  
News

**Narrowed by**  
Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Sep 30, 2007 to Sep 30, 2008

96. [\*Boring but important\*](#)

**Client/Matter:** -None-

**Search Terms:** Hamas

**Search Type:** Natural Language

**Narrowed by:**

**Content Type**  
News

**Narrowed by**  
Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Sep 30, 2007 to Sep 30, 2008

97. [\*Bulldozer driver shot at wheel after deadly rampage through city streets\*](#)

**Client/Matter:** -None-

**Search Terms:** Hamas

**Search Type:** Natural Language

**Narrowed by:**

**Content Type**  
News

**Narrowed by**  
Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Sep 30, 2007 to Sep 30, 2008

98. [\*Obama: Race and reason II\*](#)

**Client/Matter:** -None-

**Search Terms:** Hamas

**Search Type:** Natural Language

**Narrowed by:**

**Content Type**  
News

**Narrowed by**  
Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Sep 30, 2007 to Sep 30, 2008

99. [\*A bad wrap\*](#)

**Client/Matter:** -None-

**Search Terms:** Hamas

**Search Type:** Natural Language

**Narrowed by:**

**Content Type**

News

**Narrowed by**

Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Sep 30, 2007 to Sep 30, 2008

100. [\*Bush contrasts Arab, Israeli paths\*](#)

**Client/Matter:** -None-

**Search Terms:** Hamas

**Search Type:** Natural Language

**Narrowed by:**

**Content Type**

News

**Narrowed by**

Publication Type: Newspapers; Timeline: Sep 30, 2007 to Sep 30, 2008

## *Can soap change a culture?; Mideast mania for Turkish export "shows there are Muslims who live differently"*

The Toronto Star  
July 28, 2008 Monday

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**Section:** ENTERTAINMENT; Pg. L09

**Length:** 709 words

**Byline:** Karin Laub and Dalia Nammari, Associated Press

**Dateline:** RAMALLAH, West Bank

### **Body**

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Every evening for the past four months, a tall young man with soulful blue eyes has been stealing hearts across the Middle East, from the refugee camps of the Gaza Strip to the gated mansions of Riyadh.

But it's not just the striking good looks of Mohannad, hero of the hugely popular Turkish TV soap Noor, that appeal to female viewers. He's romantic, attentive to his wife, Noor, supportive of her independence and ambitions as a fashion designer - in short, a rare gem for women in conservative, male-dominated surroundings.

Noor delivers an idealized portrayal of modern married life as equal partnership, clashing with the norms of traditional Middle Eastern societies where elders often have the final word on whom a woman should marry, and many are still confined to the role of wife and mother.

Some Muslim preachers in the West Bank and Saudi Arabia have taken notice, saying the show is un-Islamic and urging the faithful to change channels. But all the same, the show may be planting seeds of change.

"I told my husband, 'Learn from him (Mohannad) how he treats her, how he loves her, how he cares about her,'" said Heba Hamdan, 24, a housewife visiting the West Bank from Amman, Jordan. Married straight out of college, she said the show inspired her to go out and look for a job.

Noor seems particularly effective in changing attitudes because it offers new content in a familiar setting: Turkey is a Muslim country, inviting stronger viewer identification than Western TV imports. The characters in Noor observe the Muslim fasting month of Ramadan, and Mohannad and Noor were married in a match arranged by his grandfather.

But it also upholds secular liberties: protagonists have a drink with dinner and sex outside marriage. Mohannad, while faithful to Noor, had a child with a former girlfriend, and a cousin underwent an abortion.

The nightly soap opera "shows that there are Muslims who live differently," said Islah Jad, a professor of women's studies at the West Bank's Bir Zeit University.

The show's Turkish producer, Kemal Uzun, added: "We are a little more open, not as conservative as some of these countries, and I think this might have some appeal for the audience."

Can soap change a culture? Mideast mania for Turkish export "shows there are Muslims who live differently"

Even though some of the racier scenes are sanitized for Arab consumption, clerics have been sermonizing against Noor.

"This series collides with our Islamic religion, values and traditions," warned Hamed Bitawi, a lawmaker of the Islamic militant group **Hamas** and preacher in the West Bank city of Nablus.

But the purists seem powerless to halt the Noor craze. In Saudi Arabia, the only country with ratings, about three to four million people watch daily, out of a population of nearly 28 million, according to MBC, the Saudi-owned satellite channel that airs the show dubbed into Arabic for Middle East audiences.

In the West Bank and Gaza, streets are deserted during show time and socializing is timed around it. In Riyadh, the Saudi capital, and in Hebron, the West Bank's most conservative city, maternity wards report a rise in babies named Noor and Mohannad. A West Bank poster vendor has ditched Yasser Arafat and Saddam Hussein for Noor and Mohannad.

Jaro's Clothing Store in Gaza City is doing brisk business in copies of blouses seen on the show, including a sleeveless metallic number adapted to Gaza standards by being worn over a long-sleeved leotard.

Producer Uzun said the Istanbul villa on the Bosphorus, fictional home of Mohannad's upper-class clan, has been rented by tour operators and turned into a temporary museum for Arab visitors.

In **Hamas**-ruled Gaza, keeping up with Noor is a challenge. Power goes out frequently because of a yearlong blockade imposed by Israel and Egypt after the violent **Hamas** takeover. When a blackout disrupts viewing, many set their alarms to catch the pre-dawn repeat.

In the Shati refugee camp, several teenage girls huddled around an old TV set recently, trying to follow the action despite flyovers by pilotless Israeli aircraft that can scramble reception.

Ala Hamami, 17, wearing a black robe and headscarf, said she looks up to Noor because she is independent.

"This series gives strength to **women** in the future," said Hamami, although she was set on a very traditional path: she had just gotten engaged in an arranged match.

## Graphic

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MUHAMMED MUHEISEN ap photo A Palestinian man holds a photograph depicting the lead characters of Noor, for sale at a street corner in the West Bank city of Ramallah. The show has inspired **women** across the Middle East.

**Load-Date:** July 28, 2008

## *Sick told to spy in return for treatment*

Irish News

August 5, 2008 Tuesday

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**Section:** Pg. 12

**Length:** 472 words

### **Body**

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Israel is trying to force sick Palestinians to trade intelligence information for medical treatment, a human rights group claimed yesterday.

The Physicians for Human Rights group lists 32 Gaza Palestinians who say they were offered such a deal at the Israel-Gaza border.

The Israeli government denied the charges but said Gaza Palestinians have to undergo security checks before entering Israel because of the danger of attacks.

One of the Gaza residents listed in the Physicians for Human Rights report, Bassam Waheidi, said he is slowly going blind but refused to spy for Israel's Shin Bet intelligence agency in exchange for medical treatment.

The Palestinians quoted in the 80-page report said the pressure began after the Islamic militant **Hamas** seized power of the Gaza Strip in June last year.

That prompted Israel and Egypt to seal its borders with Gaza. Only residents needing urgent treatment can now leave the territory with Israeli permission.

Mr Waheidi, a 28-year-old radio reporter, said he developed a visual problem last August and Palestinian doctors referred him for urgent treatment in Israel.

He said at the Erez border crossing, where Gaza residents pass into Israel, he was led by armed men in civilian clothes to a man sitting at a desk in an underground room.

Mr Waheidi said in an hours-long interrogation session, he was asked about militants who fire rockets at Israel.

He said he refused to provide information and said he did not know much anyway.

"I work on **women**'s issues, social affairs and worker's rights," he said.

Mr Waheidi claimed Israel has not granted him a permit and he has since gone blind in his right eye and is losing sight in the other.

Abu Obeid, a 38-year-old public worker, said he frequently went to Israel for years for heart treatment. He had a pacemaker installed at an Israeli hospital.

Sick told to spy in return for treatment

But when Mr Obeid - a Fatah loyalist, bitter rival of **Hamas** - applied last August for a permit to enter Israel to check on his pacemaker, he said an intelligence official offered him a tough choice.

"He said, let's make a deal. You give me information and I'll make it easy for you to go Israel," Mr Obeid said.

Mr Obeid refused. He said Israel has not given him a permit since. Instead, he is waiting for an Israeli medical team to come into Gaza to examine his heart and pacemaker.

Shin Bet officials directed queries to a letter by Shoshi Golan of the Israeli prime minister's office.

Mr Golan said the agency did not make entry into Israel for humanitarian reasons "contingent on an applicant's willingness to submit any information, except for reliable information on his medical condition."

Mr Golan said the security checks were conducted partly to "evaluate the degree of danger posed by the applicant" and noted several cases where Gaza residents tried to obtain permits to carry out attacks in Israel.

**Load-Date:** August 5, 2008

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End of Document



## **Town straddling Gaza-Egypt border reunited**

Charleston Gazette (West Virginia)

January 27, 2008, Sunday

Copyright 2008 Charleston Newspapers

**Section:** NEWS; Pg. P10A

**Length:** 802 words

**Byline:** Ibrahim Barzak and Omar Sinan, The Associated Press

### **Body**

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RAFAH, Gaza Strip - Divided by a twist of history 26 years ago, this remote town straddling the Gaza-Egypt border has been reunited in just as haphazard a fashion.

After the towering border wall slicing through Rafah was toppled earlier this week, long-separated relatives, friends and even former soccer buddies just had to walk a few yards to embrace and reminisce.

Some even dared to make plans for an uncertain future: One large Palestinian clan quickly married off four women to relatives on the Egyptian side. "How can we leave the other side? We were always one place," said Kamal al-Nahal, 40, an uncle of one of the brides.

But almost three decades of separation have also produced marked differences in customs, building styles and dialect. Al-Nahal said he wasn't exactly impressed with Egyptian Rafah, which, with mudbrick buildings and unpaved streets, has more of a village feel than its larger, bustling counterpart of multistory apartment buildings on the Gaza side.

About 40,000 people live on the Egyptian side and about 200,000 in Gaza's Rafah, which includes both the original town and an adjacent refugee camp. Those on the Egyptian side are mostly of Palestinian origin, but their Arabic often has more of an Egyptian dialect.

Rafah was bisected in 1982 to accommodate land claims negotiated as part of the Egyptian-Israeli peace agreement. While suddenly holding different citizenship, residents of both sectors could cross the border with relative ease for several years.

However, travel became increasingly difficult as Israeli-Palestinian fighting intensified. During the second Palestinian uprising, which erupted in 2000, Gazan Rafah became one of the bloodiest flashpoints of violence, with gunmen often exchanging fire with Israeli troops patrolling the Gaza-Egypt border.

Israeli troops razed hundreds of Rafah homes to widen the patrol road and erected a tall wall - the one toppled Wednesday - as cover against ambushes.

The border breach was engineered by the Islamic militant Hamas to pressure Egypt to negotiate new border arrangements. Both Israel and Egypt had kept Gaza largely sealed in the past two years, especially since Hamas violently seized the territory in June.

## Town straddling Gaza- Egypt border reunited

At least 38 members of the Egyptian security forces have been hurt in confrontations on the border in recent days, Egypt said. On Saturday, Egyptian riot police and armored vehicles blocked Gazan cars from moving beyond Egyptian Rafah, but the border remained otherwise open.

Even during years of separation, the two sides of Rafah had long stayed connected through underground smuggling tunnels ferrying cigarettes, weapons and other contraband.

After the fall of the border wall, much of that trade went above ground.

Huge crowds of Gazans have descended on Egyptian Rafah, buying just about everything on offer, from crates of Coke to cement and motorcycles, and some shops have closed for lack of wares.

Many came in search of friends and relatives.

Bassem el-Akhras, 45, a nurse in the Palestinian Health Ministry, used to play in a local Rafah soccer team before the 1982 split. On Saturday, he tracked down the team's former striker, Walid Hosni, 47, in Egyptian Rafah, and the two sat on chairs outside Hosni's grocery.

"It was the best day ever, that we were able to break [through] the wall and get together again with our friends," said Hosni, who coaches the local high school soccer team.

El-Akhras also reconnected with six brothers and sisters in Egyptian Rafah whom he hadn't seen for 11 years, and paid respects at his father's grave. El-Akhras said his father died a year ago on the Egyptian side, and that he was unable to attend the funeral.

"The blockade we were under was unbearable, and this is a chance to breathe," he said.

The al-Nahal clan, which has members on both sides of the border, seized a chance to celebrate three weddings after the border breach, two of them Friday. Four women from the clan were engaged to relatives on the Egyptian side, some for as long as two years, but the weddings had been put off in hopes of having guests from both sides of the border attend.

Abdel Rahman Abu Jezer, 65, a farmer from Gazan Rafah, was also hatching matrimonial plots.

With his 17-year-old veiled granddaughter in tow, he walked to the Egyptian side of town Saturday to visit relatives. "Maybe this will be the bride for my nephew [in Egypt]," he said, referring to his granddaughter.

Like el-Akhras, he had been separated from siblings for years. He said he is grateful to Hamas for breaking down the border wall, and hopes Egypt will not reseal the crossing.

"When they started dividing [Rafah], I felt like a knife has cut part of my body," he said. "I only now feel that my wound is starting to heal."

Associated Press Writer Sarah El Deeb contributed to this report from both sides of Rafah.

**Load-Date:** January 28, 2008

**Freed prisoners receive hero's welcome in Ramallah. Abbas: PA won't rest until all prisoners are free \* Netanyahu, Mofaz slam release as 'big mistake'**

The Jerusalem Post

August 26, 2008 Tuesday

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**Section:** NEWS; Pg. 3

**Length:** 1163 words

**Byline:** DALIA NAMMARI, AP; Gil Hoffman contributed to this report.

## **Body**

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Israel freed nearly 200 jailed Palestinians on Monday - including a terrorist mastermind from the 1970s who became the Jewish state's longest serving Palestinian prisoner - in a goodwill gesture made hours before US Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice's latest peace mission to the region.

At the start of her visit, Rice praised the Israeli gesture: "This is something that matters a lot to the Palestinians, it matters a lot to the Palestinian people and it is obviously a sign of goodwill."

The prisoners received a hero's welcome upon their return to the West Bank, where thousands of people joined celebrations at the Ramallah headquarters of Palestinian Authority President Mahmoud Abbas and elsewhere throughout the West Bank.

"We will not rest until the prisoners are freed and the jails are empty," Abbas told the cheering crowd.

However, a moment of tragedy marred the joyous occasion when, according to the mayor of Yamoun, a crowded balcony gave way in the village, killing a nine-year-old girl and injuring 16 others. Relatives had crowded onto the rickety balcony to await the arrival of Muhammad Abahra, freed after eight years in prison.

In Israel, the government came under fire for freeing Palestinian prisoners without receiving anything in return.

Opposition leader Binyamin Netanyahu said that releasing the prisoners would weaken Israel and would not strengthen moderate Palestinians.

"The crumbling Kadima government continues to demonstrate weakness that causes national humiliation," Netanyahu said.

Transportation Minister Shaul Mofaz, who is running for leadership of the Kadima Party and who voted against the prisoner release in the cabinet last week, again voiced his opposition on Monday, saying Israel should only be freeing prisoners for captured soldier Gilad Schalit.

"I ask: Why are we releasing prisoners with blood on their hands?" Mofaz said. "We will have to release prisoners for Gilad Schalit. We need more determined leadership that will know how to maintain the interests of Israel - and the interest of Israel is to release Gilad Schalit. For that we need to keep prisoners to use in exchange for him. Releasing prisoners now is a very big mistake."

Freed prisoners receive hero's welcome in Ramallah . Abbas: PA won't rest until all prisoners are free \*  
Netanyahu, Mofaz slam release as 'big mistake'

The prisoners arrived in Ramallah after being released at a military checkpoint near Jerusalem. The prisoners, some waving black-and-white checkered keffiyeh headaddresses as they stepped off Israeli buses, kissed the ground before boarding Palestinian vehicles.

Among the 198 Palestinians freed was Said al-Atba, who served 31 years of a life sentence for masterminding a 1977 market bombing that killed one woman and wounded dozens of others in Petah Tikva. Al-Atba, 57, was the longest serving Palestinian inmate in Israel and is widely seen by Palestinians as a symbol of all the prisoners.

"I feel like I've been born again," al-Atba told The Associated Press. "This is a victory over the handcuffs," he added, but noted that thousands of prisoners remain behind. "We salute them and we must do all that we can to liberate them."

His brother, Hisham, came from Saudi Arabia, where he works, to greet him. "I feel great, great joy," he said. "We had lost hope that my brother would be released because he's been in prison for 32 years."

Al-Atba's sister, Raida, said she had prepared her brother's favorite food, stuffed grape leaves and zucchini.

The fate of the roughly 9,000 prisoners in Israeli jails is emotional for Palestinians, many of whom know somebody behind bars or have themselves served time. Abbas, who is struggling to show his people the fruits of the peace talks, has repeatedly urged Israel to carry out a large-scale release.

"It's not easy for Israel to release prisoners. Some of the individuals being released today are guilty of direct involvement in the murder of innocent civilians," Israeli government spokesman Mark Regev said. "We believe this action can support the negotiation process and create goodwill."

Upon her arrival, Rice praised the Israeli gesture. "This is something that matters a lot to the Palestinians, it matters a lot to the Palestinian people and it is obviously a sign of good will," she said, calling on both sides to carry out more confidence-building measures.

Rice, making her seventh trip to the region since peace talks were relaunched last year, has been trying to broker a peace agreement by the end of the year.

Speaking to reporters on her plane, she acknowledged it was unlikely the sides would meet their year-end target, but said all sides remain committed to that goal. The talks have been complicated by Israeli political turmoil and Palestinian infighting.

Prime Minister Ehud Olmert, who is battling a corruption investigation, has said he will step down after the Kadima party chooses a new leader next month. It remains unclear who his successor will be, and whether the government will be able to stay in power.

On the Palestinian side, **Hamas** seized control of the Gaza Strip from Abbas's forces last year. Israel has said it will not carry out any peace deal until Abbas regains control over Gaza. Both Israel and the US have labeled **Hamas** a terrorist group.

In the presidential compound in Ramallah hung a giant poster with pictures of Abbas, al-Atba and another veteran prisoner being freed, Mohammed Abu Ali, a lawmaker from Abbas's Fatah party.

Abu Ali was jailed in 1980 for killing 20-year-old yeshiva student Joshua Saloma in Hebron and later convicted of killing a Palestinian in jail he accused of collaborating with Israel.

In the festive Ramallah crowd was Abu Ali's wife Suad, 51, and the couple's three children: Ibrahim, 32, Palestine 29, and Leila, 27.

"When Muhammad was arrested I was 22 years old, my children were babies," she said. "My family's life has begun today."

Freed prisoners receive hero's welcome in Ramallah . Abbas: PA won't rest until all prisoners are free \*  
Netanyahu, Mofaz slam release as 'big mistake'

Also among those freed were a 16-year-old girl who had been jailed for trying to stab an Israeli soldier and a young mother who had been incarcerated since January 2007 and had been raising a baby behind bars. She was sentenced for ties to Hizbullah.

Wearing a long loose robe and a face veil, 30-year-old Khawla Zeitawi held her young daughter on her hip as she paused before the grave of Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat.

Palestinians say 74 women are in Israeli jails.

Israel has released prisoners to Abbas in the past, most recently last December. But it has balked at releasing Palestinians serving time for deadly attacks. It appears to be easing its criteria following a prisoner swap last month with Hizbullah. Under that deal, Israel exchanged Samir Kuntar, a Lebanese man convicted in a notorious triple murder, for the remains of two Israeli soldiers, Eldad Regev and Ehud Goldwasser.

Eager to bolster Abbas in his rivalry with Hamas, Israel says the latest release is meant to show the Palestinians that dialogue, not violence, is the best way to win concessions.

Hamas is demanding Israel free of hundreds of prisoners in exchange for Gilad Schalit, an Israeli soldier captured by Palestinian militants in a cross-border raid two years ago.

## Graphic

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2 photos: RELEASED PRISONER Said al-Atba is carried on the shoulders of a jubilant crowd in Nablus while in Ramallah, a dove is released as PA President Mahmoud Abbas speaks to released prisoners upon their arrival at the president's headquarters. (Credit: AP)

**Load-Date:** October 4, 2011

## **LET OLD GLORY BE OUR RESPONSE**

St. Petersburg Times (Florida)

June 7, 2008 Saturday

4 State / Suncoast Edition

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**Section:** NATIONAL; Pg. 9A

**Length:** 2741 words

### **Body**

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If the best antidote to bad speech is good speech, then perhaps the antidote to a bad flag is a good flag - or maybe even a few good flags.

According to our current laws, the raising of a flag constitutes protected speech, so there seems to be nothing to prevent a group of bigots, hiding behind the veil of cultural heritage, from raising on private property a giant Confederate battle flag near the intersection of I-75 and I-4.

Some who see the flag will applaud its presence above our landscape, but many more will be forced to associate this great and diverse state with the institutions of slavery and American apartheid in the South. Nothing good can come of this.

As a professional advocate of free speech, I'm not inclined to legislate Confederate flags, or any flags, out of existence, but I am inclined to challenge this one's profile and its dominance.

We have a ceremonial tradition in America that no flag should fly higher than Old Glory. What would happen if private citizens in our own community raised the money to erect in the public land adjacent to the Confederate flag, a patriotic display of the Stars and Stripes to honor the veterans of the wars in Afghanistan and Iraq? These flags should be bigger and fly higher than that hateful one whose erection can only bring us down.

I will proudly donate the first \$100 to such a cause if someone - perhaps our patriotic governor - can turn this idea into action.

Roy Peter Clark, vice president and senior scholar, the Poynter Institute, which owns the St. Petersburg Times, St. Petersburg

Slavery under U.S. flag

Slavery existed under the Confederate flag for just four years. Prior to that, it existed for decades under the U.S. flag.

Why isn't anybody clamoring to replace the Stars and Stripes with a new national flag in the same way that they want to replace Old Folks at Home as Florida's state song because it allegedly glorifies slavery?

James Nelson, Largo

## LET OLD GLORY BE OUR RESPONSE

Sore losers

The flag that will be displayed east of Tampa will surely do wonders for the current high vacancy rates and plummeting housing prices in our areas. I am sure that businesses and young professionals are just going to flock to our area now. And I am sure the group that sponsored the flag had all our best interests at heart. Yes, I am being sarcastic, but I don't know how else to respond.

I guess a museum honoring the Confederacy is just too "highfalutin" for their taste, or maybe just too much work.

Phrases like "self-indulgent" and "sore loser" come to mind. But what this really reminds me of is what a former boss of mine (born and raised in Atlanta) used to say: "Save your Dixie Cups - the South will rise again!" Good luck to us all.

Angela Welsh, Spring Hill

Accusation needs a defense

In the United States of America you are considered innocent until proven guilty. Now all those Southerners who honor their ancestors, and the most recognized symbol of their heritage, the Confederate battle flag, are accused of being racists. Even our elected officials seem to endorse this view of Southern history. It appears it is now the unofficial position of the Hillsborough County Commission that it is okay to insult and belittle Southerners and their symbols. Try doing that to any other minority group and see what happens.

I proposed a reasonable solution: a televised debate, monitored by a local university. Honorable people wouldn't make such an accusation without being willing to defend their assertion. Commissioners should either defend their position, or apologize, and sign the Southern Heritage proclamation. Do the honorable thing. Name the place, and the time. We will meet you on the intellectual battlefield.

Bart Siegel, Temple Terrace

Learn about tolerance

Flying the Confederate flag so prominently is an affront to every African-American and to those of us who uphold our Constitution.

I agree that our history cannot be changed and that history should not be forgotten.

I do not feel that we should honor the principles of the Confederacy. Should the Nazi flag be flown in honor of the Holocaust? We should not forget the horrors of the Holocaust or of slavery.

We can learn lessons of tolerance and humanity from them rather than to pay tribute to them.

Renee G. Salzer, Seminole

Indecent display

Once again, Hillsborough County is embarrassed. I'll concede that it is okay for these folks to memorialize their ancestors who fought and died for the "right" to enslave their fellow human beings, but do they need to have a monstrosity like that so visible?

Yes, there is the First Amendment, but may God forgive these people of their indecency.

Dave Cutler, Tampa

Upstart muddies the waters - June 5 and Now, let facts speak on stadium proposal June 6

In stadium debate, let's keep things civil

## LET OLD GLORY BE OUR RESPONSE

Being on the receiving end of two editorials in two days, both of which personally attacked me, I would like to correct some impressions.

I suppose it should be considered a compliment to be called an "upstart" 34 years after I began working in the Legislature, primarily on environmental and energy issues.

As a new member of the St. Petersburg City Council, the worst part of this process has been the lack of respect that people show for other opinions. Your editorial continues this kind of personal assault that does nothing to contribute to the rational discussion of the biggest public project the community has ever considered.

The editorials underestimate the public's ability to understand the issues at hand. The airport referendum of a few years ago had two separate questions on the ballot. The public did not have trouble deciding how to vote and showed no evidence of confusion. The drumbeat to "let us vote," regardless of the financial arrangements on the stadium question, has been clear. I believe the public is smart enough to decide if they want a waterfront stadium and if they want to limit the density of the Al Lang site.

The stadium and redevelopment of the Tropicana Field site are complicated financial deals. My 25 years of business experience has been quite helpful in working through these issues. I believe my responsibility is to ask the hard questions up front so that the voters have a clear understanding of cost to the taxpayers and the possible results. That is why I suggested this week that if the cost to clean up the Trop is only \$100,000 that we should go ahead and do that during the off-season and be done with it. It is why I asked for the net property taxes, after our added expenses, that the Trop redevelopment proposals will bring.

Please be assured that I will continue to float ideas for change in an effort to improve our community. Not every idea will be a good one, and you will not agree with all of them. However, we will all be better off to keep the discussions civil and not personal.

Karl Nurse, City Council, District 6, St. Petersburg

New stadium for the Rays

Act before baseball leaves

I am so tired of the no-change-is-good people (POWW - Preserve Our Wallets and Waterfront) acting as if they know what the citizenry is thinking. I believe the design for the new stadium is impressive. I also think that the people who want their downtown to be quiet need to move to the south beaches where that philosophy has created a financial wasteland.

I believe the argument that we'll build a new stadium when they fill this one is completely misleading. Tropicana Field is an awful baseball stadium and anyone who has been to a great stadium will tell you that.

Baseball commissioner Bud Selig has put the writing on the wall. A small-market team with an engaging, exciting ballpark may yet continue to be the home of major-league baseball. Otherwise, we will be watching the Rays play on TV in Memphis.

Let's vote on this, and soon, before baseball and the Rays ownership leave us with vacant pieces of land.

Keith Richardson, St. Petersburg

Parking is a key problem

Not only do I regularly attend Rays games, I also regularly spend evenings in downtown St. Petersburg at the Mahaffey, at events in Vinoy Park, attending the theater or movies and patronizing several of the fine restaurants. Parking is already a problem in downtown St. Petersburg, without the Rays being downtown. Adding 5,000 or more cars trying to park downtown for a baseball game 81 days and nights per year will make a total mess of the downtown traffic.



## LET OLD GLORY BE OUR RESPONSE

I am for a new stadium for the Rays but not in the downtown location. I can hardly find a parking space on many nights now.

If by some miracle the Rays win approval to move downtown, their already low attendance will fall lower with the parking scheme they now propose. In their own best interests and in the interest of their fans, they must include a parking garage and include the cost of building it. The footprint of the intended site is too small to provide sufficient parking and that is why I am against it in this location.

Let them find another site if they can't make the Trop work. Build the parking required and include it in the cost of the project.

Gene Armentrout, Pinellas Park

Think about the water

There are many good-faith reasons to oppose the building of a new stadium proposed by the Rays, but the one that concerns me the most is the adverse effect it would have on the infrastructure of our city, primarily the water supply. Where will the water come from?

Water shortages are not temporary. They have been a problem at least since the late 1970s when I had a summer place on Sanibel and during the 23 years I have lived here in St. Petersburg. They are not going away.

Pinellas County is already the most densely populated county in the state, and the construction of homes, condos and business establishments with the attendant increase in population would only increase this water problem - a problem that should be solved before any serious consideration of a new stadium should be undertaken.

This is my primary reason for opposing this proposal.

John Will, St. Petersburg

Pandering to blacks

Well, you are to be congratulated. You did a marvelous job of presenting the black community to the majority white community that your "newspaper" serves. Let us see what we have.

Well, as starters, we have a very interesting story, with pictures, of black children being schooled in manners. This is a remarkable story for Page 1 of the Memorial Day issue - so timely. I couldn't think of a more appropriate story for the occasion. Next, we have another marvelous story, again with pictures, about the black marching band - this being on the front page of the Clearwater Times. Not to be outdone, another fine story, with pictures, titled Tender loving care appears, where else but on the front page of the May 25 Floridian section. And let's not miss the interesting story, with pictures, An uphill mission, which adorns the front page of the Tampa Bay section on the same day.

As I said earlier, you are really to be congratulated but, unfortunately, not for putting out a class newspaper but instead a mirror image of Ebony magazine. I am just about prepared to cancel my daily/weekend subscription to your "rag" and go to your competitor paper which, I hope, will present more relative reading matter to a nonblack reader.

Can you in any way explain this obvious pandering? I can't. Maybe I'm just not with the times or maybe I'm nitpicking. What do you think? Should I be more "understanding" of the times? I wish you could tell me where I am wrong so that I may sit back and enjoy true reporting of the "news."

Richard Wilson, Safety Harbor

1 year after Gaza takeover, **Hamas** has complete control - June 2, story

Prisoners of **Hamas**

## LET OLD GLORY BE OUR RESPONSE

The AP, in writing its article, misses a few critical points that must be considered before making judgment about the past year of Hamas rule in Gaza.

First, when Israel turned Gaza over to the Palestinians the area had a basic economy on which to begin building a strong economic base. These were Israeli businesses - mostly hothouses that export their crops - that were sold to the Palestinian government through Turkish intermediaries so that they could continue employing thousands of their people. It also had a basic infrastructure, with promises from a number of countries, including the United States, to help refine and expand it.

Once Hamas took over, it placed the 1.5-million people there under a dictatorship that disregarded economic growth and the basic needs of its people. These Palestinians are now prisoners of Hamas in Gaza.

To make matters worse, after getting the land it wanted, rather than living side-by-side with Israel Hamas began attacking Israeli nonmilitary communities along its borders with rockets. And, like any nation would, Israel has had to respond to protect its citizens. If Hamas had not taken that course, there would never have been justification for Israel to institute its blockade. The hope in Israel has been, and remains, that the blockade would eventually encourage the Palestinians to revolt against the oppression of Hamas and return to developing its economy and improving the life of its citizens.

One final point: Even with Hamas continuing its terrorist attacks on Israel, Israel still supplies Gaza with nearly all of its essential water and electricity. What other country would do that for its enemy?

Lawrence Silver, Oldsmar

Pesticide worries surface - June 3, story

Worries not well founded

Responding to your article about our product Curfew, just last year U.S. Environmental Protection Agency conducted a detailed assessment that found potential exposures to bystanders (i.e., nearby residents) from authorized uses of the active ingredient 1,3-D to fall well below levels of regulatory concern from the standpoint of health and safety. Far from being inconclusive, as reported in the article, EPA's conclusion - reached after considering all potential risks to human health - is posted on the agency's Web site and is a matter of public record.

Contrary to the impression left by your article that turf applications are somehow less protective because the product is injected 5 inches below the soil's surface (while in agriculture the injection takes place 7 inches deeper) farm applications can use up to 10 times the product per acre as is used on turf. The difference in application reflects regulatory conclusions about the potential for bystander exposure based on these different rates of use.

Contrary to a quote attributed to a third party in your article that grounds managers can use "something else," due to stringent regulations there are few alternative products registered in the United States today for the control of turf nematodes, and most or all of those that remain have also been objects of "pesticide worries."

Failure to control nematodes on golf courses can impair playability and require increased watering and greater use of fertilizers (also a frequent object of societal concern) to offset damage. In extreme cases, greens and fairways can be a total loss.

Use of Curfew offers a practical solution to these problems - a solution thoroughly evaluated by regulators, who have concluded after detailed assessment that residential exposures from labeled use fall well within established health and safety guidelines.

Garry Hamlin, Dow AgroSciences, Indianapolis

The roar of hollow patriotism - May 28, Garrison Keillor column

An insult to patriots

## LET OLD GLORY BE OUR RESPONSE

Garrison Keillor insults all our patriotic ex-servicemen and women and their families who have endured considerable hardship so he can go to a museum. His worst insult is when he is offended by motorcycle-riding ex-servicemen who are flying American flags and black MIA-POW flags.

Evidently Keillor was never in the service. If he was, please advise what branch of the service, how long and how many battle stars he achieved.

Bill Reichle, St. Petersburg

Letters criticizing Garrison Keillor - June 2

No apology is needed

The two letters admonishing Garrison Keillor for his Memorial Day article are so politically correct that they demand a rebuttal. My 25 years in the U.S. Air Force included a Vietnam tour. My sons tell me I am seriously patriotic, but I see no patriotism in grown men assuaging their waning mid-to-late-life hormones by donning head scarves, sporting pony tails, and creating noxious fumes and earsplitting noise pollution to show they "actually care about the fallen who gave the most anyone can give."

Beware the physically able veteran who wears his heart on his sleeve. Keillor's observations are right on. He owes me no apology.

Anthony Skey, St. Petersburg

## Graphic

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PHOTO, CARRIE PRATT, Times: Sons of Confederate Veterans flew a battle flag on Tuesday near a busy Hillsborough County intersection. The flag was then taken down but will rise again later as part of a memorial.

**Load-Date:** June 7, 2008

## *Israel's accountability problem*

The Jerusalem Post  
March 28, 2008 Friday

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**Section:** OPINION; Pg. 24

**Length:** 1946 words

**Byline:** Caroline B. Glick

**Highlight:** COLUMN ONE

### **Body**

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On April 10 two brothers are scheduled to begin serving prison sentences for a crime they never committed. Yitzhak and Daniel Halamish were convicted of aggravated assault and were sentenced respectively, to seven and eight months in jail.

The two men, who live in Ma'aleh Rehavam south of Bethlehem, were arrested on February 22, 2004. The day before their arrest, the brothers were serving as IDF- trained and armed security guards in their community. They were called by Baruch Feldbaum, the head of security at the neighboring Sde Bar community, to assist him in dispersing an illegal gathering of Beduin in land adjacent to Sde Bar.

Feldbaum's concern over the gathering was heightened because Beduin shepherds are suspected of having carried out a number of unsolved terrorist murders in the area. These include the murder by stoning of 14-year-olds Kobi Mandell and Yosef Ish-Ran on May 8, 2001. Feldbaum feared that the Beduin were conducting surveillance of the community ahead of a future attack.

Armed with their IDF-issued M-16 rifles, augmented in Yitzhak's case by a handgun, the Halamish brothers rushed to the scene. Once they arrived the two were surrounded by some 20 rock and club-wielding Beduin. In an attempt to disperse the hostile crowd, and enable the Halamish brothers to escape unharmed, Feldbaum shot a warning shot into the ground. Yitzhak Halamish similarly shot a warning shot in the air with his handgun. The two brothers then pushed their way out of the crowd.

Later in the day, the Beduin filed a complaint with the police against the three guards. They alleged that Feldbaum and the Halamish brothers all shot at them with their rifles and beat them with their fists.

The issue of who was telling the truth was not a purely subjective question of whom to believe. When the police arrested the Halamish brothers, they also seized their rifles. The Halamish brothers had both denied ever shooting their rifles at the scene. Had the police wished to objectively weigh the credibility of the two sides, they could have conducted ballistic tests of the rifles to determine whether or not they had been used. But they did no such thing. Rather, they indicted Feldbaum and the Halamish brothers for aggravated assault and sent them to trial.

Feldbaum was found guilty based on his admission that he shot his rifle. He was sentenced to nine months in prison. His sentence was later reduced to six months community service by then president Moshe Katsav.

## Israel 's accountability problem

Given their denials of ever shooting their rifles, the Halamish brothers were convicted based on the Magistrate Court judge's decision to believe the Beduins' accusations and reject their defense. In his ruling, Judge Amnon Cohen did not take the police's decision not to conduct ballistic tests of their weapons into consideration. His convictions were upheld on appeal to the Jerusalem District Court. The Supreme Court refused to consider the case.

Attorney Yoram Sheftel, who represented the brothers on appeal, focused his arguments on the police's refusal to conduct ballistic tests of their rifles. According to Sheftel, in standard criminal cases, police refusal to examine potentially exculpatory evidence is grounds for an automatic dismissal of charges. In convicting the Halamish brothers and upholding their convictions, Sheftel argues that the courts ignored standard criminal procedures.

Today, with the courts closed to them, the Halamishs' only hope for avoiding prison is a presidential pardon.

Supporters of the Halamish brothers have launched an interesting campaign to lobby for clemency. They have asked for US citizens to call the office of Israel's military attache at the Israeli Embassy in Washington and demand that the IDF advance their pardon requests with the Justice Ministry and Beit Hanassi. Since the Halamish brothers were effectively acting as soldiers while performing their security responsibilities, their supporters contend that the IDF is honor-bound to defend them.

But the campaign doesn't stop there. Supporters have also asked US citizens to contact their Congressmen and ask them to send inquiries about the case to the embassy. Finally, they have asked US citizens to contact the State Department and complain that the State Department's Human Rights report on Israel is silent on the government's abuse of Jewish civil rights.

THE NOTION of running a campaign for an Israeli presidential pardon of Israeli citizens in the US is alarming for what it says about the Halamish supporters' perception of Israeli democracy. Specifically, as Datya Yitzhaki from Pidyon Shevuim who has spearheaded the campaign argues, they believe that domestic pressure will have no impact on either Israeli political leaders or on the justice system because in their view the Olmert-Livni- Barak government feels no need to account for its actions to Israeli citizens. Indeed, they contend that the only force that can hold the government and the legal system accountable is international pressure and fear of international condemnation.

Organizations like Women in Green and Pidyon Shevuim who are running the campaign cite as precedent the case of Tzvia Sariel. Sariel, 18, was arrested last December on assault charges. She was accused of attacking Arabs who entered her community of Eilon Moreh on December 4. Sariel was incarcerated for three and a half months.

On March 5, the allegedly assaulted Arabs appeared in Kfar Saba Magistrate Court and recanted their accusations against Sariel. One claimed that since he is illiterate, he had no idea what he was signing when he signed his complaint against her. Yet, despite the fact that the prosecution's case fell apart in front of her, trial judge Nava Bechor ordered a continuance until April 4 and sent Sariel back to prison for another month.

An outcry ensued and activists in the US began calling the embassy and the State Department. On March 19, Bechor dismissed charges against Sariel and sent her home. Her supporters believe that without their US campaign, Sariel would still be sitting in prison for a crime that she didn't commit.

Depressingly, activists fighting against civil rights abuses of right-wing opponents of government policies are probably on to something. Through their own actions, Israel's leaders show daily that they are willing to ignore strategic imperatives and their domestic political opponents. Their actions show that indeed, the only pressure that seems to get them to change course is international pressure.

Take Foreign Minister Tzipi Livni for example. Since assuming office two years ago, Livni has repeated at countless public appearances that Israel supports a "two- state solution." By couching her government's support for the establishment of a Palestinian state in these terms, Livni implicitly (and often explicitly) argues that Israel - which has existed for 60 years and whose legitimacy is rationally inarguable - can only exist legitimately if a Palestinian state is established. By making this assertion Livni effectively places Israel's right to exist on the negotiating table.

## Israel 's accountability problem

And yet, for his part, Palestinian Authority Chairman Mahmoud Abbas has repeatedly repudiated Israel's right to exist. By agreeing to negotiate the "two-state solution" with a man who rejects Israel's right to exist, Livni, Prime Minister Ehud Olmert, Defense Minister Ehud Barak and their colleagues are effectively saying that what reality exposes, and Israel's citizenry supports, is irrelevant. The Palestinians alone can confer legitimacy on Israel. And of course, as Abbas has made clear repeatedly, they never will.

In a speech this week to the foreign press corps, Olmert similarly demonstrated that the only support he is interested in securing is foreign support. During his remarks, Olmert claimed that he wishes to conduct negotiations with the Syrian regime towards the surrender of the Golan Heights to Syria. Olmert's statement came just days after President Shimon Peres publicly opposed such negotiations on strategic grounds. In remarks Sunday during a joint press appearance with visiting US Vice President Richard Cheney, Peres explained that Israel has no interest in conducting negotiations with Syria because, "If the Golan is given back, it will boost Iran's influence in Lebanon and the territory will effectively be under Iranian-Syrian control." But when he spoke approvingly of talks aimed at surrendering the Golan Heights to Iranian- Syrian control, Olmert was not concerned with strategic realities. He was similarly unconcerned with what the Israeli public - which opposes such negotiations - believes is in Israel's national interest.

When Olmert made that statement he was interested in what the international, overwhelmingly anti-Israel media would think and write about him personally. And so he went on record supporting an initiative that undercuts Israel's national interests.

Finally, there is Barak's behavior in advance of Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice's arrival in Israel on Saturday night. When Rice was in Israel on March 4, she pressured the Olmert-Livni-Barak government to abandon efforts to secure southern Israel from Hamas's missile campaign in favor of a cease-fire with the Iranian proxy movement. Eager to please her, the government ordered IDF units to beat a speedy retreat from Gaza.

Today, although the government continues to restrain the IDF, the cease-fire is a joke. Over the past two weeks alone, the Palestinians have launched more than a hundred rockets and mortar shells at Israel. They have further augmented their attacks with sniper fire against Israeli farmers tending fields along the border with Gaza. Hamas is openly using the respite to replenish its arsenals and expand its control over the lives of Gaza's citizens. Moreover, unopposed by Israel, Hamas has succeeded in forcing Egypt to release Hamas terror masters from jail, and has convinced Fatah to negotiate the reestablishment of a unity government with Hamas.

Rice is expected to continue pressuring Israel to let Hamas continue to attack at will. She is also expected to attack Olmert, Livni and Barak for the IDF's counter-terror operations in Judea and Samaria.

In an effort to preempt her assault, Barak announced this week that Israel will allow the PA to import some 600 armored personnel carriers from Russia and deploy hundreds of Fatah forces in terror-infested Jenin. He also agreed to ease travel restrictions on Palestinians in Judea and Samaria.

Barak knows full well that these actions will imperil Israel's security. His own people refer to the moves as "calculated risks." He knows full well that opposition leader Binyamin Netanyahu was right when he warned on Wednesday that "those weapons will be turned against IDF soldiers." He knows that by curbing counter-terror operations he will imperil Israeli civilians. But here too, Israel's inherent right to self-defense and the government's sovereign duty to secure the country and its citizens is ignored by the government in order to win points with foreigners whose interests are far from identical to Israel's.

THE HALAMISH brothers' supporters are not people who reject Israel's legitimacy. They certainly would never deny its right to defend itself. Indeed, they are among the most vocal opponents of foreign onslaughts against Israel.

It is a sad commentary on the state of Israeli democracy that patriotic Israelis have come to the disheartening view that their only chance of receiving justice in Israel is to take their campaign to foreign governments. By inducing them to feel this way, the Olmert- Livni-Barak government is taking another step towards the delegitimization of Israeli sovereignty.

**Load-Date:** October 4, 2011

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## World datelines

Deseret Morning News (Salt Lake City)

March 1, 2008 Saturday

Copyright 2008 The Deseret News Publishing Co.

**Length:** 515 words

**Byline:** Compiled from Deseret Morning News wire services

## **Body**

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Israel: Violence escalates

JERUSALEM -- Israel's deputy defense minister warned of disaster in the Gaza Strip after Palestinian rocket fire grew more ominous Friday with an assault on an Israeli city. Gaza's unbowed **Hamas** rulers promised to fight on.

Meanwhile, **Hamas** said a 13-month-old girl and three other civilians were killed in an Israeli strike on Beit Hanoun, a northern town in Gaza where Palestinian militants often launch rockets at Israel. But local residents said a militant rocket fell short and landed in the area of the baby's house.

The escalating violence comes ahead of Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice's visit to the region next week.

France: Model found dead

PARIS -- The body of Katoucha Niane, one of the first African **women** to attain international stardom as a model and a vocal opponent of **female** genital mutilation, was found in the Seine River, police said Friday.

Known simply as Katoucha, the former top model for Yves Saint Laurent and other top designers was found Thursday near the Garigliano bridge in Paris, judicial police in Paris said. An autopsy showed no signs of foul play, pointing to the possibility that the 47-year-old may have fallen accidentally into the river, they said.

Haiti: Thousands protest

PORT-AU-PRINCE -- Protesters jammed the streets of Haiti's capital Friday to mark the fourth anniversary of former President Jean-Bertrand Aristide's ouster, with thousands marching to the presidential palace to demand his return from exile.

The peaceful crowd, estimated by police at 5,000, also criticized President Rene Preval and the U.N. peacekeeping force that has been in place since Aristide's departure, blaming them for rising food prices and rampant unemployment.

Iraq: Archbishop kidnapped

BAGHDAD -- Gunmen kidnapped a Chaldean Catholic archbishop Friday in the northern Iraqi city of Mosul, police and the church said, in another attack targeting Iraq's small Christian community.

The gunmen killed three people who were with Archbishop Paulos Faraj Rahho after he ended a Mass at a nearby church, said Iraqi Brig. Gen. Khalid Abdul Sattar, a spokesman for the Ninevah province police. An aide to Iraq's



## World datelines

Cardinal Emmanuel III Delly, leader of the church, said he did not know who was behind the kidnapping of the 65-year-old archbishop.

Kenya: Leader backs sharing

NAIROBI -- Kenya's opposition leader said Friday he expects a new power-sharing agreement to succeed, two months after a disputed presidential election set off violence that tarnished the country's reputation for stability.

Raila Odinga will be prime minister under the deal he struck Thursday with President Mwai Kibaki. Odinga accused Kibaki of stealing the Dec. 27 election, and fighting over their dispute killed more than 1,000 people and forced 600,000 from their homes.

"If I did not believe in its ability to work I would not have entered it," Odinga said.

Peru: 15 die in ferry accident

LIMA -- A boat ferrying passengers and cargo through the Peruvian jungle capsized on a remote river, killing 15 people and leaving 20 missing, officials said Friday.

Seven people survived.

**Load-Date:** March 1, 2008

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## *In short*

The Irish Times

March 13, 2008 Thursday

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**Section:** WORLD; Other World Stories; Pg. 13

**Length:** 497 words

## **Body**

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Today's stories in brief

British bomb kills Afghan civilians

LONDON - Four civilians died in an air strike ordered by British forces in southern Afghanistan, Britain's ministry of defence said yesterday.

The strike was called in after Taliban militants ambushed British troops in the southern province of Helmand, the ministry said. The dead included two women and two children and a fifth person was injured.

"We deeply regret that this incident happened and do everything we can to mitigate this happening," the ministry said. - (Reuters)

US criticises Egyptian arrests

WASHINGTON - The White House said yesterday it was concerned by a "campaign of arrests" in Egypt of people involved in upcoming elections.

Since mid-February, Egypt has detained more than 350 members of the Muslim Brotherhood, Egypt's strongest opposition force. The detentions coincide with a 10-day registration period for candidates seeking to participate in local elections on April 8th. - (Reuters)

Gunman kills child witness

SOFIA - A gunman shot dead a 15-year-old girl and wounded two other children at a Bulgarian orphanage on Wednesday before killing himself, police said.

The 67-year-old killer had been investigated over alleged sexual abuse of one of the wounded children, a police official said. The dead girl had been summoned as a witness in the case.

Police denied media reports that the man was a former supervisor who was fired from the care home for orphans and abandoned children in Tran, a town 90 km (55 miles) west of Sofia. - (Reuters)

Israel blacklists Al-Jazeera

## In short

JERUSALEM - Israel said on Wednesday it would no longer co-operate with the influential Arabic television station Al-Jazeera, accusing it of one-sided reporting that favours the Palestinian militant group **Hamas**. Israeli officials said the government would not grant interviews to the Qatar-based satellite station and could deny visas to its employees due to its coverage of fighting between Israel and militants in the **Hamas**-controlled Gaza Strip.

Al-Jazeera denied having any bias. - (Reuters)

Mafioso too fat for jail, court told

ROME - A court in Sicily has ruled that an accused Mafioso can be put under house arrest because he is too fat for any Italian jail.

Salvatore Ferranti, who weighs 210 kg (462 pounds), was allowed to go home after spending six months in four Italian prisons, says his lawyer. Guards at the first two prisons said they constantly needed to help Ferranti (36) get dressed and undressed, move about and go to the bathroom. Guards at other prisons said there was no bed big enough for him. - (Reuters)

Police chief's death mystery

LONDON - A postmortem carried out on the chief constable of Greater Manchester Police, Michael Todd has revealed no obvious cause of death, the coroner's office said.

Mr Todd was found dead at the foot of a cliff in north Wales on Tuesday. He had spoken of personal problems before his death but police denied reports that suicide notes had been found. - (Reuters)

**Load-Date:** March 13, 2008

## *Israel lets supplies through*

The Leader-Post (Regina, Saskatchewan)

January 23, 2008 Wednesday

Final Edition

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**Section:** NEWS; Pg. D8

**Length:** 482 words

**Byline:** Matthew Fisher, Canwest News Service

**Dateline:** JERUSALEM

### **Body**

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JERUSALEM -- Israel made its first fuel, food and medical deliveries to Gaza since last week on Tuesday, as Egyptian troops used gunfire and water cannons to quell a demonstration on its border with the Palestinian territory where hundreds of women demanded entry to purchase goods denied to them by the Israeli blockade of the territory.

At least 10 people were injured, including an Egyptian soldier who was shot during the protest, which was caused by Egypt's refusal to open the Rafah crossing.

The only border crossing with Gaza not controlled by Israel is under UN supervision.

Israeli tanker trucks and a pipeline began to pump the first of more than two million litres of fuel into Gaza at dawn Tuesday.

Hours later, several trucks loaded with emergency medical supplies and wheat and rice from the UN's World Food Program moved across the Kerem Shalom crossing, sealed Thursday by Israel in retaliation for hundreds of rockets being fired into the Jewish state.

Tuesday's limited imports, which included enough fuel to supply Gaza's only power plant for several days, arrived as five more rockets were fired into Israel and snipers fired shots into border kibbutzes from the coastal enclave.

Israel's about-face on cutting Gaza off from the world came after warnings of a looming humanitarian crisis in Gaza from Arab states and many allies, including the United States, and threats from the Palestinian Authority to abandon peace talks that have been struggling since they were revived two months ago.

While welcoming Israel's slight easing of the blockade, John Ging, the UN's lead representative in the territory, told a news conference in Gaza City that what had happened since the borders were sealed last week is a reminder that most of the territory's 1.5 million residents could not survive for long without food from outside.

"We are teetering for the past seven months on the brink of a catastrophe," said Ging, who is from the UN's Relief and Works Agency.

## Israel lets supplies through

Israel's limited reversal of its border closure was the result of international pressure, government officials said, but a one-day measure due to its own review of the situation, which included a sharp reduction in rocket fire since the weekend.

However, **Hamas** leader Khaled Meshaal said Tuesday in Damascus that the rocket attacks would continue.

"Let Israel stop its aggression and its occupation of Palestinian land and the resistance, including rockets, will stop," Meshaal told Reuters. "If the Zionists make an offer, we will study it. Our cause is based on steadfastness and patience. The enemy will not break us."

Israel's position at the United Nations and at home has been that **Hamas**, which is considered a terrorist organization by Canada, had exaggerated the humanitarian situation in Gaza and that the sudden reduction in rocket fire was proof that its measures had reduced the risk of rockets hitting its citizens.

**Load-Date:** January 23, 2008

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## *Israel's next big hope*

Christian Science Monitor

September 19, 2008, Friday

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**Section:** EDITORIAL; Pg. 8

**Length:** 548 words

**Byline:** the Monitor's Editorial Board

### **Body**

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With peace prospects in poor shape, Israelis might be ready for a new type of leader. Tzipi Livni, who was elected Wednesday to head Israel's ruling party, has led negotiations with the Palestinians. If anything, her optimism and an eagerness to clean up Israeli politics could cut the somber mood in the Middle East.

Like the stalemate itself between Israel and the Palestinians, Ms. Livni has a thin reed on which to build peace. She won the contest to head the Kadima party by a slim margin. Only about half of eligible voters cast ballots. In order to become prime minister, she must cobble together a coalition with other parties that hold very different ideas of Israel's future.

Not to pile on bad news, but there's also a cloud over her party. Is Kadima, which means forward in Hebrew, really committed to an independent Palestinian state?

Founded three years ago by then-Prime Minister Ariel Sharon, the party split off from the right-wing Likud party over a recognition that Israel could not hold onto the West Bank and Gaza Strip. To keep a grip on a Palestinian population that would eventually outnumber Israelis was to accept a demographic time bomb and face a strategic disaster if more Arab states don't accept Israel. It would be better, the party reasoned, to let the Palestinians fend for themselves in limbo, build a border wall, and cope with any suicide bombers who slip through.

The first step in Kadima's new approach was withdrawal of Israeli troops and settlers from Gaza. That backfired when the Islamic militant group ***Hamas*** took over, leaving the government on the West Bank, led by Fatah leader Mahmoud Abbas, as a weak negotiating partner.

Compounding the problem was the political fragility of the current prime minister, Ehud Olmert. He bungled the 2006 war with Lebanon and is dogged by corruption charges. Under United States pressure, he revived talks for a two-state solution, trying to build on the failed Oslo accords of 1993.

The imperative for a peace deal remains even if both sides are in despair. Iran looms as a threat if it acquires nuclear-bomb capability. And Iran's friends - Hezbollah, ***Hamas***, and Syria - are in front-line positions to hurt Israel. The US is also eager for a Palestinian state to eliminate one more excuse for Al Qaeda to recruit terrorists.

Any of Israel's enemies might be quick to test Livni. She is cut from a different cloth than many past leaders, including the first ***female*** prime minister, Golda Meir. She comes from a super-nationalist family, served in the Army and as an intelligence agent, and then worked as a lawyer before entering politics in 1999. She's most admired for espousing clean politics.

## Israel 's next big hope

Her popularity is needed to reengage Israelis in a search for peace and to find a new balance in Israel's splintered politics. As foreign minister, she's also been a serious negotiator with the Palestinians for more than a year. Her first goal if she becomes prime minister should be to achieve a consensus over compromises needed to cement peace. The Oslo Accords fell apart because they lacked wide support among Israelis and Palestinians.

Regional threats to Israel remain and Palestinians still deserve a homeland. Despite slim support, Livni brings hope of progress.

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**Load-Date:** September 18, 2008

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## *Aid trickles in as women stage border protest*

The Gazette (Montreal)  
January 23, 2008 Wednesday  
Final Edition

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**Section:** NEWS; Pg. A16

**Length:** 483 words

**Byline:** MATTHEW FISHER, Canwest News Service

**Dateline:** JERUSALEM

### **Body**

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Israel made its first fuel, food and medical deliveries yesterday to Gaza since last week, as Egyptian troops used gunfire and water cannons to quell a demonstration on its border with the Palestinian territory where hundreds of women demanded entry to buy goods denied to them by the Israeli blockade.

At least 10 people were injured, including an Egyptian soldier who was shot during the protest, which was caused by Egypt's refusal to open the Rafah crossing.

The only border crossing with Gaza not controlled by Israel, it is under UN supervision.

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Israel's limited reversal of its border closing was the result of international pressure, government officials said, but a one-day measure because of its own review of the situation, which included a sharp reduction in rocket fire since the weekend.

However, Hamas leader Khaled Meshaal said yesterday in Damascus that the rocket attacks would continue.

"Let Israel stop its aggression and its occupation of Palestinian land and the resistance, including rockets, will stop," Meshaal told Reuters. "If the Zionists make an offer, we will study it. Our cause is based on steadfastness and patience. The enemy will not break us." Because of U.S. and French objections, the UN Security Council, which met in emergency session in New York to discuss Gaza, was not expected to adopt a Libyan motion condemning Israel for closing its borders with the territory.

Israel's position has been that Hamas had exaggerated the humanitarian situation in Gaza and that the sudden reduction in rocket fire was proof that its measures had reduced the risk of rockets hitting its citizens.



## Aid trickles in as women stage border protest

The World Food Program recommended in a report yesterday that fuel imports to Gaza be immediately restarted "to avert an acute humanitarian crisis," that there be "unhindered" border crossings allowed for a minimum of five days a week and that it be allowed to replenish its depleted wheat and live animal stocks in Gaza.

Half of Gaza's bakeries had closed because they did not have fuel or wheat to continue operating, the WFP said. Imported commercial and humanitarian aid entering Gaza during the past five weeks had only been 43 per cent of the territory's basic needs, the agency said.

There was, it said, only enough wheat stored in Gaza to feed people there for nine days.

**Load-Date:** January 23, 2008

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## **POPE, MALIKI DISCUSS PLIGHT OF IRAQI REFUGEES**

Pittsburgh Post-Gazette (Pennsylvania)

July 26, 2008 Saturday

SOONER EDITION

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**Section:** WORLD; WORLD BRIEFS; Pg. A-4

**Length:** 521 words

### **Body**

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VATICAN CITY -- Pope Benedict XVI urged the world to help Iraqis who have fled their country and called for better protection for Christians inside Iraq during talks yesterday with Iraq's prime minister, the Vatican said.

The struggle against terrorism and the need for religious freedom also were central issues in the talks with Prime Minister Nouri al-Maliki, said the Rev. Federico Lombardi, a Vatican spokesman.

Mr. Maliki, who is on a European tour, met with Benedict at his vacation palace in Castel Gandolfo south of Rome.

Cyprus reunification talks

NICOSIA, Cyprus -- Rival Greek and Turkish Cypriot leaders said yesterday they will start historic reunification talks on Sept. 3, ending years of deadlock and sparking hope that the island's 34-year division could finally end.

President Dimitris Christofias, who is Greek Cypriot, and Turkish Cypriot leader Mehmet Ali Talat agreed on the date after meeting in the buffer zone dividing the two communities.

Any agreement that Mr. Christofias and Mr. Talat might reach in the talks will be put to simultaneous referendums on both sides of the island, the statement said.

47 die in boating accident

KINSHASA, Congo -- At least 47 people died when a motorized boat sank on a river in Congo, and more than 100 people are missing, a district official said yesterday.

The boat was carrying at least 182 passengers, mostly merchants but also women and children, an official of the central African country said.

It sank Tuesday night after it left the Congo town of Mobayi Bongo, 700 miles northeast of Congo's capital, Kinshasa. It was navigating the Ubangi river, headed for the Central African Republic, which shares a border with Congo.

'Sound of Music' daughter

VIENNA, Austria -- Seventy years after fleeing the Nazis, a woman whose family was immortalized in "The Sound of Music" has returned to Austria to visit her former home.

## POPE, MALIKI DISCUSS PLIGHT OF IRAQI REFUGEES

"I'm back home again," 93-year-old Maria von Trapp told reporters in Salzburg yesterday after spending several nights in her childhood house, which has been transformed into a hotel.

Located in a posh part of Salzburg, the "Villa Trapp" once belonged to the von Trapps, who gained global fame in the 1965 blockbuster starring Julie Andrews, which tells the story of an Austrian woman who marries a widower with seven children and teaches them music.

The hotel is expected to officially open its doors to guests in October. Fans from around the world will have the chance to spend a night or two in the house the von Trapps called home between 1923 and 1938 before emigrating to the United States.

Blasts in Gaza kill 5

GAZA CITY, Gaza Strip -- A powerful explosion ripped through a car on a busy Gaza City beach last night, killing a **Hamas** field commander and three other people, security officials said.

It was the third unexplained blast of the day in this coastal territory after a relatively calm period since Israel and the Islamic militants of **Hamas** agreed on a cease-fire last month. A total of five people died from the explosions, and 23 suffered injuries.

No one in Gaza blamed Israel for the violence, indicating it was likely Palestinian infighting.

**Load-Date:** July 29, 2008

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End of Document

## World datelines

Deseret Morning News (Salt Lake City)

May 12, 2008 Monday

Copyright 2008 The Deseret News Publishing Co.

**Length:** 541 words

### **Body**

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Austria: Naked photo shoot

VIENNA, Austria -- The man behind the camera had three requests for his subjects: no sunglasses, no smiling and no underwear.

The latest work by New York photographer Spencer Tunick gathered 1,840 people, baring it all in Austria's Happel Stadium on Sunday.

Much of the hours-long photo shoot had little to do with soccer, with naked volunteers assuming different poses at the behest of the artist. But at least one of the photos had them with the ball, men first and then the women.

Gaza Strip: Power cutoff

GAZA CITY -- Gaza City residents faced closed bakeries, stalled elevators and no water on Sunday after the ruling Hamas shut down the territory's only power plant, saying it ran out of fuel supplied by Israel.

Israel charged that Hamas was creating an artificial crisis, raising tensions ahead of a visit by the Egyptian mediator trying to broker a truce between the two enemies.

Gaza receives its fuel supplies from Israel, which has severely limited shipments to pressure Palestinian militants to halt their rocket barrages at nearby Jewish communities.

Haiti: 11 die as ferry sinks

PORT-AU-PRINCE -- An overloaded ferry capsized off the coast of southern Haiti, killing at least 11 people, U.N. and Haitian authorities said Sunday.

U.N. peacekeeping mission spokesman David Wimhurst said most of the 100 people aboard the vessel were able to swim to safety. The boat sank after taking on water about 150 yards (150 meters) from shore late Saturday.

Crews recovered 11 bodies from the water according to Wimhurst and Mayor Evil Lavilette of Pestel, the ferry's departure point. At least five were children.

India: Fighting flares in Kashmir

SRINAGAR -- Indian forces and suspected Islamic militants clashed Sunday in two separate incidents in Indian-controlled Kashmir, killing seven people, including three civilians and a news photographer, the army said.

## World datelines

A soldier and two gunmen were also killed in the fighting, and one of the gunbattles continued to rage hours later with six suspected militants holed up in a house, Indian army spokesman Lt. Col. S.D. Goswami said.

## Mexico: Killings protested

CIUDAD JUAREZ -- Thousands of white-clad people marched silently Sunday to protest a surge of drug-related violence in a Mexican city across from Texas where the No. 2 police officer was shot dead.

The crowd of several thousand students, church leaders, businessmen and politicians walked for about four miles (six kilometers) across Ciudad Juarez to a park near a border crossing, breaking the silence in a burst of speeches, dancing and singing. More than 200 people have been killed so far this year in Ciudad Juarez.

## Sudan: Ties with Chad cut

KHARTOUM -- Sudan severed ties with Chad Sunday, accusing its neighbor of backing a rebel assault on the capital and raising the possibility of new border clashes that could worsen Darfur's humanitarian crisis.

A curfew was lifted in Sudan's capital but residents hunkered inside and security remained tight a day after the government repulsed an unprecedented assault on Khartoum by Darfur rebels.

DESERET NEWS, MONDAY, MAY 12, 2008

Children hug a palm tree to protest its removal from a promenade in Mumbai, India, where 84 trees are to be removed as part of a beautification plan.

**Load-Date:** May 12, 2008

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End of Document

## *Today in History*

Charleston Gazette (West Virginia)

June 14, 2008, Saturday

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**Section:** NEWS; Pg. P9C

**Length:** 585 words

### **Body**

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The Associated Press

- 1645 - Parliamentarian New Model Army under Oliver Cromwell routs Royalists at Naseby in England, deciding the Civil War.
- 1941 - U.S. President Franklin D. Roosevelt orders freezing of German and Italian assets in United States.
- 1959 - United States agrees to provide Greece with nuclear information and supply ballistic rockets.
- 1962 - European Space Research Organization is established in Paris.
- 1967 - U.S. Mariner spacecraft is launched toward Venus to discover if the planet can support life.
- 1975 - Soviet Union launches its second spacecraft in six days toward Venus for October rendezvous designed to land one or two capsules on planet.
- 1980 - United States rejects European call for participation of Palestine Liberation Organization in Middle East peace talks.
- 1982 - Argentine forces on the Falkland Islands surrender to the British, ending a 10-week war.
- 1987 - Pope John Paul II ends weeklong pilgrimage to his native Poland with stern lecture about human rights to nation's Communist leadership.
- 1991 - U.S. soldiers begin withdrawing from Dohuk in northern Iraq.
- 1992 - Serbs allegedly pile Bosnian prisoners into a bus near Sarajevo and then fire on it with anti-tank weapons and small arms, killing 47.
- 1993 - Prince Norodom Sihanouk is reinstated as Cambodian head of state.
- 1993 - Tansu Ciller becomes Turkey's first **female** prime minister after being elected leader of the center-right True Path Party.
- 1994 - Iraq's trade minister warns that farmers who do not sell their grain harvests to the state will have their hands cut off.

## Today in History

- 1995 - Chechen rebels take 1,500 hostages and seize government buildings in a well-planned attack on Budyonnovsk, a southern Russia town. At least 95 are killed in the raid.
- 1997 - Pol Pot is reported in Cambodia to be fleeing from the Khmer Rouge guerrillas he once commanded.
- 1999 - NATO peacekeepers in Kosovo discover the first mass grave, believed to contain 81 bodies, as Serb troops withdraw leaving the houses of ethnic Albanians in flames.
- 2000 - In the biggest step toward peace since the end of the war, the leaders of North and South Korea sign an agreement to work for reconciliation and reunification.
- 2001 - Yugoslavia approves Slobodan Milosevic's extradition to The Hague, Netherlands, to face trial before a U.N. tribunal for crimes against humanity and war crimes in the Kosovo conflict between 1998-99. 800,000 ethnic Albanians were driven out by Serb forces.
- 2002 - A car bomb explodes outside the U.S. consulate in the city of Karachi, Pakistan, killing 12 people and wounding more than 50 others.
- 2003 - East Timor approves a \$1.5 billion natural gas development plan for a pipeline to be built. It will be the largest source of income for impoverished East Timor.
- 2004 - A car bomb shatters a convoy carrying Westerners in central Baghdad, killing at least 12, including three General Electric employees, and wounding at least 60.
- 2005 - President Thabo Mbeki fires his deputy and heir apparent who was implicated in a corruption scandal, throwing open the question of who will become the next leader of South Africa when Mbeki steps down in 2009.
- 2006 - More than 1,000 Indonesian villagers are forced to flee Mount Merapi's slopes after searing hot gas and debris erupts from the volcano.
- 2007 - **Hamas** fighters take over two security command centers and vanquish the rival Fatah's movement in the Gaza Strip, prompting beleaguered Palestinian President Mahmoud Abbas to dissolve the **Hamas**-Fatah unity government.

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**Load-Date:** June 16, 2008

## JOURNALS

Weekend Australian

February 23, 2008 Saturday

1 - All-round Country Edition

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**Section:** FEATURES; Pg. 32

**Length:** 920 words

### **Body**

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#### NUDITY EYE OF THE BEHOLDER

A BOOK of homoerotic photographs by Robert Mapplethorpe that includes Arnold Schwarzenegger showing off in his bathers can be sold in Japan after its Supreme Court ruled that it was art, not obscenity. "The decision may end up loosening stringent obscenity standards," The Economist mused. "Japan is famous for racy shops, soaplands (brothels equipped with baths) and manga comic books that cater to every type of fantasy. Woodblock prints from the 17th century, called shunga, depict penises the size of battering rams. Yet Japan also has extraordinarily prudish pornography laws. Foreign films that show too much flesh are banned, and imported magazines and books censored ... Until the 1990s it was forbidden to show pubic hair." The problem with Mapplethorpe's book was that displaying male genitalia was considered obscene. "Yet Japan is, after all, a country of public nudity in baths. And images of naked women are fine, but heavens, no naked men!"

#### ISRAEL GAZA BACK IN FIRING LINE

ISRAEL was set to mount a military takeover of Gaza, Lorna Fitzsimons concluded in The Spectator. The optimism after Ariel Sharon's order to remove Israelis from Gaza in 2005 had been curbed by the rise in the number of rockets fired at Israel. "Hamas, as an Islamist, expansionist organisation that angrily rejects the status quo and Israel's right to exist, has deliberately created this new reality." Hamas found itself isolated in Annapolis last year when most Arab states pledged support to bringing Palestinian independence through negotiation and compromise. "Threatened by Israel and the Palestinian Authority's public commitments to negotiations and concerned that its popularity in the Palestinian street could dwindle, Hamas cynically whipped up a crisis in Gaza and on its borders. It has tried to create an alternative vision for the Palestinians: violent resistance and independence through war and bloodshed, and unfortunately it is succeeding." After showing restraint, "Israel may well have to reoccupy large parts of Gaza, essentially admitting that its 2005 experiment of unilateral withdrawal failed: it wasn't able to bring security to the region by giving back Gaza without a clear partner for peace on the other side."

#### ISLAND OF CULTURAL DREAMS

ABU Dhabi was planning to spend billions of dollars during the next few years to make itself the region's cultural hub, Judith Miller wrote in City Journal. The emirate had forged partnerships with leading cultural and academic institutions such as the Guggenheim Museum to open branches and share collections. Abu Dhabi was investing \$US27 billion (\$29 billion) and enlisting leading architects to build a spectacular 259ha cultural complex on an island near the capital. "Abu Dhabi's most remarkable investment is in human development. The emirate is determined to modernise its young, traditionally conservative, under-skilled population: to mould future citizens



## JOURNALS

secure in their Islamic heritage but able to flourish in an increasingly globalised and diverse world." But Eckart Woertz, of the Gulf Research Centre, believes the UAE's obsessive materialism will trump its devotion to culture. "They are more about Ferrari, Gucci and Prada than about Einstein, Plato or Nietzsche."

## AFGHANISTAN BASIC SOLUTION

IN many of Afghanistan's small and remote villages, the only signs of development came via the national solidarity program, a five-year-old initiative funded by international donors but administered by the Afghan Government. As Gregory Warner explained in Washington Monthly, the program operated on the idea that small infrastructure projects "give Afghans, including those in regions distant from Kabul, some grounds to feel a stake in the success of their own Government and one more reason to resist the call of the Taliban". Military efforts alone would not bring stability. For the Afghan people to feel allegiance to a state depended "in part on the Government being able to address some of their most basic concerns". World Bank staff member Scott Guggenheim designed the program, based on small grants to villages that would ensure "greater local accountability". Already 30,000 projects had been funded. Yet without increased funding, the program would stall. "When billions of dollars of US aid are spent on military and counter-narcotics efforts, the US has contributed an embarrassingly small fraction of that cost to an aid program that could help build the foundation for long-term stability in Afghanistan."

## ALGERIA PIT STOP TO PROSPERITY

JUST as young Algerians were crossing the Mediterranean on fishing boats to find opportunities abroad, Africans from south of the Sahara were risking their lives crossing deserts to live and work in Algeria, Rachid Sekkai wrote in Focus on Africa magazine. "Clandestine immigrants in Algeria constitute 50 African nationalities, with Mali, Niger and Gambia topping the list ... It is easy to see why. Algeria is booming economically. The country's foreign debt has fallen from \$28 billion in 1999 to only \$5 billion today, thanks largely to high oil prices and the Government's tight fiscal policies." Many of those who enter Algeria hope to make it into Europe. As well as tightening its borders, Algeria has set up detention centres for the illegal immigrants who are being blamed for criminal activity such as counterfeiting and drug smuggling. With Algeria's official unemployment rate at 15 per cent, the illegals are also seen to be taking away jobs.

**Load-Date:** February 22, 2008

## *Humanitarian crisis looms as Israeli siege throws Gaza into darkness*

The Daily Star (Lebanon)

January 21, 2008 Monday

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# THE DAILY STAR

LEBANON

**Length:** 877 words

**Byline:** Daily Star Staff

## **Body**

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The Gaza Strip's only power plant shut down for lack of fuel on Sunday as Israel kept up a blockade of the **Hamas**-run territory, despite warnings of the humanitarian impact. The closure of the plant, which accounts for 30 percent of the population's needs, was set to sharply worsen power cuts already hitting the impoverished coastal strip.

The Gaza Strip's only power plant shut down for lack of fuel on Sunday as Israel kept up a blockade of the **Hamas**-run territory, despite warnings of the humanitarian impact. The closure of the plant, which accounts for 30 percent of the population's needs, was set to sharply worsen power cuts already hitting the impoverished coastal strip.

"We have had to close the power plant for want of fuel," its director Rafik Mliha told reporters. "This closure is going to have very serious consequences for residents, but also for the operation of hospitals and water treatment plants."

Mliha said he had no word on when Israel might allow in the fuel to enable the power station to resume generating electricity.

The borders to the coastal Gaza Strip, where most of the 1.5 million residents depend on aid, remained shut for the third consecutive day as the Israeli Cabinet decided to maintain the closure of crossing points amid escalating violence.

"The ministers discussed the ongoing closure during the Cabinet meeting, but decided to keep up the pressure," a senior government official told AFP.

The cutback comes amid the peak winter demand for electricity and after seven months of tightened restrictions on the movement of goods and people in and out of the territory.

"This is a very fragile system that is suffering from seven months of closure and every additional blow is reverberating throughout hospitals, water wells and homes in Gaza," said Sari Bashi, director of the Israeli GISHA rights group.

As the plant shut down Sunday evening, Gaza was limited to about half of its usual winter power demand of 240 megawatts, Bashi said.

## Humanitarian crisis looms as Israeli siege throws Gaza into darkness

A report from Al-Jazeera late Sunday night suggested that hospitals in Gaza had only several hours of reserve energy left before incubators and life-support machines would be shut off.

The UN Relief and Works Agency (UNRWA) warned that a shutdown of the station would have "a devastating impact."

"Depriving people of such basics as water is tantamount to depriving them of human dignity," UNRWA spokesman Christopher Gunness said, adding: "It is difficult to understand the logic of making hundreds of thousands of people suffer quite needlessly."

Israel's Defense Minister Ehud Barak ordered the crossings into Gaza closed late Thursday, saying the move was aimed at pressuring militants inside to stop firing rockets and mortars into Israel and that it would be reassessed.

On Sunday, Barak told the Cabinet that the army was "weakening daily life in Gaza."

"We are targeting the terror elements and we are trying to show the international community that we are exhausting all possible options before Israel decides on a broad [military] operation," a senior government official quoted him as saying.

**Hamas** spokesman Sami Abu Zuhri said the new measures amounted to a "death sentence" for the territory and called for international intervention.

"Closing the crossings into the Gaza Strip and stopping fuel shipments, alongside the continuation of the criminal killings represents a death sentence and a slow death for the Palestinian people," he told AFP. "We consider this crisis to be a violation of international law. The occupation must provide for the basic needs of the Palestinian people."

Israel has for months been launching air and ground strikes inside Gaza aiming to halt militants there from launching rockets and mortars into the Jewish state, but has been unable to completely stop the firings.

Clashes between the army and Gaza militants sharply escalated after an Israeli operation on Tuesday killed 19 Palestinians, mostly gunmen but also civilians, in the deadliest single day in Gaza in more than a year.

Since then, Israeli raids have killed 36 people, most of them militants, including two on Saturday. Gazan gunmen have launched some 200 rockets and mortars into Israel, wounding at least 10 people.

Although most of the people killed by Israeli troops in Gaza have been gunmen, civilians, including **women** and children, have also been increasingly caught in the crossfire.

The escalation has sparked international concern and warnings that it may derail the recently revived peace talks between the two sides.

On Saturday, President Mahmoud Abbas' Prime Minister Salam Fayyad called for "international protection" for Gaza residents and criticized anew the firing of rockets into Israel which he said "only brought misfortune ... for our people."

Along with members of the Palestinian leadership and the United Nations, King Abdullah II of Jordan condemned Israel's deadly attacks on the Gaza Strip in an address Sunday to European Union ambassadors.

"King Abdullah II condemned Israel's military violations in the Gaza Strip that killed a lot innocent people," a palace statement quoted the monarch as telling the ambassadors at a meeting.

The king also expressed Jordan's concern "about the deteriorating humanitarian situation in the Gaza Strip," the palace said. - **Agencies**

Humanitarian crisis looms as Israeli siege throws Gaza into darkness

**Load-Date:** June 30, 2008

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End of Document

## *A mandate to 'understand'*

The Jerusalem Post

March 28, 2008 Friday

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**Section:** FEATURES; Pg. 18

**Length:** 2617 words

**Byline:** DAN IZENBERG

**Highlight:** John Dugard tells the 'Post' he recognizes the frustrations that lead to acts of terror. He also accepts the UN's decision not to address Palestinian violations of Israelis' human rights

### **Body**

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On January 21, John Dugard, the outgoing Special Rapporteur to the UN Human Rights Council on Palestine and Other Occupied Arab Territories submitted his seventh report on the human rights situation in the West Bank and Gaza. Over the years, Dugard has become reviled by many in Israel who charge that he is biased in favor of the Palestinians and that his reports are unbalanced, unfair and prejudiced. His latest report is no exception. Indeed, many consider it his most biased and extreme. The Jerusalem Post asked Dugard in a telephone interview to explain some of the statements he made in that report.

You assume that the cause of Palestinian terrorism is the occupation. But that is not what Hamas says. Hamas says it is fighting to destroy Israel.

As I see the situation, there is an ambivalence on the part of Hamas on the subject. On the one hand, Hamas's long-announced policy is one of opposition to the State of Israel itself. And that is a position that goes back to the creation of the country. But on the other hand, it's also quite clear that Hamas is opposed to the occupation and many of its pronouncements relate to the need to bring it to an end. As far as Fatah is concerned, Fatah accepts the State of Israel and so its policy does not include [Israel's] destruction.

Why do you say that Israel cannot expect the end of violence as a precondition for ending the occupation? If the Palestinian leadership is effective enough to negotiate peace, should it not be effective enough to stop the terrorists?

There are two answers. It's quite clear that the Palestinian security forces lack the capacity to stop violence in the territories. That has been clear under both [former PLO head Yasser] Arafat and [PA President Mahmoud] Abbas. And so one cannot wait until that situation is achieved. But my second answer is that if one looks at other situations in which there has been conflict, negotiations started before the conflict came to an end. I could refer to the South African situation, for instance. We had intense violence during the early 1990s, when peace negotiations were taking place. This was one of the worst periods for urban terrorism in South Africa. The same applied in Namibia. But the end of violence was not set as a precondition for peace negotiations. In an ideal world, one would like to see that, but given the incapacity of the Palestinian Authority to end violence in Palestinian territory and given the fact that one needs to bring the violence to an end, I think it is necessary to negotiate, albeit in a state in which violence continues.

## A mandate to 'understand'

You write that "common sense dictates that a distinction must be drawn between acts of mindless terror, such as acts committed by al-Qaida, and acts committed in the course of a war of national liberation against colonialism, apartheid or military occupation. While such acts cannot be justified, they must be understood as being a painful but inevitable consequence of colonialism, apartheid or occupation."

My question: Israel has been facing Palestinian terrorism since its creation. Fatah was established as a national liberation movement in 1964, three years before the Six Day War. In what context are we to understand these facts? Furthermore, when you condemn an act, and understand it at the same time, how strong can the condemnation be?

I know this is a controversial statement that has been extracted from my reports. I'm well aware that it is unacceptable to many. But as I see the situation, what I described as the "mindless act of terror of al-Qaida," - al-Qaida has no justification whatsoever for its actions. On the other hand, the international community has indicated repeatedly that colonialism, racism and military occupation should be brought to an end. During the 1970s and 1980s, there was a debate in the United Nations about the extent to which acts of violence, acts of terror, could be justified because they were in pursuit of self-determination. And of course this is the problem that faces the UN in the drafting of a comprehensive convention against terrorism. So my ideas are not unusual. They are well-founded in UN practice.

But what I do emphasize is that one man's freedom fighter is essentially another man's terrorist. I point out that in the context of Israel, during the British occupation, there were groups in Israel led by [Menachem] Begin and [Yitzhak] Shamir that engaged in what could be described as acts of terrorism. And I think that I referred to the bombing of the King David Hotel as an act of terror committed in the course of hostility toward the occupation. Again, to refer to the South African context, someone like Nelson Mandela is today seen as some sort of saint. But there was a time when he was portrayed as a terrorist by governments of the West. I know that both Margaret Thatcher and Dick Cheney described him that way. So, I think that one has to see terrorism committed in pursuit of self-determination against military occupation in that context.

As for your second question, I have described some of the actions of the IDF as acts of terror. But at the same time, I understand the justification. I understand Israel's argument that these acts of terrorism against the Palestinians have been committed in self-defense and I understand the political demands in Israel for action of this kind. So, I can understand the reason for Israel's acts. In the same way, when it comes to Hamas or Islamic Jihad firing rockets at Sderot and southern Israel, I condemn these actions. They are clearly violations of humanitarian law and constitute war crimes. Nevertheless, I can understand the frustrations that have given rise to such actions.

Your report says, "in the present climate, it is easy for a state to justify its repressive measures as a response to terrorism - and to expect a sympathetic hearing. Israel exploits present international fear of terrorism to the full." But do you not agree that the facts indicate that the repressive measures Israel has introduced in the past few years are a result of Palestinian violence aimed at it?

I think one has to accept that any government in any situation of conflict will choose to call its opponents terrorists. Again, I'm sorry to return to the South African situation, but there, too, we had an anti-terrorism law, and opponents of the regime were criticized as terrorists. I was personally called a terrorist. Someone like Archbishop Tutu was labeled a terrorist. And in today's climate, since 9/11, this has become worse. Governments do so repeatedly in order to get the support of the international community to condemn the acts of violence of their opponents. What I'm suggesting in the context of the Middle East is that, although some of the acts of the Palestinians, such as the firing of rockets into Sderot and Ashkelon are acts of terror, Israel is able to gain international sympathy for its responses in both the West Bank and Gaza in light of the war on terror. For instance, if one looks at the actions of the Israeli government in the West Bank, the construction of the wall in Palestinian territory, the increase in the number of settlements, checkpoints, roadblocks - all these actions are justified by Israel as part of the war against terror.

Quite frankly, I see the construction of the wall as part of an attempt on the part of Israel to enclose settlements within Israel. I think that some of the checkpoints are unnecessary and, of course there's no justification for the

## A mandate to 'understand'

expansion of settlements as an anti- terrorism measure. But nevertheless, Israel is able to get international sympathy for its actions because they are construed by many in the West as part of the war against terror.

You state "The mandate of the special rapporteur is concerned with violations of human rights and international humanitarian law that are a consequence of military occupationÉ for this reason, this report, like previous reports, will not address the violation of human rights of Israelis by Palestinians." If that is so, would you agree that your report is, by definition, one-sided?

I must confess I regret the fact that my mandate is limited to human rights violations committed by the Israeli government and the IDF. I have, in previous reports and in this report, referred to some of the violations of human rights committed by the Palestinians against Israelis and against each other. All in all, however, it is a limitation in the mandate, and it's not my decision, but the decision, previously, of the Commission on Human Rights and now the Human Rights Council. The report does, as a result, present a one-sided picture. But I think one must see it in the context of the fact that military occupation, although it is tolerated by international law, is nevertheless regarded as unacceptable. In the same way that apartheid was unacceptable, or colonialism was unacceptable, so military occupation is unacceptable. And that's why the Human Rights Council and its predecessor have focused attention on human rights violations committed by the occupying power. As I say, I wouldn't have chosen it, but I can understand the reason for the choice.

If "what distinguishes the case of Palestine from other situations in which violations of human rights occur is the occupation, an occupation which began in 1967, 40 years ago, and which shows no sign of ending," how do you explain that there has been a peace process since the early 1990s and several Israeli governments - under Yitzhak Rabin, Ehud Barak and Ehud Olmert - have been committed to finding a negotiated settlement?

I certainly welcome the peace talks. However, I must confess I am fairly pessimistic about the outcome of the Annapolis process and, in some measure, Hamas is responsible for the fact that no progress is being made. But at the same time I think the Israeli government is largely to blame for its actions and for its continued construction of settlements. In this regard, I think my main criticism is not directed at either the Israeli government or the Palestinians. It is directed largely at the international community, particularly the United States and the European Union, because I don't see a will on their part to take strong action to bring the occupation to an end. And I would certainly like to see a stronger intervention from Western powers to assist both Israel and the Palestinians in finding a solution.

You write that "the test for determining whether a territory is occupied under international law is effective control and not the permanent physical presence of the occupying power's military forces in the territory in question." From what I have been told by legal experts, there is no international precedent for the situation in Gaza. In your report, you provide facts to back up your argument. But it is easy to provide other facts to prove that the alleged occupation is ineffective - primarily the development of a military force by Hamas, and the import of heavy weapons which threaten to reach Israel's most densely populated centers. Israel's army of occupation, as you call it, is unable to prevent this.

First of all, you suggest that opinion in Israel is united on the subject of whether or not Israel continues to occupy Gaza. But much of the scholarly writing in favor of the continued occupation has been done by Israeli scholars and if you look at the footnotes in my report, you will see that I do refer to Israeli writings and this is also the view expressed by many Israeli commentators. So, there is a vigorous and vibrant debate on the subject within Israel itself.

My second response is that "effective occupation" is a legal concept and one has to look at the extent to which the state exercises, or attempts to exercise, control over the territory, and I suggested that if one looked at the closure of Gaza's borders, the control over air space and sea space, the control over the Palestinian population registry, the frequent military incursions into the territory, that Israel is ultimately in effective control. It has control over the territory. Gaza may be in a state of conflict but it is, in many respects, a prison and Israel has the key.

So despite the fact that there is opposition within Gaza, I think one must accept that Israel is in military occupation of the territory. If one looks at other cases of military occupation during the Second World War, for instance,

## A mandate to 'understand'

Germany occupied western European countries and there was resistance in many of these countries. And so I don't think the fact that there is resistance changes the nature of the occupation. In my view, it is a legal concept and Israel does meet the requirements for military occupation.

You write that "in the past two years, 668 Palestinians have been killed by Israeli security forces in Gaza. Over half - 359 people - were not involved in hostilities at the time they were killed. Of those killed, 126 were minors, etc." These figures are likely misleading. The fact that some of those killed were not involved in hostilities at the time they were killed, or were minors, does not necessarily indicate that they were not terrorists. You acknowledge that Israel has the right to defend itself. But how is it to do so if it may only kill terrorists in uniform or carrying weapons?

As far as the figures are concerned, I have to rely on respectable sources and my source here is, as I recall, B'Tselem, a well-known Israeli human rights group. So, I accept B'Tselem's view and that's been endorsed by other UN agencies on the ground, such as OCHA (the UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs). They support the view that a large number of civilians, women and children, have been killed. One must accept that one cannot adopt a completely armchair attitude toward civilian casualties.

I accept that the intention of the IDF is to target combatants and that inevitably some civilians are going to be injured in actions of this kind. But I have doubts as to whether the IDF always acts in compliance with the restraints imposed by the Israeli Supreme Court. You will recall that recently the court gave a decision on targeted killings, targeted assassinations. To me, it doesn't seem that the IDF even complies with the Supreme Court rules on the subject.

But then international law also has rules relating to disproportionality and the targeting of civilian targets, and I don't think that on all occasions the IDF has been sufficiently careful. For example, at the end of 2006, there was an incident in which a family of about 20 people in Beit Hanun was killed. I visited the site. They were all civilians. The IDF did apologize. They indicated that there had been an error, but refused to hold an investigation or hold anyone accountable. So I think there are some clear cases in which there has not been sufficient regard for civilian targets.

You compare the casualties on the Gaza side to those on the Israeli side. You seem to imply that the damage caused by Gaza terrorists is negligible in comparison to the damage inflicted on the Palestinians. But the people of Sderot and the surrounding area have been traumatized. The casualties in that sense are much higher. And the wider the range of terrorist rockets, the greater the physical and mental damage there will be.

I certainly do not wish to minimize the terror to which the people of Sderot have been subjected. As my mandate doesn't require me to go into it, I didn't expand on it. But I have said categorically that the firing of rockets constitutes a war crime. And I'm aware of the traumatization of the people of Sderot and the impact it has had. So, if my report doesn't express my condemnation sufficiently, I apologize.

## Graphic

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2 photos: Supply trucks at Karni crossing. If one looks at the closure of Gaza's borders, the control over air space and sea space, the frequent military incursions into the territory, Israel is an occupying power, says John Dugard. (Credit: Ariel Jerozolimski)

**Load-Date:** October 4, 2011



## World Report

Windsor Star (Ontario)

March 31, 2008 Monday

Final Edition

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**Section:** NEWS; Pg. B2; World Report

**Length:** 1541 words

**Byline:** Compiled from Star News Services

### **Body**

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#### EUROPE

##### LION ATTACKS GIRL AT FRENCH ZOO

NICE, France -- A four-year-old girl in southern France suffered serious injuries to her face and back on Sunday when she was attacked by a lion at a zoo, local firefighters and zoo officials said.

The girl was taken to hospital after one of the three lions at the Saint-Jean-Cap-Ferrat zoo leapt from his enclosure and attacked the girl who had walked past a security barrier with her uncle and mother.

The uncle had apparently raised the girl in his arms to get a better view of the carnivores from the fence where they were standing.

"It all happened very quickly," said zoo director Gerard Caucheteux.

"When the uncle led the girl past the security barrier, the lion, probably a lioness, saw this as an intrusion.

Police said the girl's injuries were not life-threatening. Her mother and uncle suffered scratches to their arms from the lion's claws.

##### BA SAYS SORRY AGAIN FOR AIRPORT TERMINAL FARCE

LONDON -- British Airways apologized again Sunday for the cancelled flights, passenger delays and lost baggage that have emerged from the chaotic opening of London Heathrow airport's new Terminal 5.

"Since Thursday, when Terminal 5 opened, we have made clear that the service we have provided has not been good enough. We apologize sincerely to our customers," BA chief executive Willie Walsh said in a company statement.

His comments came after BA ditched another batch of flights on Sunday as it struggled to cope with a massive backlog of lost luggage at the multi-billion-pound facility.

"We are sorry for the disruption and inconvenience caused to customers whose flights have been cancelled or whose bags have been delayed," added Walsh, making his second apology in three days.

## World Report

"We will not rest until our service has been restored to the high standard customers rightly expect."

BA, which has sole use of T5, has confirmed that it had scrapped 37 of its 331 flights that were planned to and from the terminal on Sunday.

## RUSSIA

## RAIN THREATENS RUSSIAN DOOMSDAY CULT'S BUNKER

NIKOLSKOE, Russia -- Russian authorities urged 28 members of a doomsday cult on Sunday to leave the mud bunker in which they are awaiting the end of the world, saying spring rain may trigger its collapse at any time.

The doomsday cult members have been barricaded in an underground shelter dug out of a muddy hillside gully in the Penza region of central Russia since October.

They have been refusing to come out until the end of the world, which they predict will happen in late April or May. "Negotiations to get the people out are ongoing, and we have explained that there is a danger of collapse if they remain in the cave," said Oleg Melnichenko, vice-governor of Penza region and head of the Russian government's operation here.

"Right now we are here to make sure they don't suffocate."

On Friday a small mud slide near the entrance to the dugout isolated seven women from the remaining cult members, forcing the women to abandon their refuge and relocate to a small wooden home in the village of Nikolskoe, 750 kilometres southeast of Moscow where they remain cloistered in prayer.

Four children remain inside the bunker.

The cult's spiritual leader, Pyotr Kuznetsov, ducked in and out of the dull grey wooden home where the women were sheltering, shielding his face from journalists.

Doctors had temporarily released him from a regional mental hospital, where he was undergoing court-ordered psychiatric treatment.

## GRENADE INJURES 19 AT CHECHEN WEDDING

MOSCOW -- Nineteen people were injured when a grenade was thrown in a brawl at a village wedding in the southern Russian region of Chechnya, Russian news agencies quoted officials as saying on Sunday.

The incident occurred late on Saturday in the village of Sary-Su during a large wedding celebration attended by most local residents as well as a group of visitors, an official in the district mayor's office told Interfax.

"Nineteen people suffered shrapnel wounds from a grenade blast and one injured woman is in critical condition," the official said.

The RIA Novosti news agency quoted a local police source as saying most of the 19 injured were aged between 17 and 25.

The blast occurred during a brawl between residents of Sary-Su and the visitors, Interfax reported.

"Taking advantage of their superior numbers some youths from Sary-Su beat up the guests. These in turn called some comrades up for help and the conflict reached a new level. In the ensuing brawl one participant threw a grenade," the source at the mayor's office said.

Weddings tend to be grandiose affairs in Chechnya, where the inhabitants follow a blend of Islamic and ancient folk tradition.

## ASIA

## INMATES NO LONGER FORCED TO STRIP NAKED WHEN JAILED

SEOUL -- South Korea will drop its long-standing practice of stripping prison inmates naked before jailing them due to possible rights abuses, officials said Sunday.

The South's justice ministry said the controversial process would be dropped at all prisons nationwide beginning April 1, as recommended by the National Human Rights Commission.

The practice of stripping all inmates of clothes has served as more of a body search, rather than a medical check-up, ministry officials said.

"The decades-old practice has stopped prison inmates from smuggling in contraband -- often hidden in the anus," a ministry spokesman told AFP.

"But the commission has pointed out its possible human rights violations."

The commission says that prison inmates may feel "sexually ashamed" when naked during the check-up even though they are in separate rooms or units, he said.

Under the new guidelines, prison inmates will be allowed to wear underwear and a gown to go through the procedure.

## MIDEAST

## RICE BACK IN ISRAEL AFTER TALKS IN AMMAN

TEL AVIV -- U.S. Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice returned to Israel late Sunday after talks in the Jordanian capital Amman with King Abdullah II and Palestinian president Mahmud Abbas.

Her helicopter had to land in Tel Aviv due to poor weather conditions in Jerusalem.

Rice had earlier secured an Israeli pledge to remove 50 West Bank roadblocks to improve the daily lives of Palestinians and reinvigorate Middle East peace talks.

The move was part of a package of steps Israel announced following a three-way meeting between Rice, Defence Minister Ehud Barak and Palestinian prime minister Salam Fayyad.

Rice won the Israeli promise during her second trip to the region in less than a month as she sought to advance faltering peace negotiations relaunched at a U.S. conference in November.

She later travelled on to Amman and went into talks with Abbas.

On a shuttle mission, Rice held talks with Jordan's King Abdullah and was to return to Jerusalem to meet Israeli Prime Minister Ehud Olmert for a second time today.

She is also due to hold a second round of talks with Abbas later today before winding up her mission.

CAPTURED ISRAELI SOLDIER ALIVE, TREATED WELL: **HAMAS**

LONDON -- Israeli soldier Gilad Shalit, captured by Palestinian militants in June 2006, is still alive and being treated well, **Hamas** supremo Khaled Meshaal said in a Sky News interview screened today.

"Gilad is still alive and we are treating him in a good way while the Israelis treat our prisoners badly and everyone knows that," he told the British broadcaster.

## World Report

Shalit was seized on June 25, 2006, from an army base near Gaza by militants from three groups including **Hamas**, which evicted Palestinian president Mahmud Abbas's Fatah group from the territory in a week of bloody clashes last June.

Last April, **Hamas** sent to Israel, through Egypt, a list of 450 prisoners it wanted freed in exchange for Shalit.

But an Israeli official said at the time many of the Palestinian prisoners had "blood on their hands," meaning they had been involved in attacks that killed Israelis, and could not be released.

A senior **Hamas** leader, Mahmud al-Zahar, warned earlier this month that Shalit would only be released if all of the group's demands were met.

## NORTH AMERICA

## CHELSEA CLINTON SHOWS HER POLITICAL ACUMEN

WASHINGTON -- The question came out of the blue: did Chelsea Clinton think her mother's credibility was hurt by her father Bill's affair with White House intern Monica Lewinsky when he was president?

"Wow. You're the first person actually that's ever asked me that question in the, I don't know maybe, 70 college campuses I've now been to," said Chelsea, on the campaign trail for her mother Hillary.

"And, I do not think that is any of your business."

The exchange recently at Butler University was a clear test for the former first daughter, putting herself on the line for her mother's White House fight.

And she pulled off the answer in a fashion that showed her family's political skills and moxie running through her veins.

After the harsh answer, she turned like an old pro to the student audience, microphone in hand and a smile on her face.

"And I also don't think that should be the last question. Yes?" she called, pointing into the crowd.

After a lifetime protected from politics and the media, Chelsea Clinton, 28, is showing that she is indeed her parents' daughter.

Since she joined her mother's campaign late last year, she has become by some accounts the operation's secret weapon -- even more so than her gaffe-prone father -- as both act as "surrogates" and speak for the candidate.

## Graphic

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Photo: Willie Walsh ;

Photo: Pyotr Kuznetsov ;

Photo: Condoleezza Rice ;

Photo: Gilad Shalit ;

Photo: Chelsea Clinton ;

**Load-Date:** March 31, 2008

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## *In short*

The Irish Times

November 14, 2007 Wednesday

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**Section:** WORLD; Other World Stories; Pg. 12

**Length:** 528 words

### **Body**

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A round-up of today's news in brief

Poll win for Danish ruling party forecast

DENMARK - A projection by Danish national television DR suggested Denmark's ruling centre-right coalition and its ally, the Danish People's Party, would win a majority of 94 seats in the 179-seat parliament yesterday.

In its projection, which was based on 5.1 per cent of votes counted, DR said prime minister Anders Fogh Rasmussen's centre-right governing coalition would win, with the Social Democrat-led opposition trailing with 77 seats. - (Reuters)

Seven dead after Gaza Strip rally

MIDDLE EAST - **Hamas** has rounded up scores of Fatah activists in the Gaza Strip following a rally that drew more than 200,000 supporters and ended in gunfire that killed seven people, officials said yesterday.

The assembly on Monday, marking the third anniversary of the death of iconic Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat, was the biggest held by President Mahmoud Abbas's Fatah group in Gaza since **Hamas** Islamists seized the territory by force in June. - (Reuters)

Five Mafia chiefs arrested in Sicily

ITALY - Italian police yesterday said they arrested five high-ranking Mafia "military commanders" in Sicily and were carrying out warrants against a further 70 suspected mobsters across Italy.

The commanders had reported directly to the Mafia's new "boss of bosses", Salvatore Lo Piccolo before he was arrested on the southern island of Sicily last week after nearly a quarter century on the run. - (Reuters)

Gunman injures worshippers

SWITZERLAND - A lone gunman used a military assault rifle to fire on a dozen worshippers at an Islamic centre in French-speaking Switzerland late on Monday, injuring one seriously, police said yesterday.

A 23-year-old local man, described by police as a practising Swiss Muslim, was detained. The incident happened in Bussigny- pres-Lausanne near the lakeside city of Lausanne, according to a police statement. - (Reuters)

## In short

22 injured in fire in Berne building

SWITZERLAND - A fire in a high-rise building in the Swiss capital of Berne early yesterday left 22 injured, four seriously, according to a media report. - (Reuters)

Lifting of state of emergency due

GEORGIA - The top US emissary to the crisis-torn Caucasus nation of Georgia said yesterday the country would lift a state of emergency in two or three days. - (Reuters)

Abortions caused China gender crisis

CHINA - China has 18 million more men of marriageable age than women, the result of sex-selective abortions in a country that has traditionally placed more value on boys, state media reported yesterday.

China has about 119 boys born for every 100 girls, but that figure rises to about 122 in rural areas, Xinhua news agency quoted Zhang Weiqing, director of the National Population and Family Planning Commission, as saying. - (Reuters)

Ancient jaw bone 'new species'

AFRICA - Researchers unveiled a 10-million-year-old jaw bone yesterday they believe belonged to a new species of great ape that could be the last common ancestor of gorillas, chimpanzees and humans. The Kenyan and Japanese team found the fragment, dating back to between 9.8 and 9.88 million years, in 2005 along with 11 teeth. - (Reuters)

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## International briefs

Telegraph Herald (Dubuque, IA)

May 1, 2008 Thursday

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### **Body**

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Giant squid has world's largest eyes WELLINGTON, New Zealand - Marine scientists studying the carcass of a rare colossal squid said Wednesday they had measured its eye at about 11 inches across - bigger than a dinner plate - making it the largest animal eye on Earth. One of the squid's two eyes, with a lens as big as an orange, was found intact as the scientists examined the creature while it was slowly defrosted at New Zealand's national museum, Te Papa Tongarewa. It has been preserved there since being caught in the Ross Sea off Antarctica's northern coast last year. "This is the only intact eye (of a colossal squid) that's ever been found.

It's spectacular," said Auckland University of Technology squid specialist Kat Bolstad, one of a team of international scientists brought in to examine the creature. "It's the largest known eye in the animal kingdom," Bolstad told The Associated Press. The squid is the biggest specimen ever caught of the rare and mysterious deep-water species *Mesonychoteuthis hamiltoni*, or colossal squid. When caught, it measured 26 feet long and weighed about 1,000 pounds, but scientists believe the species may grow as long as 46 feet. Israel moves to shutter West Bank charity HEBRON, West Bank - To Nayfa Shatat, the widowed mother of 11, Hebron's biggest Islamic charity is a lifeline: It schools her daughters and helps feed her family. To Israel, the Islamic Charitable Association is a front for the Islamic militant group Hamas, promoting the movement's violent ideology in its schools and funding extremist activity against Israel. Early Wednesday, Israeli soldiers raided a sewing workshop run by the association, seizing sewing machines and bolts of cloth, witnesses said. The army said the workshop was used to raise money for militants. While the association denies any links with Hamas, the military says it plans to close all the charity's operations, which include a boarding school for 600 disadvantaged children, several day schools and a bakery. In recent months, Israeli troops and Abbas' security forces have gone after West Bank charities, moneychangers, women's cooperatives and media outlets with suspected ties to the militants. However, closing the Hebron association is more delicate because it serves thousands of children. After deportations, torch arrives in Hong Kong HONG KONG - The Olympic torch arrived in Hong Kong on Wednesday after the Chinese territory deported at least seven activists who planned to protest the flame. Three pro-Tibet activists who planned to protest during Hong Kong's leg of the Olympic torch relay were deported after they arrived at the territory's airport Tuesday, activists said. A fourth person, an organizer for an independent Chinese writers' group, also was deported. Four other activists who planned to protest China's human-rights record have been turned away since the weekend. The flame's return to Chinese soil follows a global tour marred by protests against Beijing's human rights record and its recent crackdown in Tibet. The Hong Kong leg of the torch relay on Friday is a high-stakes event for the local government because it marks the flame's homecoming to Chinese soil after a world tour tarnished by protests. Hong Kong, a former British colony now ruled by China, is supposed to enjoy Western-style civil liberties such as freedom of expression that are denied in the mainland. It grants visa-free entry to many Westerners, raising the prospects of demonstrations.



International briefs

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## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

The Australian (Australia)

March 4, 2008 Tuesday

1 - All-round Country Edition

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### **Body**

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Israel can't sit still while the rockets rain down

MOST TALKED ABOUT

ATTACKS FROM GAZA

IN May last year, UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon issued a statement in which he deplored the rocket attacks from Gaza against Israel, attacks that are bringing suffering to Israeli civilians. He called "on all parties to refrain from violence and to restore to the people of Gaza and nearby Israeli communities the security that they need and deserve".

**Hamas** did not listen. The rocket fire escalated. Given the UN's impotence, Israel has responded in an effort to destroy the rocket launchers.

For the Secretary-General to criticise Israel for a "disproportionate and excessive use of force" begs the question. What use of force is justifiable when non-military interventions have so clearly failed to end the daily attacks on Israeli civilians?

International law permits Israel's use of force to the extent necessary to prevent further attacks on its civilians. Israel is using force only when all else has failed. The Secretary-General's lack of influence over **Hamas** is testament enough to that.

David D. Knoll

NSW Jewish Board of Deputies

Darlinghurst, NSW

ISRAEL'S defiant determination to fly in the face of world outrage in regard to its totally disproportionate use of force against the Palestinian people of Gaza continues to diminish what was once a global admiration for a brave and bold Israeli nation.

That it should now even threaten a holocaust against its battered and virtually defenceless neighbour leaves ashes in the mouths of its former admirers.

## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Hope for peace in the Middle East may well hinge on a new face in the White House -- Barack Obama's. The key to peace very much depends on the level of US military support which in turn determines Israeli restraint. Dismay in Israel over the prospect of an Obama win tends to support such a prospect.

Brian Haill

Frankston, Vic

REPORTS would seem to have put the cart before the horse. Israel's September 2005 withdrawal from Gaza raised hopes for the dawning of two states side-by-side. But not as far as Hamas was concerned, it was spoiling for a fight.

Hamas set a course to launch attacks on Israel, day by day picking off and terrorising Israeli civilians and soldiers over the border, with the goal of grinding Israel down. Worse, Hamas has knowingly sacrificed Palestinian lives and economy on the altar of world sympathy. The Palestinians are drunk with the success of their publicity game and blind to the abyss into which it has plunged. The means cannot possibly justify these ends.

Photos and videos indubitably confirm that many rockets are launched against Israel from urban Palestinian centres.

This must bring civilian populations into the firing line -- Israeli civilians, because the rockets are indiscriminately launched towards Israeli towns, and Palestinian civilians because to expect any country not to respond to a source of fire is unrealistic.

Paul Rozental

Melbourne, Vic

UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon concedes that Israel has the right to defend its people from Palestinian rocket attacks but characterises the defensive measures it has taken as ``disproportionate and excessive".

I am still waiting for him to visit the places in Israel where the rockets have fallen on an almost daily basis for the last seven years and explain to the victims precisely what countermeasures he would think are proportionate and reasonable.

Peter Wertheim

Darling Point, NSW

FOLLOWING the successful support for the creation of a free Kosovo, the Rudd Government should now use its good offices to end the Israeli occupation of West Bank and Gaza to create a new nation for Palestinians.

Dispossession of the Palestinian people over the last 60 years has resulted in the death of many thousands of people, destruction of their homes and livelihood, creation of the largest refugee camp in history and spawned the Middle East wars. Australia should not stand idle surveying these scenes. It is time to act to bring peace between blood brothers.

Bill Mathew

Parkville, Vic

IT is a little rich for Palestinian Authority President Mahmoud Abbas appealing for the protection for the Palestinian people. He knows full well that the Hamas rounds up human shields for when they intend to launch their rocket attacks.

He ought to be providing protection to his Palestinian children, the Palestinian elderly and pregnant women to keep them safe from the repugnant strongarm tactics of Hamas.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Mark Hort

Beckenham, WA

WITH at least 90 Palestinians killed since Wednesday in Israeli air strikes on the tiny Hamas-controlled territory, a third of the casualties were civilians and young children.

A large part of the US's estimated \$US3 billion a year military aid to Israel goes to purchase tanks, helicopter gunships, machineguns and bullets that are used against Palestinian civilians. US tax dollars have been used to destroy homes, uproot trees and crops, seize land and kill children. Is it any wonder we despair that a solution will be found when George W. Bush encourages the Israeli military by supplying weapons?

Murray Smith

Trinity Gardens, SA

Vital to tell the truth about Islamist ideologues

YOU are to be commended for your comprehensive coverage of radical Muslim activity, most recently the articles about the visit of Tariq Ramadan, the world's leading Islamist proselytiser (Opinion, 3/2).

However, why is there no mention of the fact that the conference at which Professor Ramadan is the keynote speaker is at Griffith University, which received a gift of \$1 million from the Saudi Arabian Government last year, much to the dismay of many people in Australia, including the local Muslim community.

The main worry then was that this funding would allow the Saudis to extend the influence of fundamentalist and sectarian versions of Islam (as espoused by al-Qa'ida) at the expense of the more moderate versions that exist in Australia, and now this is happening -- with the assistance of \$50,000 provided by the Queensland Government.

While it is vital to reveal the truth about ideologues such as Professor Ramadan, it is even more important to expose the affects of influence-buying on important public institutions ssuch as our universities.

Mervyn F. Bendle

James Cook University

Townsville, Qld

MELANIE Phillips rightly condemns terrorist violence but fails to see the state violence that takes place minute after minute in countries under invasion by the West -- not to mention the covert violence that has been exposed over the years.

When will you learn that human life is of equal value? When you condemn one killing, you must condemn all killings. And if you wish to stand on the high moral ground to rightly condemn the killing of the thousands of victims of terrorism, you must multiply several fold that condemnation for the state-sponsored terrorism that has killed hundreds of thousands of innocent people.

This type of article condemns some Muslims for what Phillips believes they think, while it turns a blind eye to the mass-killings that are approved by right-wing ideologues. And for what? A few barrels of oil whose price has skyrocketed so that you and I are funding every miserable penny of these mass-killings by our own occupying governments.

Keysar Trad

Islamic Friendship Association of Australia

Yagoona, NSW

## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

No tinpot republic for us

WE never hear the downside from supporters of the Australian Republican Movement such as David McKenna (Letters, 1-2/3) who writes "the federal Government applauded the recent declaration of independence and democracy in Kosovo, yet we retain constitutional links with the British monarchy".

Obviously he knows nothing of Australia's history or he wouldn't compare Kosovo's troubled past with Australia's journey from a pre-settlement stone-age past in just over 100 years to a federation of civil, well-balanced, federating groups of British settlers who set up a splendid constitution, had achieved a high standard of living and given women the vote.

If Mr McKenna looked at the history of South American, African, East European and Asian republics and their tinpot presidents, the constant revolutions -- then the terror and destructiveness of the French Revolution -- he'll revere our constitution and the Queen's role in it.

Judith McPherson

Toowoomba, Qld

PRIME Minister Kevin Rudd said he would not go down the republican path during his first term. So why does David McKenna claim that the federal Government has an obligation to turn its attention to a republic? It wasn't an election promise.

Wisely, the Prime Minister knows Australians are concerned about issues that affect their everyday lives -- and a republic is not one of them. (Would an Australian republic bring down the price of groceries?)

Second, why does Mr McKenna think it's time we revisited constitutional reform? What has happened to put this question back on the agenda since we rejected a republic in 1999?

J.A. Kirkpatrick

Darling Point, NSW

Abhorrent view

I HAVE worked with Aboriginal people for the past 30 years in many capacities, including educational and anthropological. I have three indigenous grandsons not much older than James Last's victim ("Gang-rape judge in new child sex furore", 15/2).

I knew of a number of such cases, all perpetrated on the most vulnerable. So I find it particularly abhorrent that Christopher Pearson (Inquirer, 1-2/3) should see Last, a man who was a teacher and 37 at the time of his assault on an 11-year-old boy, as "an utterly confused child of his times".

Last, on the one hand, is supposed to have succumbed to the perceived requirements of a garbled idea of Aboriginal cultural practices as a part-Aboriginal, not even "grown up" in the tradition, and on the other, to the sentiments expressed in a musical that to the best of my recollection, had no references to such behaviour in its lyrics.

When are people such as Pearson going to stop seeing these aberrations as interesting ideological conundrums and recognise them for the horrible outrages they are?

Robin Hodgson

Atherton, Qld

Too harsh on Sir Joh

## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

YOUR story "History judged Sir Joh too harshly", (3/3) is not only somewhat belated but, in my opinion, the understatement of the year. Apart from the points raised by Chris Masters, it seems to be forgotten that Joh Bjelke-Petersen was the only politician in memory who didn't participate in the generous superannuation available to Queensland's snout-in-the-trough parliamentarians.

I visited him in his home in Kingaroy on about four occasions and it struck me at those times that there was no evidence of a lavish lifestyle. He and Lady Florence dined at our home years ago. He was amused when I phoned him to tell him that a young neighbour on the way to school said to me, "I saw a man at your place last night, who looked just like Joh Bjelke-Petersen". I replied "A lot of people tell him that."

Frank Bellet

Petrie, Qld

Talk to geologists

ABOUT 30 years ago the Club of Rome tried to scare us by saying the world would soon run out of metals. They did a lot of work with the data available but did not consult miners or geologists.

Today, the UN's Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change has done a lot of careful work based on insufficient data. They don't appear to have consulted geologists.

If you take a 50-year snapshot of the global climate, any geologist will tell you that such a short baseline is misleading. I ask the UN to refer their sample sizes to any experienced geologist, because geological time is what is critical here.

Robert R. Brooks

Geraldton, WA

IT is a consequence of global warming, Peter Watt (Letters, 3/3), that many areas of the planet will become colder. Some areas will experience drought while others will have floods. If the melting of ice in Greenland causes the Gulf Stream to stop, Europe will experience the rapid onset of another ice age.

Climate change is not a conspiracy of the radical Left to bring about the collapse of the world economic system. It is real and the world had better prepare for it.

Ian Semmel

Maleny, Qld

FOI move foiled

I NOTE with interest the reporting by The Australian of the Victorian Opposition's rejection of the Brumby Government's Freedom of Information reforms. These are reforms that have been recommended by the Ombudsman and have been supported by News Ltd, publisher of The Australian.

On February 18, in the Australian Financial Review, News Ltd's manager of corporate affairs, Creina Chapman, indicated the Right to Know Coalition, which includes News Ltd, supported the Government's attempts to improve the legislation. This is the same message the Government received in meetings with the Right to Know Coalition.

It is disappointing that you have chosen to criticise this legislation which would have made applications free, abolished conclusive certificates for cabinet documents, and ensured more information was available on the internet. Imagine the outcry that would have followed had the Government rejected the Ombudsman's recommendations. But thanks to the Opposition and the Greens, Victorians will be denied easier access to FOI.

Rob Hulls

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Deputy Premier and Attorney-General

Melbourne, Vic

FIRST BYTE

How very magnanimous of Dick Smith to take David Hicks under his wing. I hope he isn't giving him flying lessons.

Mike Yalden

Kiama, NSW

Melanie Phillips's piece on Tariq Ramadan (Opinion, 3/3) makes disturbing reading. On the grounds that he endorses human bomb operations as a religious duty, Ramadan should be denied a visa.

A. Khat

Ryde, NSW

Peter Watt (Letters, 3/3) may not consider us part of Australia but here in the west we have just had the hottest summer on record.

Sue Ashcroft

Swan View, WA

With so much corruption and evil doings going on in state Labor governments, it is a wonderful opportunity for bright young people to stand for Liberal Party pre-selection.

Tom Wilcox

Kew, Vic

Kevin Rudd could end world poverty and bring peace to the Middle East and letter writers such as Allen Arthur and M. Gordon would still be saying, "Yeah, but what's he really done?".

Cameron Smith

Walkerville, SA

Dmitry Medvedev said he was nervous about the outcome of the Russian election. But surely he was the only Russian whose future was certain.

Dr Doron Samuel

Bellevue Hill, NSW

The sharemarket is correcting and the Australian cricket team can't handle a bit of sledging. Which bubble's next?

John Blahusiak

Maylands, WA

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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

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## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Email: [letters@theaustralian.com.au](mailto:letters@theaustralian.com.au) (no attachments)

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**Load-Date:** March 3, 2008



## *Eight dead in bogus rabbi's gun spree*

Daily Mail (London)

March 7, 2008 Friday

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**Section:** 1ST; Pg. 13

**Length:** 523 words

**Byline:** Matthew Kalman

### **Body**

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EIGHT Israeli students died yesterday when a Palestinian gunman entered a religious school in Jerusalem and walked through the building firing indiscriminately.

The bloodbath, which ended when the fanatic was shot down by a soldier, was the first atrocity in the city for four years.

At least nine more students at the rabbinical seminary, some of them in critical condition, had to be taken to hospital.

'It's a massacre, a real massacre,' said witness Eli Rappaport. 'There is blood everywhere in the building.' The Palestinian, disguised as an orthodox Jewish rabbinical student, evaded the heavy security at the school. He entered through the main gate shortly before 9pm when the study hall was packed.

There he pulled out his Kalashnikov assault rifle and opened fire.

There was so much confusion that at first there were believed to be two gunman in the building.

One of those in the hall was student and off-duty soldier

Yitzhak Dadon, who was carrying his own gun.

'I saw him raise his weapon, heard a burst of gunfire and suddenly there was blood everywhere,' he said and added that the attacker walked through the building, shooting in all directions.

'I waited for him on the roof and when he appeared I shot him twice 4,652 Palestinians have died since the second intifada began in 2000 in the head, but he kept on shooting until a soldier arrived and shot him dead,' said Mr Dadon.

Israeli police sealed off the area, which is at the main entrance to Jerusalem, and began searching every vehicle leaving the city.

Dozens of demonstrators filled the streets outside, calling for revenge and demanding that Israel call off peace talks with the Palestinian Authority. The Merkaz Harav Yeshiva, or rabbinical seminary, is located in the religious Kiryat Moshe neighbourhood close to the city's main transport gateway from Tel Aviv and the central bus station.

## Eight dead in bogus rabbi's gun spree

It is the spiritual centre of the Right-wing settlement movement and many of its students live in settlements on the West Bank.

There was no official claim of responsibility but in the streets of Gaza Hamas supporters were handing out sweets in celebration.

'We bless the operation. It will not be the last,' Hamas said in a statement.

In mosques in Gaza City and northern Gaza, many residents gave prayers of thanksgiving.

The attack comes at a critical time for the on-off peace talks between Israel and the Palestinians.

It occurred as visiting U.S.

Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice had managed to persuade the Palestinians back to the negotiating table.

Their president, Mahmoud Abbas, had withdrawn his team after last week's Israeli military operation in Gaza in which more than 100 Palestinians were killed.

His spokesman said: 'President Abbas condemns the attack in Jerusalem and he reiterated his condemnation of all attacks that target civilians, whether they are Palestinians or Israelis.' Two bombs went off within minutes of each other in a packed Baghdad shopping district yesterday, killing 53 and wounding 130.

Many of the victims of the roadside bombs in the primarily middleclass Shi'ite neighbourhood of Karradah were teenagers or young adults. Four were women..

## Graphic

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(1) Chaos: Paramedics carry away one of the wounded students (2) Comfort: A student holds the hand of a wounded friend after the bloody attack in Jerusalem yesterday

**Load-Date:** March 7, 2008

## **Opposition leader to face sodomy charge**

Cape Times (South Africa)

August 07, 2008 Thursday

e2 Edition

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**Section:** NEWS; Pg. 2

**Length:** 203 words

### **Body**

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Malaysian authorities said yesterday they would prosecute opposition leader Anwar Ibrahim for allegedly sodomising a male aide, complicating his bid to return to parliament in a by-election.

A contest to choose the next Miss Nepal scheduled for today was cancelled after Maoist **female** lawmakers denounced it.

Jordanian officials have held talks with the militant Palestinian group **Hamas** for the first time since authorities convicted three of its members two years ago for planning attacks in the country.

Nobel Prize-winning author Alexander Solzhenitsyn has been buried in Moscow in a Russian Orthodox ceremony. Solzhenitsyn died on Sunday at his home outside Moscow aged 89. See Page 9

A US Marine deployed in Afghanistan was killed by a bomb that wounded three other soldiers. Similar explosions have killed seven US soldiers this month.

Spain's interior ministry said police had seized 2.5 tons of cocaine in a high-seas raid on a Venezuelan-registered ship, and arrested 11 people. Six Spanish nationals were also arrested.

Elephants straying into a village killed a woman and her baby along Bangladesh's remote border with Myanmar.

The US government is setting aside land for the endangered Sierra Nevada bighorn sheep.

**Load-Date:** August 7, 2008

## *Gaza escape: too little, too late*

Sydney Morning Herald (Australia)

January 26, 2008 Saturday

First Edition

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**Section:** NEWS AND FEATURES; News Review; Pg. 27

**Length:** 1481 words

**Byline:** Ed O'Loughlin

### **Body**

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The open border between Gaza and Egypt provided its residents with a respite from the blockade, but it has also raised questions about Israel's next move, reports Ed O'Loughlin in Rafah.

It's cold and wet, the electricity keeps going out, there's no petrol for the car and no goods left in the shops, and the row with the neighbours could soon turn really nasty. Yet despite the wider cause for gloom there was an air of suppressed carnival in Gaza this week as tens of thousands of people enjoyed a rare outing from what has been for many years a de facto prison for 1.5 million untried inmates.

On Thursday, a day after **Hamas** militants theatrically broke Israel's ever-tightening siege by blowing holes in the Egyptian border wall, Hanan Atala, 18, came all the way from Gaza City hoping to leave the strip for the first time in her life.

Sadly, her 55-year-old mother's legs were not up to vaulting the low concrete wall on the actual border with Egypt. So while her brother crossed in search of cheese, yoghurt, milk and washing powder, the two **women** stood and gazed at the sandy scrub and rough concrete houses of Egypt, only a few metres away.

"It looks just like here," said Hanan, a little disappointed.

It was the second day of the exodus and already much of the border commerce was a great deal more organised. Fifty metres back from the wall a few stalls sprang up, selling shwarma and baklava.

Amar Al Kor, 21, the son of a Rafah concrete merchant, had hired a large truck to haul home 30 tonnes of precious cement powder, handed sack by sack across the border wall.

"There hasn't been any shipments of cement since **Hamas** took over Gaza from Fatah last year," he explained.

"The Israelis wouldn't let us have any after that, so people who want to build or fix their houses can't do anything - you can't even get cement to put on graves. We got thirty tonnes yesterday and another thirty tonnes a day. It's only a little bit, really. It will help, but in Gaza we need a lot more cement than this."

Mohammed al Rifai, 20, from Gaza City was herding back 10 goats and two kids his family had just bought in Egypt for \$US1700 (\$1943) - steep even at First World prices, but still only a third of the previous going rate in blockaded Gaza, where fresh meat has become a rare luxury in recent months even for those with salaries.

## Gaza escape: too little, too late

"We'll keep some to fatten but most will be sold for meat straight away," he said. "It's hard to find food for them now. We try and bring them to the north, near the border, where it's still green, but the Israeli soldiers shoot to make us go away."

Some brought back luxuries such as biscuits, sweets, cigarettes and televisions, and portable generators and cheap Chinese motorbikes. But the most popular items seen bobbing above the crowd this week were big drums of cooking oil, boxes of dairy products, baby milk formula, tinned meat and fish, washing powder, sanitary towels, mattresses, school copy books and - above all - fuel of all kinds: diesel and petrol in all manner of plastic containers and metal canisters of the liquid petroleum gas which most Gazans use for cooking.

"We've had nothing to cook with for five days," complained Mortaz Abu Khuji, 19, earlier this week, having spent most of Tuesday queuing for a gas refill only to see supplies run out just as he reached the pump.

"I went to Beit Hanoun [near the northern border] yesterday to get wood to burn but the Israelis were shooting from the border to make us run away. I tried to buy some wood but a kilo costs two shekels, and who has that money now? I'll sleep here tonight. I can't go home to my brothers and sisters without gas."

Having cut off all fuel supplies to Gaza late last week - a much reduced flow has since resumed - Israel blamed the new crisis on militants who continue to fire missiles from Gaza at Israeli border communities.

A redoubled barrage of homemade Palestinian missiles injured several civilians last week after a routine Israeli invasion - itself supposed to help curb missile fire - which killed about 40 Palestinians and injured more than 100.

An Israeli foreign ministry spokesman, Arye Mekel, said this week that if the rocket fire stopped life in Gaza would return to "normal". The Prime Minister, Ehud Olmert, said that Israel would not allow Gazans to live well while the rocket fire continued, but would not allow a "humanitarian crisis" to develop there.

But United Nations agencies and aid groups working in the strip say that in Gaza a humanitarian crisis is already the normality.

Medicines are in short supply or totally exhausted, while restrictions on spare parts have shut down vital medical equipment in some hospital wards. The embargo on building supplies, plus restrictions on fuel and spare parts, has left about 40 per cent of Gaza's people without running water, while most of Gaza City's sewage - 400,000 litres a day - is now being pumped raw into the sea without being treated. The rest is overflowing into streets and basements, poisoning ground water that is already polluted far beyond minimum World Health Organisation standards.

Nearly all of the Israeli-dominated enclave's 1.5 million people are now dependent on foreign donors and UN food aid because of an economic boycott - imposed with full Western support after **Hamas** won Palestinian elections in early 2006 - which had shut down most of Gaza's remaining private industry long before the latest crisis began.

The only remaining productive sector, agriculture, has been unable to resume its once highly profitable sale of fruit and flowers to Europe and North America because of Israel's ban on exports.

Ismail Al Helo, a north Gaza fruit farmer, snorted contemptuously when asked about the announcement, shortly before the visit of the US President, George Bush, earlier this month, that Israel was relaxing its ban on food and flower exports from Gaza.

"They are great liars," he said. "Nothing has happened. It was all said just to look good when they were supposed to have peace talks."

Aid agencies warn that the goods coming across from Egypt this week, on foot and in donkey carts, cannot even begin to compensate for the thousands of daily tonnes of imported fuel and supplies cut off by the now near-total Israeli blockade.

## Gaza escape: too little, too late

"What everybody should realise is just how desperate the situation here continues to be," said John Ging, the director of the UN's Palestinian refugee agency, UNRWA, now by default the biggest employer and provider in Gaza.

"Last week we had something in the order of 100 trucks a day of humanitarian supplies coming into Gaza. Yesterday we had 10, the day before 16, today none at all. Before June there were 400 trucks coming in a day - and that to an economy that was already very severely damaged."

UNRWA and the UN's World Food Program, which together feed around 1.1 million of Gaza's 1.5 million people, only have enough stocks of basic foodstuffs - flour, rice, lentils and sugar, for a month, and these are being rapidly depleted.

"Dairy products, fresh meat, all the things that are needed to supplement our distribution are disappearing from Gaza," said Ging. "We only give people 61 per cent of the minimum calorie intake. You can't live just on what the UN gives you. The situation is very bleak."

**Hamas**'s dramatic initiative in blowing open the Egyptian border crossings early Wednesday has created a public relations problem for Egypt and Israel. Neither government wants to be seen to publicly slam the door on desperate civilians whose purchases - mainly small quantities of food, medicine and fuel - underline the urgency of their plight.

But Israel, with strong support from the United States, believes that its blockade can force Gaza's people to rise up against the **Hamas** militants who seized control of the strip last June from the rival US-backed Fatah party. This in turn, it is argued, would end the cross-border bombardment which has terrorised the town of Sderot and killed 10 Israeli civilians over the past seven years.

Israel and the US both told Cairo, their formal ally, that it must solve the problem, warning of an influx of terrorists and weapons into Gaza if the border is not closed. The Egyptian President, Hosni Mubarak, defended his country's decision not to try to turn the Gazans back empty-handed, saying they were "starving" people who should be treated with compassion.

But many Gazans have already discovered that the Rafah escapade is providing, at best, only an illusion of freedom. This week, after months blockaded by Egypt and Israel, many Palestinians took advantage of the breach in the wall to try and take up jobs or studies in Egypt and abroad.

Many - if not all - were turned back at checkpoints on the way to the Suez canal because they did not have Egyptian entry stamps from the Rafah border crossing. A crossing which, by agreement with the US and Israel, cannot reopen without Israel's permission.

## Graphic

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PHOTO: Stock up ... Palestinians made the most of a break in the border wall to get into Egypt and buy urgently needed supplies. Photo: AP/Lefteris Pitarakis

**Load-Date:** January 25, 2008

## Soap opera shakes Arab customs

Chicago Daily Herald

July 28, 2008 Monday

L2 Edition

Copyright 2008 Paddock Publications, Inc.

**Section:** NEWS; Pg. 9

**Length:** 910 words

**Byline:** Associated Press

### **Body**

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RAMALLAH, West Bank — Every evening for the past four months, a tall young man with soulful blue eyes has been stealing hearts across the Middle East, from the refugee camps of the Gaza Strip to the gated mansions of Riyadh.

But it's not just the striking good looks of Mohannad, hero of the hugely popular Turkish TV soap "Noor," that appeal to female viewers. He's romantic, attentive to his wife, Noor, supportive of her independence and ambitions as a fashion designer — in short, rare for women in conservative, male-dominated surroundings.

"Noor" delivers an idealized portrayal of modern married life as equal partnership — clashing with the norms of traditional Middle Eastern societies where elders often have the final word on whom a woman should marry and many are still confined to the role of wife and mother.

Some Muslim preachers in the West Bank and Saudi Arabia have taken notice, saying the show is un-Islamic and urging the faithful to change channels. But the show may be planting seeds of change.

"I told my husband, 'learn from him (Mohannad) how he treats her, how he loves her, how he cares about her,'" said Heba Hamdan, 24, a housewife visiting the West Bank from Amman, Jordan. Married straight out of college, she said the show inspired her to go out and look for a job.

"Noor" seems particularly effective in changing attitudes because it offers new content in a familiar setting: Turkey is a Muslim country, inviting stronger viewer identification than Western TV imports. The characters in "Noor" observe the Muslim fasting month of Ramadan, and Mohannad and Noor were married in a match arranged by his grandfather.

But it also upholds secular liberties: Protagonists have a drink with dinner and sex outside marriage. Mohannad, while faithful to Noor, had a child with a former girlfriend, and a cousin had an abortion.

The nightly soap opera "shows that there are Muslims who live differently," said Islah Jad, a professor of women's studies at the West Bank's Bir Zeit University.

The show's Turkish producer, Kemal Uzun, added: "We are a little more open, not as conservative as some of these countries, and I think this might have some appeal for the audience."

## Soap opera shakes Arab customs

Clerics have been sermonizing against "Noor." "This series collides with our Islamic religion, values and traditions," warned Hamed Bitawi, a lawmaker of the Islamic militant Hamas and preacher in the West Bank city of Nablus.

But the purists seem powerless to halt the "Noor" craze.

In Saudi Arabia, the only country with ratings, about three to four million people watch daily, out of a population of nearly 28 million, according to MBC, the Saudi-owned satellite channel that airs the show dubbed into Arabic for Middle East audiences.

In the West Bank and Gaza, streets are deserted during show time and socializing is timed around it. In Riyadh, the Saudi capital, and in Hebron, the West Bank's most conservative city, maternity wards report a rise in babies named Noor and Mohannad. A West Bank poster vendor has ditched Yasser Arafat and Saddam Hussein for Noor and Mohannad.

Jaro's Clothing Store in Gaza City is doing brisk business in copies of blouses seen on the show, including a sleeveless metallic number adapted to Gaza standards by being worn over a long-sleeved leotard.

Producer Uzun said the Istanbul villa on the Bosphorus, fictional home of Mohannad's upper-class clan, has been rented by tour operators and turned into a temporary museum for Arab visitors.

A recent cartoon in the Saudi paper Al-Riyadh showed a plain-looking man marching into a plastic surgeon's office with a picture of Mohannad with his designer stubble. (Kivanc Tatlitug, who plays Mohannad, is an ex-basketball player who won the 2002 "Best Model of the World" award.)

In the West Bank city of Nablus, civil servant Mohammed Daraghmeh said he had MBC blocked at home so his kids couldn't watch, but the family vowed to watch it at an uncle's house and he backed down.

In Hamas-ruled Gaza, keeping up with "Noor" is a challenge.

Power goes out frequently because of a yearlong blockade imposed by Israel and Egypt after the violent Hamas takeover. When a blackout disrupts viewing, many set their alarms to catch the pre-dawn repeat.

In the Shati refugee camp, several teenage girls huddled around an old TV set recently, trying to follow the action despite overflights by pilotless Israeli aircraft that can scramble reception.

Ala Hamami, 17, wearing a black robe and head scarf, said she looks up to Noor because she is independent.

"This series gives strength to women in the future," said Hamami, although she was set on a very traditional path — she had just gotten engaged in an arranged match.

The cultural divide between modern Turkey and traditional Gaza became apparent in a scene where Mohannad and Noor, played by Songul Oden, both end up hospitalized. The girls giggled and Hamami quickly changed channels when Mohannad entered his wife's room and lay beside her to comfort her. The display of physical contact clearly made her uncomfortable.

Whether the "Noor" effect will be lasting is not known. The season finale falls Aug. 30, the day before Ramadan begins and religious fervor intensifies. Next up on MBC will be "Bab al-Hara," a Ramadan favorite that looks nostalgically at traditional Arab life.

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Associated Press writers Suzan Fraser in Ankara, Turkey; Diaa Hadid in Jerusalem, Barbara Surk in Dubai and Donna Abu Nasr in Riyadh, Saudi Arabia contributed to this report.

## Graphic



Soap opera shakes Arab customs

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ASSOCIATED PRESS Photos featuring the lead characters of the Turkish soap opera "Noor" are seen being hawked on a street corner in the West Bank city of Ramallah.

**Load-Date:** December 22, 2008

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End of Document

## *Soap opera shakes up customs of Muslim married life*

Charleston Gazette (West Virginia)

July 28, 2008, Monday

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**Section:** NEWS; Pg. P1D

**Length:** 893 words

**Byline:** Karin Laub and Dalia Nammari, The Associated Press

### **Body**

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"Noor" delivers an idealized portrayal of modern married life as equal partnership - clashing with the norms of traditional Middle Eastern societies, where elders often have the final word on whom a woman should marry and many are still confined to the role of wife and mother.

Some Muslim preachers in the West Bank and Saudi Arabia have taken notice, saying the show is un-Islamic and urging the faithful to change channels.

The show might be planting seeds of change.

"I told my husband, 'learn from him [Mohannad]: how he treats her, how he loves her, how he cares about her,'" said Heba Hamdan, 24, a housewife visiting the West Bank from Amman, Jordan. Married straight out of college, she said the show inspired her to go out and look for a job.

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However, it also upholds secular liberties: Protagonists have a drink with dinner and sex outside marriage. Mohannad, while faithful to Noor, had a child with a former girlfriend, and a cousin underwent an abortion.

The nightly drama "shows that there are Muslims who live differently," said Islah Jad, a professor of women's studies at the West Bank's Bir Zeit University.

The show's Turkish producer, Kemal Uzun, added: "We are a little more open, not as conservative as some of these countries, and I think this might have some appeal for the audience."

## Soap opera shakes up customs of Muslim married life

Even though some of the racier scenes are sanitized for Arab consumption, clerics have been sermonizing against "Noor."

"This series collides with our Islamic religion, values and traditions," warned Hamed Bitawi, a lawmaker for the Islamic militant group Hamas and an imam in the West Bank city of Nablus.

The purists seem powerless to halt the "Noor" craze, though.

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**Load-Date:** July 28, 2008

## Soap opera shakes up customs of Muslim married life

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## **Latest Israeli assault Friday on Bureij Camp in Gaza Strip; MIDEAST: Many Die With Targeted Leader**

IPS (Latin America)

February 18, 2008 Monday

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**Length:** 539 words

**Byline:** Mohammed Omer

### **Body**

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Human remains mix with debris following the latest Israeli assault Friday on Bureij Camp in Gaza Strip. Early reports listed nine dead and more than 50 injured.

A targeted leader was killed, but many others were killed too.

'It's very hard for us to rescue, or even locate bodies beneath the building,' said a medical relief worker from the local Bureij hospital.

Israel has not confirmed responsibility for the missile attack by F-16 aircraft.

'This is a barbaric crime,' said Dr. Hassan Khalaf, head of the local al-Shifa hospital. 'They bombed residential areas where people were sleeping in their houses.'

The attack apparently targeted the house of a top leader of the al-Quds Brigades, the military wing of the Islamic Jihad party. The leader, Ayman al-Fayed, 42, was reported killed, along with two of his children and his wife. Other victims were from the Bureij camp.

Palestinian sources said seven houses were destroyed, and about 100 others damaged. According to hospital sources, many of the casualties were children under the age of 12, and included a baby only a few months old.

Fire and ambulance crews continued to fight several fires that erupted after the bombing.

In military language, the loss of civilian lives was 'collateral damage'. And not for the first time.

In the assassination of **Hamas** leader Dr. Nabil Abu Salmiya in July 2006, the Israeli air strike killed his wife and eight other family members, and injured many others, including neighbours.

'The Israeli occupation have lost their compasses,' said Islamic Jihad spokesman Abu Ahmed. 'Shelling a house in the middle of a residential district, inevitably killing and injuring children and **women**...this is evidence of their failings.'

Abu Ahmed said Israel will pay a high price for the attack.

'This is an Israeli-made earthquake,' said a Gaza resident. 'Palestinian resistance fighters should fire home-made rockets, so Israelis suffer and feel what we are suffering as a result of their rockets.'

## Latest Israeli assault Friday on Bureij Camp in Gaza Strip MIDEAST: Many Die With Targeted Leader

Anguished Bureij Camp residents gathered outside the local hospital, calling for justice. 'It is a war crime to bomb an entire neighbourhood to kill just one person,' said resident Abu Fuad.

The Israeli air strike came only hours after the visit to Gaza by John Holmes, UN Under-Secretary-General for humanitarian affairs. Holmes urged a re-opening of Gaza's borders to relieve the suffering of 1.5 million civilians.

Holmes is the highest UN official to visit Gaza since **Hamas** took control of the area Jun. 14 last year. Following that the Israeli blockade was further tightened.

Holmes told reporters in Gaza City that the long-imposed blockade 'makes for a grim human and humanitarian situation here in Gaza, which means that people are not able to live with the basic dignity to which they are entitled. I have been shocked by the grim and miserable things I have seen and heard about during the day.'

Just days before the attack, Israel's interior minister Meir Sheehrit told cabinet members that their forces could pick a neighbourhood in Gaza, give the inhabitants 24 hours to leave, and 'wipe it out', according to the BBC.

But in this attack there was no warning, as the Israeli military targeted the leader. © 2008 NoticiasFinancieras - IPS  
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**Load-Date:** February 18, 2008

## World

The Toronto Star

January 2, 2008 Wednesday

Copyright 2008 Toronto Star Newspapers, Ltd.

**Section:** WORLD AND COMMENT; Pg. AA02

**Length:** 532 words

### **Body**

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Gaza Strip

**Hamas** rulers renew crackdown on Fatah

The ruling **Hamas** militant group launched a new crackdown on the rival Fatah movement early yesterday, arresting dozens of activists and barring public gatherings after Fatah anniversary celebrations sparked deadly violence.

The fighting stretched into a second day, leaving a total of eight dead and 60 wounded. The deaths were the first in Palestinian infighting in nearly two months.

South Africa

Zuma corruption trial scheduled for August

African National Congress leader Jacob Zuma will stand trial in August for corruption, prosecutors said yesterday.

Defence lawyer Michael Hulley has said Zuma was being charged with racketeering, money laundering, fraud and corruption. He said the charges were meant to smear Zuma's name, coming barely two weeks after Zuma's resounding victory to take the helm of the ANC.

Iraq

32 mourners killed

in suicide bombing

A suicide bomber killed at least 32 men gathered at a funeral tent in eastern Baghdad yesterday to mourn the death of a retired Iraqi army officer, a Shiite slain last week in a car bombing blamed on Al Qaeda in Iraq.

The bombing occurred in the neighbourhood of Zayouna, a mixed Shiite and Sunni district.

Liberia

Cellphone program

to help fight crime

## World

The government is giving away specially programmed cellphones so citizens in the country impoverished by civil wars can report rapes and other violence as crime soars amid a shortage of police officers.

Up to 10 phones will be issued to each of 400 neighbourhoods in and around the capital Monrovia so people can summon police to crimes in progress. Neighbourhood leaders will pass them on to residents who are most likely to have jobs that keep them up at night or who live in strategic locations, making them more likely to see and report crimes.

## France

Smokers enjoy last puffs in bars, restaurants

Smokers took advantage of a one-day grace period and savoured their last cigarettes over morning coffee in cafes on New Year's Day.

The government ban against lighting up in bars and restaurants took effect yesterday. But officials have said they would not enforce the new measure until today.

Germany implemented a similar ban yesterday, but unlike in France bars and restaurants will be allowed to provide separate smoking rooms.

## Saudi Arabia

Blogger detained for 'non-security' violations

Authorities have detained a popular blogger for violating the kingdom's laws, a senior Interior Ministry official said yesterday. It was the first known arrest of a Saudi online critic.

Fouad al-Farhan, 32, of Jeddah, was being questioned by authorities, Interior Ministry spokesperson Maj. Gen. Monsour al-Turki said. The Saudi English daily, Arab News, said al-Farhan had "violated non-security regulations."

## Burundi

Aid group suspends work after staff shot

French aid group Action Contre la Faim (Action Against Hunger) said yesterday it was suspending its operations in the country after one of its employees was killed and another badly wounded by a gunman.

Police said three French women who worked for the group were escorting two Burundian colleagues to the regional headquarters in Ruyigi province, when the attack occurred Monday.

From the Star's wire services

**Load-Date:** January 2, 2008



## *Palestinian hope withers, Hizb al-Tahrir flourishes*

The Daily Star (Lebanon)

July 21, 2008 Monday

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# THE DAILY STAR

LEBANON

**Length:** 1005 words

**Byline:** Omran Risheq

## **Body**

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The failure of the Palestinian national movement and its shaken credibility in the public eye are giving strength to religious movements, which are expanding to fill a widening gap. But the movements that are gaining are not **Hamas** or Islamic Jihad, which gained their legitimacy more or less as other Palestinian movements did:

The failure of the Palestinian national movement and its shaken credibility in the public eye are giving strength to religious movements, which are expanding to fill a widening gap. But the movements that are gaining are not **Hamas** or Islamic Jihad, which gained their legitimacy more or less as other Palestinian movements did: by taking part in the liberation struggle while upholding the aspiration to establish an independent national state. Rather, there are now other Islamist parties and groups that deny the national project and are hostile toward democratic and social freedoms.

Perhaps the most influential of these movements, and the one with the clearest political platform, is the Hizb al-Tahrir al-Islami (the Islamic Liberation Party), which was founded in Jerusalem in 1953 by the Islamic judge Taqieddine al-Nabhani. Hizb al-Tahrir made the idea of resurrecting the caliphate a permanent watchword of its political activity and a religious duty, in addition to being a panacea for the political, economic, and social problems of the world's Muslims. According to its beliefs, the caliphate will not be founded through popular revolution, but rather through a military coup in a Muslim country. The caliph will then proceed to conquer the world, including liberating Palestine from the Jews. It is worth noting that this theory largely replicates the Marxist-Leninist vision of revolution as led by a vanguard adopting its ideas as a way to take power.

As with other Salafist movements, Hizb al-Tahrir sees a return to fundamentals and "righteous ancestors" as the way to overcome the bitter present and build a prosperous future. Various branches of the Muslim Brotherhood have in one way or another absorbed such modern ideas as democracy and human rights, which could no longer be ignored after Brotherhood members became active in civil society, professional organizations, and universities, as well as entering into the political arena in elections and parliaments. Hizb al-Tahrir, however, openly rejects these concepts, describing them as undisguised apostasy and a Western conspiracy to tighten control over Muslims.

Until recently, Hizb al-Tahrir had not earned the Palestinians' trust. It is a party of rhetoric, whose political activity has been limited to sermons and calls to resurrect the caliphate, while other Palestinian factions were fighting to

## Palestinian hope withers, Hizb al-Tahrir flourishes

end the occupation. But now - with the Palestinian national movement having exhausted the options of negotiations and resistance allowing it to make significant advances on the ground, and with a new balance of power favoring Israel, which is not interested in peace - it has become possible for Hizb al-Tahrir to claim that its approach was right.

The party's progress over the past two years clearly indicates its burgeoning influence. Benefiting from the faltering of Hamas' experiment in power, in August 2007 Hizb al-Tahrir gathered some 10,000 supporters in a festival in Ramallah commemorating the fall of the caliphate. The party has also been helped by dwindling Palestinians hopes over negotiations, and held angry marches in most Palestinian cities in November 2007 under the slogan "Palestine will be freed by the march of armies, not the march of negotiations," protesting against the Annapolis peace conference.

Hizb al-Tahrir's base also has become more socially diverse. Once restricted to the traditional merchant class largely originating in Hebron (the most conservative Palestinian area) or those who had migrated to Jerusalem in search of new markets, the party has begun asserting itself among other classes. Now one can see thousands of the poor and farmers, many of them young, bringing along their wives wearing the head coverings or face veils and their children in segregated buses going to party rallies, where wealthy patrons cover the cost of food, drink and transportation.

Although Hizb al-Tahrir takes a non-confrontational stance toward Israel (and to a lesser degree toward local society, particularly the more vulnerable groups such as women), one cannot ignore the fact that its popularity reflects anger and frustration that might one day explode into violence. Hizb al-Tahrir shares with extremist Islamist organizations the same hard-line points of reference derived from the writings of Abu al-Aala al-Mawdudi (as interpreted by the Egyptian Islamist Sayyid Qutb), which divide the world into a "House of Islam" and a "House of Apostasy" - war being the only language of dialogue between them.

Unfortunately, the Palestinian cause would be the first victim of this explosion, which explains why Israel turns a blind eye to Hizb al-Tahrir's activities. In addition to its disavowal of the principle of a Palestinian state, Hizb al-Tahrir's rhetoric, if it prevailed over that of the nationalist movements, would recast the Palestinian cause as a religious conflict. Furthermore, the party's growing popularity is a grave danger to the progressive ideas and structures that Palestinians have worked hard to consolidate, as well as to decades of effort to convince the international community of the legitimacy of the Palestinian cause.

Hizb al-Tahrir offers a straw to a drowning man. But the disasters through which Palestinians have passed demand a new sense of seriousness from them, before the occupation and desperate Palestinians themselves uproot what remains of the dream of independence and democracy.

Omran Rishq is a Palestinian writer and analyst. This commentary, translated from Arabic by Paul Wulfsberg, is reprinted with permission from the Arab Reform Bulletin, Vol. 6, issue 6 (July 2008) [www.CarnegieEndowment.org/ArabReform](http://www.CarnegieEndowment.org/ArabReform) (c) 2008, Carnegie Endowment for International Peace.

**Load-Date:** October 23, 2008

## *Israel to allow some supplies into Gaza*

The Irish Times

January 22, 2008 Tuesday

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**Section:** WORLD; Other World Stories; Pg. 11

**Length:** 523 words

**Byline:** Peter Hirschberg

### **Body**

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MIDDLE EAST: Israeli leaders announced last night they would begin allowing some diesel and medical supplies into Gaza today, but threatened that if rocket attacks into Israel escalated again, the blockade imposed on the **Hamas**-controlled strip in recent days would be tightened, writes Peter Hirschberg in Jerusalem.

The easing of the blockade followed not only a dramatic drop in rocket attacks over the last 48 hours - down to five rockets in the last two days as opposed to more than 50 in the 48 hours before that - but also growing international pressure on Israel to ease the sanctions.

UN aid agencies said food aid to hundreds of thousands of Gaza residents would have to be suspended within a few days.

Earlier yesterday Israeli prime minister Ehud Olmert warned that if militants kept firing rockets at towns in southern Israel, then the 1.5 million residents of Gaza would not enjoy a "pleasant and comfortable life".

Mr Olmert told Egyptian president Hosni Mubarak and European leaders who called to express concern over the situation in Gaza that he would not allow a humanitarian crisis to develop there. But he broadcast a tough message when talking to members of his ruling Kadima party: "As far as I'm concerned, Gaza residents will walk, without gas for their cars, because they have a murderous, terrorist regime that doesn't let people in southern Israel live in peace."

The main power plant in Gaza stopped operating on Sunday night, leaving Gaza city in darkness. With Israel stopping fuel supplies, bakeries and petrol stations were closed and Palestinian officials warned that fuel for hospital generators would soon run out. "We have the choice to either cut electricity on babies in the maternity ward or heart surgery patients or stop operating rooms," said one health ministry official.

Israeli defence officials, however, said electricity to the strip had not been stopped, that **Hamas** had intentionally fabricated the crisis in a bid to win international support and that it could end it by renewing the electricity supply. **Women** and children, carrying candles in the Gaza darkness, have held demonstrations in the last two days.

"We didn't touch a millimetre of cable," insisted Israel's deputy defence minister Matan Vilnai. "That's a fact."

Israel supplies Gaza with more than 70 per cent of its power. The remainder is supplied by Egypt and by a local Gaza plant. Israel has said it has ceased supplying the fuel to that plant.

## Israel to allow some supplies into Gaza

A UN aid agency spokesman said yesterday that the fuel shortage could lead to food handouts being suspended within a few days. "Because of a shortage of nylon for plastic bags and fuel for vehicles and generators, on Wednesday or Thursday we are going to have to suspend our food distribution programme to 860,000 people in Gaza if the present situation continues," said Christopher Gunness, spokesman for the United Nations Relief and Works Agency.

Palestinian president Mahmoud Abbas has called on Israel to lift the blockade, but he has also faced calls from some lawmakers to cease peace negotiations with Israel that were renewed last month, if the sanctions continue.

**Load-Date:** January 22, 2008

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## *Out of the mouths of bombers*

The Jerusalem Post

July 17, 2008 Thursday

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**Section:** FEATURES; Pg. 13

**Length:** 2893 words

**Byline:** RUTHIE BLUM

**Highlight:** 'Schmoozing with Terrorists' author Aaron Klein says it's global jihad - not the short-term grievances attributed to them by the Western media - that's behind their suicide belts. One on One. Interview

### **Body**

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"The one thing the terrorists don't like," says author Aaron Klein, "is being called terrorists."

This is why, says Klein - the Jerusalem bureau chief for the right-wing news Web site WorldNetDaily.com, and a columnist for the equally conservative Jewish Press - the subjects of his best-selling book, *Schmoozing with Terrorists* (published by World Ahead Media), are unhappy with its title.

"They prefer to be called 'jihadists,'" explains Klein, noting the apparent nuance that is a clear-cut distinction in the eyes of those who believe it is their religious duty to spread Islam throughout the world, by any means at their disposal.

"My response was to tell those who complained to me about my use of the word that when someone violently targets civilians, that's what he is."

That members and leaders of every major Palestinian terrorist organization ever agreed to talk (via translators) to Klein - a 28-year-old "nice Jewish boy" from Philadelphia - let alone continue to contact him after reading what he writes, seems surprising, if not unlikely. Klein disagrees. Not only does he insist that any journalist who wishes to interview terrorist leaders "can simply phone them up," but, he asserts, "they are proud of their goals and achievements, and glad to have a platform for promotion."

Which begs the question: Why provide such a platform? Because, argues Klein, the West in general, and Western media in particular, tend to play down or ignore the realities of radical Islam. Klein believes it's necessary, therefore, "to educate people on what the war on terrorism is really about," by giving a genuine glimpse into the psyche of suicide bombers and their recruiters.

In an hour-long interview in Jerusalem last month, Klein tried to do just that.

What makes terrorists tick?

That's a good question. A lot of people think that terrorism is about pieces of territory - that Hizbullah just wants to get the Shaba Farms back, for example. Others think that Hamas, Islamic Jihad and the whole rest of the alphabet of Palestinian terrorists simply want to destroy Israel or that al-Qaida wants America out of the Middle East. But one thing that has really been driven home to me in all my talks with terrorists - which is the thesis of all of my work - is that they are looking to serve Allah by spreading Islam around the world. That's what makes them tick.

## Out of the mouths of bombers

It is often said of terrorists that desperation and poverty - sometimes mental illness - is at the root of their actions. Is there truth to that?

It's true that if you watch CNN or read The New York Times, you would get that impression. Because whenever there's a suicide bombing in Israel, right away they present human interest stories about how the bomber is poor and living under Israeli occupation. And this is in spite of the fact that in the history of modern civilization, there's no other instance of people under occupation blowing themselves up.

But, about a year and a half ago, I met with a 22- year-old Palestinian who had been recruited to become a suicide bomber for Islamic Jihad and his recruiter in Jenin, and I specifically asked them whether they were carrying out their operations because of poverty and desperation. Their response was to get offended and call it Zionist propaganda. They explained that suicide is forbidden in Islam, and that blowing oneself up in the midst of innocent men, women and children does not constitute suicide, but rather jihad for Allah - that therefore it is not only allowed, but it is the creed.

Do the bombers actually believe they're going to paradise?

The suicide bombers themselves, and even some of the mid-level terrorists, absolutely believe they're going to paradise, where they will be met by 72 dark-eyed virgins. The senior leaders, however, don't seem to believe a lot of what they tell their acolytes. What is interesting about the 72-virgin thing that recruiters and would-be bombers repeat all the time is that it is not in the Koran. The Koran describes a paradise for martyrs as having virgins and full-breasted maidens, but the number 72 doesn't appear. That comes later, in the Hadith [oral tradition]. Anecdotally, once I was meeting with the senior leadership of al-Aksa Martyrs' Brigade in Nablus, and I brought along an American radio host, Rusty Humphries. And Humphries kept pushing them to show us where the bit about 72 virgins appears in the Koran. So they began flipping through the pages, pulling out all sorts of verses that had nothing to do with 72 virgins. Ultimately they conceded that it wasn't in there. But they didn't like being challenged, and they told me later not to bring Humphries back there ever again.

This underscores the heart of the problem - that at its very foundation there is no argument for terrorism. It's so easy to deconstruct. But most of the media out there take the terrorists' lying responses and move on to the next question without challenging them.

Another thing worth noting is that whenever I meet with terrorist leaders - who constantly tell me how brave they are, and how they're not afraid of the Israeli Zionists - they are always surrounded by women and children.

Is this because they believe Israelis try to avoid killing women and children?

Absolutely.

Do they say so, or is this your interpretation?

When I ask them about it, they absolutely don't acknowledge it. But my problem is not with the terrorists who don't acknowledge it; it's with the reporters who don't acknowledge it. Because whenever there's an Israeli anti- terror operation in which Arab civilians are killed, right away we have this moral equivalency between the side that tries to minimize civilian casualties and the side that tries to maximize them.

Are you saying that your goal in interviewing these terrorists is to educate the West about what they're really up to?

Indeed. And I always find that terrorists are very proud of their goals and ideology, unlike the media that report on them. Talk to any terrorist and he'll be very open about his aim to destroy Israel as a stepping stone to achieving his ultimate goal of spreading Islam across the world. I actually enjoy talking to terrorists more than politicians, because when I ask terrorists why they're blowing themselves up, they give me an honest answer.

How is it they're willing to talk to you if what you're doing is exposing them? Aren't you killing their lobby, in effect?

## Out of the mouths of bombers

Maybe that's the way you see it, but they think I'm doing them a favor - and perhaps I am - by giving them a platform from which to explain themselves. I don't analyze what they say; I quote them, and they are very thankful for this.

You say that you might be doing them a favor. In what way? By getting their message out to like-minded brethren?

I don't think that I'm doing them any favor. I'm saying that they want to get their ideology out there, and so maybe they believe that the best way to do it is to have an open microphone. From my perspective, what I'm doing is trying to educate people on what the war on terrorism is really about. We often embolden terrorists without even realizing it, through policies of evacuation, withdrawal, dialogue and negotiations. The terrorists are very open about the fact that if you evacuate territory, they are going to use that territory to stage further attacks toward your annihilation. If you sign a cease-fire with them, they call it a hudna, which comes from the Koran. It's the truce that Muhammad signed on his way to conquering Mecca, which he later violated. For them, a cease-fire is the chance to rebuild and regroup and prepare for the final goal of the enemy's annihilation. So what I'm trying to do here is educate Americans on what works and what doesn't work.

You keep saying that their ultimate goal is global jihad. But there are so many different groups who oppose each other. Can you really talk about the Sunnis and the Shi'ites - or Fatah and Hamas - in the same breath?

On the ground there are a lot of different factions all vying for power. But when it comes to fighting the enemy, they unite.

Do you hear support among terrorists for Iranian President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad?

Absolutely. Any dictator who threatens to annihilate Israel is admired by Palestinian terrorists. Anyway, if you pay them enough money, they're going to do your bidding for you. And Iran is giving a fortune not only to Hamas, but to Fatah's al-Aksa Martyrs Brigade, which coordinates on a regular basis with Hizbullah, which we all know is backed by Iran and Syria.

Before disengagement, critics of the withdrawal said that Israel would be abandoning the territory to an al-Qaida state in the making. Now, you and others refer to it as an Iranian proxy. Which is it?

What's the difference, really, when they're all fighting for the same thing? Al-Qaida is certainly ideologically present in Gaza, where it has ties with Hamas. But at the moment, there isn't much difference between the goals and the way attacks are carried out between these and Iranian-backed terrorists. They're fighting the same enemies - America and America's proxy, Israel.

How informed are the terrorists you've come in contact with about American and Israeli politics?

Many are well-versed, certainly on Israeli politics. Interestingly, when there was a report about [Prime Minister Ehud] Olmert's health issues, I received two separate phone calls from leaders of al-Aksa Martyrs Brigade to make sure that he was OK, because they wanted to make sure that he would stay in power.

Why?

Because they would rather have a Kadima-led government than a Likud-led one. Olmert is more accommodating; his actual election platform was withdrawal from the West Bank, and the terrorists love that, because for them a withdrawal is more territory from which to attack Israel. When it comes to American politics, they understand the difference between Democrats and Republicans, but they don't know so much about the particulars of the US presidential candidates. They consider all Americans as infidels, but they're going to support whichever political party in America they believe will help them achieve their short-term goals - and the Democrats are more outspoken on withdrawing troops from Iraq. Furthermore, Barack Obama is talking about sitting down with the Iranian president, so they'd all prefer to see a Democrat win the presidential election. In fact, I did an interview in April with Ahmad Yusuf, the chief political adviser to Hamas in Gaza, in which he endorsed Obama and compared him to John F. Kennedy.

## Out of the mouths of bombers

What are you saying, then - that these terrorists want to negotiate? You claim they view all Americans as infidels, yet Ahmad Yusuf compared Obama favorably to Kennedy.

They support negotiations with the West, because they see negotiations as a sign of weakness on the part of the West - as a sign that they're bringing the West to its knees.

Do they mention specific events to illustrate that they are "bringing the West to its knees"?

Just a few weeks ago, al-Aksa Martyrs Brigade and Islamic Jihad attempted to attack the Erez crossing and failed. Olmert's response was to pull IDF troops a little bit further back into Israel. In an interview I conducted immediately after this with a Popular Resistance Committee spokesman, he said that this is a sign that the Israeli paper tiger is going to fall. He compared the retreat from Erez to the retreat from Gaza, to the retreat from Lebanon and to giving Palestinians territory in the West Bank.

Why do they agree to talk to you, a Jew, let alone phone you up regularly?

I think it's incredible that I can phone the leaders of terrorist organizations and ask them where they are, while the IDF can't find them and doesn't take them out. But it's not me, it's any reporter. I guarantee you that if I gave you their numbers and you called them up and said you were from The Jerusalem Post, they'd love it. Any reporter who wants to interview a Palestinian terrorist will find that it's very easy to do.

Do you have to pretend that you're on their side when you talk to them?

No. And this is why I think that they have some respect for me. Just as I see them as exotic for being the enemy and dangerous terrorists, they see me, too, as exotic - the pink elephant, a Jew they actually get to talk to. And they relish the opportunity to debate, from a religious perspective, militant Islam vs Judaism. They are as fascinated with me as a Jew as I am with them as terrorists. Furthermore, they say their beef isn't with Jews, but with occupiers, which is a huge lie. Just look at the Palestinian media. It's full of Nazi-like propaganda - with Jews portrayed as pigs and monkeys. This causes many Palestinians to have a total misconception about Jews as all evil.

Couldn't one argue that there are plenty of Israelis who see Arabs in general, and Palestinians in particular, as all evil?

Maybe there are misconceptions on both sides, but on one side there are people telling their kids to become suicide bombers and kill Israelis indiscriminately in cafes, and on the other side, there are people advocating freedom and democracy. So you can't compare the two.

Are you not afraid that these terrorists you interview will kidnap or kill you?

I understand that there's danger in what I'm doing. At the same time, if you look at the kidnappings of journalists in the Palestinian areas, you'll note that they were carried out by masked gunmen - not by a particular terrorist interviewed by a reporter. Believe it or not, when you go in, they protect you.

Have you brought up the issue of kidnapped soldiers Gilad Schalit, Ehud Goldwasser and Eldad Regev with the terrorists?

Yes. They're very proud of these kidnappings, because they understand that average Israelis really can't tolerate even a single soldier being in such a situation, and that therefore Israel is probably going to release Palestinian prisoners or sign a cease-fire in order to try and get them back. To them, when Israel releases Palestinian prisoners, it just goes to show that kidnapping works.

Are they surprised that Israelis value each individual soldier enough to want to make big deals to get them back?

I didn't ask specifically about that, but what they do express is finding anything about Israeli society that they can exploit.



## Out of the mouths of bombers

Have you discussed 9/11 with them?

That's one topic they don't like discussing. The only thing they say is that 9/11 was a Zionist conspiracy. They say, "Don't pin that on us." They simply don't want to be associated with it.

On the other hand, many al-Aksa Martyrs Brigade guys walk around with high-powered assault rifles that were provided by the US, and they told me that they used American funding, arms and training to shoot at the Israelis. They said that if it hadn't been for those things, they don't think the second intifada in 2000 would have been as successful as it was. They credit the American training for a lot of dead Jews.

These were weapons and training the Americans provided for Fatah to fight Hamas?

That was the logic - pitting one bad guy against the other. We saw how well that worked. America gave hundreds of millions of dollars in funding, training and weapons to Fatah. Then Hamas took over Gaza - and terrorists are now showing off to me that they're using American jeeps, American assault rifles and even some shoulder-mounted machine guns to hit Israeli targets. Hamas gave me a list of all the American weapons in their possession, and I wrote an article about this. They translated my article into Arabic and posted it on Hamas's official Web site.

How do Fatah terrorists talk about PA President Mahmoud Abbas (Abu Mazen)?

They say that he's their leader, and that every attack they carry out is supported by him. They don't say that he orchestrates the attacks, but that the attacks are not contradictory to Fatah's platform. In other words, al-Aksa Martyrs Brigade is not some random offshoot of Fatah; it's the leader of Fatah's security forces.

How do the terrorists you've spoken to envision the future of the region?

They're certain of victory. They're certain they're going to destroy Israel, and that it will cease to exist. When I ask them how they can believe that, when Israel has the mightiest military in the Middle East, they point to Israel's defeat against Hizbullah in Lebanon in 2006 as proof that it's a paper tiger.

Are they unaware of other reasons why Israel might not be destroyed - such as the fact that it's a flourishing, modern society, with endless construction and other accomplishments?

They know that Jews are industrious, but what they see is Israel in retreat. They don't really pay attention to its hi-tech sector, as long as they can fire rockets into the area where the hi-tech sector is located. They truly believe that missiles are going to be flying over the Jerusalem-Tel Aviv highway in the very near future.

But how do they envision their own society, in the event that their goals of defeating Israel and the US are achieved?

That's just it. They have no plan beyond jihad. Look, there are a million and a half Arabs in Gaza - some would say trapped there. Can you imagine if there were a million and a half Jews trapped there? They'd build Singapore. When I ask the terrorists about why they haven't built anything in Gaza, they say that they can't build anything until they get all of their land back. They don't seem to have a long-term plan beyond that.

## Graphic

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2 photos: AARON KLEIN. 'I don't analyze what they say; I quote them, and they are very thankful for this.' MIDEAST ANALYSIS. 'They know that Jews are industrious, but what they see is Israel in retreat.' (Credit: Ariel Jerozolimski)

Out of the mouths of bombers

**Load-Date:** October 4, 2011

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## *Abbas, Olmert agree to talk*

Deseret Morning News (Salt Lake City)

November 28, 2007 Wednesday

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**Length:** 1548 words

**Byline:** Anne Geran Associated Press

### **Body**

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ANNAPOLIS, Md. -- Sealing their pledge with an awkward handshake, Israeli and Palestinian leaders resolved Tuesday to immediately restart moribund peace talks. President Bush said he will devote himself to ending the six-decade conflict in the 14 months he has left in office.

Israeli Prime Minister Ehud Olmert and Palestinian President Mahmoud Abbas -- troubled leaders with fragile mandates for peace -- told international backers and skeptical Arab neighbors they are ready for hard bargaining toward an independent Palestinian homeland.

The launch of the first direct peace talks in nearly seven years was the centerpiece of a 44-nation conference Bush convened amid low expectations.

Bush opened the one-day session by reading the text of a joint agreement criticized by some for not addressing the most historically contentious issues and setting only the vaguest terms for the talks to come.

The president wore reading glasses because months of negotiations on the agreement's wording were finalized only eight minutes before Bush took to the podium and there was no time to put it in the larger print he is accustomed to for speeches.

Bush said the agreement marked "the beginning of the process, not the end of it."

"I pledge to devote my effort during my time as president to do all I can to help you achieve this ambitious goal," Bush told Abbas and Olmert as the three stood together in the U.S. Naval Academy's majestic Memorial Hall.

Bush has held Mideast peacemaking at arms' length for most of his nearly seven years in office, arguing that conditions in Israel and the Palestinian territories were not right for a more energetic role. Arab allies, among others, have warned that the Palestinian plight underlies other conflicts and feeds grievances across the Middle East, and have urged the White House to do more.

Bush seemed to be answering that criticism Tuesday, giving detailed reasons that the time is now. He said Israeli and Palestinian leaders are ready to make peace, there is a wider and unifying fight against extremism fed by the Palestinian conflict and the world understands the urgency of acting now.

Later, in an interview with The Associated Press, Bush spoke of the importance of giving beleaguered Palestinians something positive to look forward to.

## Abbas, Olmert agree to talk

Without a hopeful vision, he said, "it is conceivable that we could lose an entire generation -- or a lot of a generation -- to radicals and extremists."

"There has to be something more positive. And that is on the horizon today," the president said.

From here on, Bush described his role in the peace process this way: "I work the phones, I listen, I encourage, I have meetings. I do a lot of things."

Bush planned to play host to Olmert and Abbas at the White House for a third day of meetings today, including a rare session with both Mideast leaders at once.

Negotiating teams will hold their first session in the region in just two weeks, on Dec. 12, and Olmert and Abbas plan to continue one-on-one discussions they began earlier this year. In addition, many of the same nations and organizations attending Tuesday's conference will gather again on Dec. 17 in Paris to raise money for the perpetually cash-strapped Palestinians.

The bland language of the agreement released Tuesday reflected the difficulty of the task ahead. The document skirts the fundamental differences that have led to the collapse of all previous peace efforts: the borders of a Palestinian state, the status of disputed Jerusalem and the rights of Palestinian refugees and their descendants.

The agreement also commits the United States to be an arbiter of whether both sides are living up to promises unfulfilled in the past, such as corralling militants and freezing construction of Jewish settlements. Israel has resisted outside monitoring.

"I had many good reasons not to come here," Olmert told diplomats, including those from Arab states that do not recognize Israel. "Memory of failures in the near and distant past weighs heavy upon us."

Speaking in Hebrew, the Israeli leader decried "dreadful terrorism perpetrated by Palestinian" groups.

Abbas, speaking in Arabic, recited a familiar list of demands. These included calls for Israel to end the expansion of Jewish settle-

ments on land that could be part of an eventual state called Palestine and to release some of the thousands of Palestinian prisoners in Israeli jails.

"Neither we nor you must beg for peace from the other," Abbas said. "It is a joint interest for us and you."

"Peace and freedom is a right for us," he said, "just as peace and security is a right for you and us."

Olmert did promise that the negotiations will address all issues "which thus far have been evaded. We will not avoid any subject. While this will be an extremely difficult process for many of us, it is nevertheless inevitable."

For his part, Abbas made an impassioned appeal to Israelis to support the peace process, saying that war and terrorism "belong to the past."

The three leaders gripped hands and gave a stiff smile, then quickly left the conference. Hours of closed-door speeches about the importance and challenges of peace came next, part of the U.S. program to draw potential supporters and potential spoilers into one fold, but the leaders were not there to listen.

To attract Arab backing, the Bush administration included a session in the conference devoted to "comprehensive" peace questions -- a coded reference to other Arab disputes with Israel. Syria came to the conference intending to raise its claim to the strategic Golan Heights, seized by Israel in 1967, and Lebanon wanted to talk about its border dispute with Israel. Rice told reporters that Syria and Lebanon spoke up, but she gave no details.

In a sign of the difficult road ahead, Abbas' speech was immediately rejected by Hamas, the militant Palestinian faction that stormed to power in the Gaza Strip in June, a month before Bush announced plans for the peace conference. Hamas now governs the tiny territory and roughly a third of the people on whose behalf Abbas would

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negotiate a state. Hamas has refused to drop its pledge for Israel's destruction, and the United States and Israel consider the group a terrorist organization.

Abbas "has no mandate to discuss, to agree or to erase any word related to our rights," Hamas spokesman Fawzi Barhoum said in Gaza. "He is isolated (and) represents himself only."

Tens of thousands of Hamas supporters chanted "Death to America" in a Gaza City rally. The marchers, including women in black robes and full face veils, raised their index fingers heavenward in a sign of Islamic devotion, as they denounced the Annapolis conference as a sellout of Palestinian dreams.

In the face of such resistance, Arab support for a new peace process is deemed essential.

Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice has blamed a lack of Arab support for the collapse of the last peace talks in January 2001, just weeks before Bush took office. U.S. officials have said the conference was designed to get Arab "buy-in" at the outset this time.

"It is clear that to succeed these efforts require the sustained and vigorous support of both regional states" and others, Rice said.

Saudi Foreign Minister Prince Saud al-Faisal clapped politely after Olmert finished his speech.

It was a significant gesture from the nation considered the linchpin of Arab support for the coming talks. Saud, a veteran of past peace efforts, had said before the session that he would not shake Olmert's hand. Saudi Arabia has no diplomatic relations with Israel, and Saud told reporters he would do nothing to normalize relations until after Palestinian statehood and other territorial issues were resolved.

Saeb Erekat, a principal Palestinian negotiator, sounded upbeat, saying that after seven years of a stalemate there is an opportunity for serious talks with broad backing.

"We have the whole world. We have President Bush. And it is going to be two states living side by side in peace," Erekat said.

Privately, however, members of the Palestinian delegation expressed doubts that a deal resolving all the so-called final status issues could be reached by the end of Bush's term in January 2009. Some in the Bush administration share that view.

In Israel, many were also decidedly unmoved by the speeches and high-minded goals of the conference. In coffee houses, felafel stands and kiosks in downtown Jerusalem, television screens were turned off or tuned in to soap operas and soccer matches during the speeches.

One kiosk owner, Yaniv Cohen, tuned his television to a local news channel broadcasting the summit, but the five or six customers drinking hot drinks in his shop weren't even paying attention. "We're working people. We don't have time for this," Cohen said.

The Palestinians believe Israel is not ready for total peace and Olmert will face a difficult time politically as any deal takes shape. Meantime, Abbas is seen as reliable, but also weak and a leader who can't in the end deliver on an agreement.

Despite vocal opposition to the latest peace moves, polls indicate a majority of both Israelis and Palestinians favor a negotiated settlement to the conflict. However, most are skeptical that the Annapolis meeting will bear fruit. Contributing: Amy Teibel, Mohammed Daraghmeh, Matthew Lee and Ben Feller

**Load-Date:** November 28, 2007

Abbas, Olmert agree to talk

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## *Israelis, Palestinians set talks*

Charleston Gazette (West Virginia)

November 28, 2007, Wednesday

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**Section:** NEWS; Pg. P6C

**Length:** 1550 words

**Byline:** Anne Gearan, The Associated Press

### **Body**

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ANNAPOLIS, Md. - Sealing their pledge with an awkward handshake, Israeli and Palestinian leaders resolved Tuesday to immediately restart moribund peace talks. President Bush said he will devote himself to ending the six-decade conflict in the 14 months he has left in office.

Israeli Prime Minister Ehud Olmert and Palestinian President Mahmoud Abbas, troubled leaders with fragile mandates for peace, told international backers and skeptical Arab neighbors that they are ready for hard bargaining toward an independent Palestinian homeland, a deal that has long eluded Mideast leaders and American presidents.

The launch of the first direct peace talks in nearly seven years was the centerpiece of a 44-nation conference Bush convened amid low expectations in this pretty, historic waterfront city east of Washington. Reading glasses on his nose, Bush opened the one-day session by reading the just-completed text of a joint agreement that had taken weeks of contentious negotiating but set only the vaguest terms for the talks to come.

"This is the beginning of the process, not the end of it," Bush said.

The two sides understand that they need a deal, Bush said, and that they need one another.

"I pledge to devote my effort during my time as president to do all I can to help you achieve this ambitious goal," Bush told Abbas and Olmert as the three stood together in the U.S. Naval Academy's majestic Memorial Hall.

"I give you my personal commitment to support your work with the resources and resolve of the American government."

Bush has held Mideast peacemaking at arms' length for most of his nearly seven years in office, arguing that conditions in Israel and the Palestinian territories were not right for a more energetic role. Arab allies, among others, have warned that the Palestinian plight underlies other conflicts and feeds grievances across the Middle East, and have urged the White House to do more.

Bush seemed to be answering that criticism Tuesday, giving detailed reasons that the time is now. He said Israeli and Palestinian leaders are ready to make peace, there is a wider and unifying fight against extremism fed by the Palestinian conflict and the world understands the urgency of acting now.

Later, in an interview with The Associated Press, Bush spoke of the importance of giving beleaguered Palestinians something positive to look forward to - and he sketched a grim alternative.

## Israelis, Palestinians set talks

Without a hopeful vision, he said, "it is conceivable that we could lose an entire generation - or a lot of a generation - to radicals and extremists."

"There has to be something more positive. And that is on the horizon today," the president said.

Bush planned to play host to Olmert and Abbas at the White House for a third day of meetings on Wednesday, including a rare session with both Mideast leaders at once.

Negotiating teams will hold their first session in the region in just two weeks, on Dec. 12, and Olmert and Abbas plan to continue one-on-one discussions they began earlier this year. In addition, many of the same nations and organizations attending Tuesday's conference will gather again on Dec. 17 in Paris to raise money for the perpetually cash-strapped Palestinians.

The bland language of the agreement released Tuesday reflected the difficulty of the task ahead. The document skirts the fundamental differences that have led to the collapse of all previous peace efforts: the borders of a Palestinian state, the status of disputed Jerusalem and the rights of Palestinian refugees and their descendants.

The agreement also commits the United States to be an arbiter of whether both sides are living up to promises unfulfilled in the past, such as corralling militants and freezing construction of Jewish settlements. Israel has resisted outside monitoring.

"I had many good reasons not to come here," Olmert told diplomats including those from Arab states that do not recognize Israel. "Memory of failures in the near and distant past weighs heavy upon us."

Speaking in Hebrew, the Israeli leader decried "dreadful terrorism perpetrated by Palestinian" groups.

Abbas, speaking in Arabic, recited a familiar list of demands. These included calls for Israel to end the expansion of Jewish settlements on land that could be part of an eventual state called Palestine and to release some of the thousands of Palestinian prisoners in Israeli jails.

"Neither we nor you must beg for peace from the other," Abbas said. "It is a joint interest for us and you."

"Peace and freedom is a right for us," he said, "just as peace and security is a right for you and us."

Olmert did promise that the negotiations will address all issues "which thus far have been evaded. We will not avoid any subject. While this will be an extremely difficult process for many of us, it is nevertheless inevitable."

For his part, Abbas made an impassioned appeal to Israelis to support the peace process, saying that war and terrorism "belong to the past."

The three leaders gripped hands and gave a stiff smile, then quickly left the conference. Hours of closed-door speeches about the importance and challenges of peace came next, part of the U.S. program to draw potential supporters and potential spoilers into one fold, but the leaders were not there to listen.

To attract Arab backing, the Bush administration included a session in the conference devoted to "comprehensive" peace questions - a coded reference to other Arab disputes with Israel.

Syria came to the conference intending to raise its claim to the strategic Golan Heights, seized by Israel in 1967, and Lebanon wanted to talk about its border dispute with Israel. Rice told reporters that Syria and Lebanon spoke up, but she gave no details.

In a sign of the difficult road ahead, Abbas' speech was immediately rejected by Hamas, the militant Palestinian faction that stormed to power in the Gaza Strip in June, a month before Bush announced plans for the peace conference.



## Israelis, Palestinians set talks

**Hamas** now governs the tiny territory and roughly a third of the people on whose behalf Abbas would negotiate a state. **Hamas** has refused to drop its pledge for Israel's destruction, and the United States and Israel consider the group a terrorist organization.

Abbas "has no mandate to discuss, to agree, or to erase any word related to our rights," **Hamas** spokesman Fawzi Barhoum said in Gaza. "He is isolated [and] represents himself only."

Tens of thousands of **Hamas** supporters chanted "Death to America" in a Gaza City rally. The marchers, including **women** in black robes and full face veils, raised their index fingers heavenward in a sign of Islamic devotion, as they denounced the Annapolis conference as a sellout of Palestinian dreams.

In the face of such resistance, Arab support for a new peace process is deemed essential.

Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice has blamed a lack of Arab support for the collapse of the last peace talks in January 2001, just weeks before Bush took office. U.S. officials have said the conference was designed to get Arab "buy-in" at the outset this time.

"It is clear that to succeed these efforts require the sustained and vigorous support of both regional states" and others, Rice said.

Saudi Foreign Minister Prince Saud al-Faisal clapped politely after Olmert finished his speech.

It was a significant gesture from the nation considered the linchpin of Arab support for the coming talks. Saud, a veteran of past peace efforts, had said before the session that he would not shake Olmert's hand. Saudi Arabia has no diplomatic relations with Israel, and Saud told reporters he would do nothing to normalize relations until after Palestinian statehood and other territorial issues were resolved.

Saeb Erekat, a principal Palestinian negotiator, sounded upbeat, saying that after seven years of a stalemate there is an opportunity for serious talks with broad backing.

"We have the whole world. We have President Bush. And it is going to be two states living side by side in peace," Erekat said.

Privately, however, members of the Palestinian delegation expressed doubts that a deal resolving all the so-called final status issues could be reached by the end of Bush's term in January 2009. Some in the Bush administration share that view.

In Israel, many were also decidedly unmoved by the speeches and high-minded goals of the conference. In coffee houses, felafel stands and kiosks in downtown Jerusalem, television screens were turned off or tuned in to soap operas and soccer matches during the speeches.

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Despite vocal opposition to the latest peace moves, polls indicate a majority of both Israelis and Palestinians favor a negotiated settlement to the conflict. However, most are skeptical that the Annapolis meeting will bear fruit.

Associated Press writers Amy Teibel, Mohammed Daraghmeh, Matthew Lee and Ben Feller contributed to this story.

## Israelis, Palestinians set talks

**Load-Date:** November 28, 2007

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## *Hole in the wall provides relief from misery of Israeli blockade*

The Independent (London)

January 24, 2008 Thursday

First Edition

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# The INDEPENDENT

**Section:** NEWS; Pg. 2

**Length:** 923 words

**Byline:** Donald Macintyre in Rafah, Egypt

## **Body**

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Abdullah al-Najar, who runs a taxi company in the northern Gaza town of Jabalya, reflected for a moment as the families and donkey carts, laden with everything from olive oil to mattresses, from cement to computers, streamed past him and through what only hours earlier had been the impenetrable part-iron, part-concrete southern wall incarcerating Gaza's 1.5 million residents.

"I don't know who did it," he said cheerfully. "But this is an agreement between two peoples, not between governments."

Mr Najar, 38, had been up early to make the most of the fact that bulldozers had finished the job begun by the militants who had blown the wall wide open with 17 separate explosive charges in the early hours of yesterday. He was returning from Egypt finally in possession of the means of earning the livelihood a seven-month Israeli blockade had gradually denied him: tyres, car batteries, diesel and spare parts, costing some \$1,300 (?650).

Like hundreds of others, he had hired a donkey cart to bring the goods unloaded from an Egyptian taxi across what was once the feared 200-metre-wide Israeli-patrolled Philadelphia corridor, and was now a giant shoppers' car park.

And certainly the steel-helmeted Egyptian border guards standing by their armoured personnel carriers seemed pleased enough to see the tens of thousands of Palestinian men, women and children who squeezed between the now flattened eight- metre concrete slabs of wall or scrambled across the furrows in the now uselessly prone and twisted corrugated iron barrier.

One, in camouflage fatigues, surrounded by curious small boys and standing by Rafah-Sinai's Shuhada Mosque, but with no visible weapon and refusing to give his name, said: "Everything is good. We are very happy at what happened." Had his unit received instructions on how to handle the day-long mass Palestinian break-out? "Nobody told us anything," he replied.

This may not have been quite the collapse of the Berlin Wall. But if anyone doubted the impact of a prolonged siege on an imprisoned people, they had the evidence yesterday.

## Hole in the wall provides relief from misery of Israeli blockade

With Gaza City's streets abnormally light of traffic because of the fuel shortages, the cars, vans, cattle trucks, packed with Gazans seeking everyday household wares, crowded the main Salahadin north-south artery of the Gaza Strip clogging the approaches to the border, confident of filling their jerry cans of petrol and diesel after queueing patiently on the other side. "We are going to heaven," shouted one teenager.

Egyptian Rafah had never seen anything like it, and by early afternoon many of the stores had emptied of goods. As the Egyptian money changers scrambled through the gate in the wire fence on their side of the border, their pockets stuffed with bank notes, the exchange rate in the micro-market of northern Sinai rose from seven Israeli agorot to one shekel for an Egyptian pound.

Israel will understandably see the endless two-way traffic through a gap in the border at least a kilometre wide as a major security headache. It complained yesterday that the breach meant that "potentially anyone could enter" Gaza. And no one, not even the discreetly positioned **Hamas** paramilitaries monitoring the exodus from the Palestinian side - and in places levying taxes on the incoming cartons of Egyptian cigarettes - could tell exactly what each cart, sack and can contained.

But even if, as seems highly probable, **Hamas** were themselves responsible for blowing open the wall, it was the huge masses of civilian Palestinians starved since June of any goods other than the absolute basics - and for much of the past week even of those - which then overwhelmed the border yesterday.

Men such as Mohammed al-Sheikh, 30, a butcher from Deir el Balah in central Gaza, where the price of beef has almost doubled to ?7.50 a kilo, had simply taken an Egyptian taxi to the village of Sheikh Zied and walked back to the border leading the frisky black and white cow he had bought for 4,000 Egyptian pounds, or ?360.

Or Marwan Talah, a 25-year-old farmer from Gaza City whose haul included six brown shaggy-haired sheep from Al Arish and two bags apiece of chemical fertiliser and the all-precious Egyptian Portland white cement which nearly every Gazan seemed to have bought sacks of yesterday. The months' long absence of cement imports through the closed Karni cargo crossing has not only halted construction throughout Gaza, but meant that its families can no longer provide the slabs to cover the graves of their dead.

But they had not all come for the medicine, flour, cooking gas, tobacco, chocolates, ovens - and, in at least one case, a \$1,000 Chinese-made motorcycle - or much else unobtainable or prohibitively expensive in Gaza.

Kifa Zorab, 33, married with her five children in tow, was excited to be crossing the border to see her family in Egyptian Rafah. "We are going to see my mother-in-law," she explained with a smile. "Half my loved ones are in Gaza, and half on the other side. We're so happy; we're so relieved. It feels like a festival, like the Eid. And the Eid [the great mid-winter Muslim festival of Eid al Adha, where in normal times children are showered with gifts] was not good this year."

Inside the ironically still closed and guarded official border terminal, a uniformed **Hamas** "Brigadier General" stood beside Dr Atef Mohammed, a senior pharmacist waiting for his staff to bring urgently needed medicines back across the border. "It's excellent," said the Brigadier. "We have no problem with the Egyptians." He insisted that "nothing was planned".

**Load-Date:** January 24, 2008

## **New Israeli PM feels heat; Livni has six weeks to form coalition**

Windsor Star (Ontario)

September 19, 2008 Friday

Final Edition

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**Section:** NEWS; Pg. A7

**Length:** 574 words

**Byline:** Matthew Fisher, Canwest News Service

**Dateline:** JERUSALEM

### **Body**

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JERUSALEM - With only six weeks to forge a new coalition in Israel or face national elections, Tzipi Livni will have little time to savour winning the Kadima leadership early Thursday.

To succeed the disgraced Ehud Olmert and become Israel's 13th prime minister, the former secret agent, lawyer and serving foreign minister must win over 32 members of Israel's incredibly Byzantine Knesset in order to form a coalition with Kadima's 29 deputies.

"The national mission we have is to quickly create stability," Livni told reporters in Tel Aviv before returning to Jerusalem. "This responsibility is not just mine but inside Kadima and members of the Knesset."

The process of wooing potential coalition partners and millions of Israeli voters began within hours of the official announcement of her narrow victory.

Whether Livni is successful at building a coalition or not, at some point between next February and 2010 she must face an election against Benjamin Netanyahu, the leader of Likud and a hardliner who has very different views about the peace process between Israel and Palestine.

"It should not be left up to registered Kadima voters alone" to decide who the next prime minister is, Netanyahu said Thursday, in demanding that Livni call a snap election. "The people should decide who will lead them. Anyone who fears the people's choice is not fit to lead."

Netanyahu, who was prime minister from 1996 to 1999, lost power after a series of scandals but returned to lead the Likud in late 2005. Well known for his blunt one liners, he lampooned Kadima supporters this week as being similar to people who invested in Lehman Brothers, the failed U.S. financial giant.

No matter what Netanyahu wants, it is extremely unlikely that Livni will go to the polls for at least several months, if she can avoid doing so by forming a new coalition.

Aside from devoting herself to this task, she must explain to anxious Israelis why she would be the best person to confront the threat represented by Iran's nuclear ambitions. She must also handle smaller but potentially bloody tests from **Hamas** in Gaza and Hezbollah in southern Lebanon and explain what her red lines are concerning the

## New Israeli PM feels heat; Livni has six weeks to form coalition

future of Jerusalem and Palestinian demands that millions of refugees be allowed to return to where they once lived.

A greater Israel from the Mediterranean Sea to the Jordan River is an ideology that Livni imbibed as the daughter of Zionist parents who fought the British to create the Jewish state. But a few years ago she did an about-face. Facing with a rapidly growing Palestinian population living within Israel and the territories, she became a believer in a two-state solution.

But her position on Iran, **Hamas**, Gaza and the peace talks are not why Livni got elected as the new leader of Kadima. Nor was it because she closely identified herself with **women**'s issues as U.S. presidential hopeful Hillary Clinton did. The fact that she is a woman barely figured in her leadership campaign.

Kadima members backed the stylish, modestly dressed 50-year-old mother of two because she is squeaky clean in a political culture that has become the subject of derision.

Serious allegations, charges and convictions have been levied against a string of major political figures including former president Moshe Katsav, former prime minister Ariel Sharon and the incumbent, Olmert, who, police have alleged, received hundreds of thousands of dollars in illegal campaign donations.

## Graphic

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Colour Photo: Tzipi Livni ;

**Load-Date:** September 25, 2008

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## *Speaking to the region across a wide gulf*

The Jerusalem Post

June 6, 2008 Friday

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**Section:** FEATURES; Pg. 14

**Length:** 2181 words

**Byline:** CALEV BEN-DAVID

**Highlight:** On a visit to attend 'The Doha Debates,' a 'Jerusalem Post' writer finds the small but rich emirate of Qatar leading a media revolution in the Arab world. BETWEEN THE LINES. The Doha Debates featuring Mahmoud Zahar will be broadcast on BBC World on June 7 and 8.

### **Body**

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It's a late May evening in Doha, capital of the Gulf emirate of Qatar, and the temperature has dropped to a balmy 38¼C from a blistering daytime high of 45¼C.

Luckily, the air-conditioning is keeping things cool in the large room at the headquarters complex of the Qatar Foundation for Education, Science and Community Development where The Doha Debates, a public affairs program now concluding its third season on BBC World News, is being taped for later broadcast.

Tonight's guest is top **Hamas** official Mahmoud Zahar, who will field questions from host Tim Sebastian and an audience of Qatari students and other young Arabs from around the region.

As the taping gets under way, things quickly heat up, with Sebastian challenging Zahar in the patented take-no-prisoners style he perfected during his years as host of the BBC interview program, HARDtalk.

Raising the issue of the Kassam rockets shot daily from Gaza on Sderot and other Israeli communities, Sebastian asks bluntly: "You call this self-defense? Indiscriminate attacks against innocent civilians in Israel? You don't care who you kill, do you?"

Zahar surely anticipated such treatment from Sebastian when he signed up to do The Doha Debates. Less expected, perhaps, is the grilling he subsequently receives from the audience. While his rote denunciations of Israel garner dutiful applause, the **Hamas** leader finds himself the subject of a stream of blistering inquiries from the young Arabs seated before him.

"How do you consider yourself an Islamic organization, when Islam forbids killing innocent people and civilians, even when they belong to an enemy?" asks one.

"You are criticizing the Israelis for doing things against the Palestinians that **Hamas** is itself doing," says another.

A young woman who identifies herself as a Palestinian shoots out in a strong voice: "Not only are **Hamas**'s activities creating a negative image of Palestinians, both in the Arab world and international community, but it's also costing many, many lives - so how can you allow this to continue?"

## Speaking to the region across a wide gulf

There's no program other than The Doha Debates in the Middle East that allows Arab audiences to so openly confront a figure such as Zahar, and it's hard to imagine any other place in the Arab world they could do so other than in Qatar. The uniqueness of program is emblematic of Qatar's exceptional role in the region - one sending out ripples of change throughout the Middle East - and generating a strong counterreaction, as well.

QATAR SITS on a small peninsula that juts up like a left-hand thumb from the east coast of Saudi Arabia into the Persian Gulf. It shares many of the same characteristics of the other Gulf states: It sits on a huge ocean of oil (an estimated 15 billion barrels) and natural gas, making it the richest nation in the world per capita; it is still ruled by a dynastic sheikhdom, although it has recently introduced some democratic reforms; the rising oil economy has powered a local construction boom, leaving Doha's skyline dotted by ultra-modern skyscrapers in various stages of construction or completion; and its native population of about 350,000 is outnumbered by some four times that number of foreign workers. (When I arrive in Doha, I am greeted at the airport by a Chinese woman, taken to my hotel by a Filipino driver and checked in by an Indian receptionist.)

In other ways, though, Qatar has carved out for itself its own exceptional identity among neighbors that include Saudi Arabia, Dubai, Bahrain, Abu Dhabi and Kuwait. My own presence there last week is indicative of one aspect of this special status. Qatar was the first Gulf state to openly establish diplomatic relations with Israel, and after suspending them with the outbreak of the second intifada, it reestablished trade relations in 2005, allowing Jerusalem to open a commercial office in Doha. Foreign Minister Tzipi Livni visited there two months ago, to attend the Doha Forum on Democracy, Development and Free Trade, and other Israelis are allowed to visit if they receive government permission for a visa.

These developments are part of a relatively dramatic (in terms of the Gulf) push forward toward Westernization and liberalization over the past decade, following the ascension to its throne of Qatar's current ruler, Emir Hamid bin Khalifa Al Thani. Hamid has expanded women's rights, including the right to vote in local elections and for a newly formed parliament; recently allowed the first church to open to serve the Christian foreign labor population; and has significantly invested in and opened up the nation's educational facilities, including a literal "Education City," whose colleges include local branches of Carnegie-Mellon, Georgetown, Cornell, Texas A&M and Virginia Commonwealth.

Credit for many of these developments, especially the latter, is also given to the emir's dynamic wife, Sheikha Mozah bint Nasser al-Missned, who has emerged in recent years as second only to Jordan's Queen Rania as the most prominent female ruler in the Arab political world. She makes her influence felt through her role as chairwoman of the Qatar Foundation, which serves as the principle sponsor of The Doha Debates (and also sponsored my visit to Qatar).

Beyond education, it is in media through which Qatar has made its most notable impact on the region. The most prominent manifestation of this - and the most controversial - is the Arabic Al Jazeera satellite TV news network, founded in 1996, and joined two years ago by an English-language sister channel.

Al Jazeera has, of course, been bitterly attacked in Israel recently for its slanted reporting of the Gaza situation, as well as by the US and Iraq on its coverage of the latter's ongoing conflict. But there's no denying its impact on the Arab world in presenting reports dealing with sensitive political, social and religious issues with a critical openness that has proved groundbreaking for the Arab broadcast media (and this includes giving Israeli officials a chance to have their say directly to Arab audiences).

Qatar is now looking to expand that outreach in other media outlets.

While in Doha, for example, I meet with Abdulaziz al- Mahmoud, editor-in-chief of a new daily, Al Arab, that started publishing in November and has hopes to become a regional paper.

Before this, al-Mahmoud served as a senior editor at Al Jazeera, and still sits on the board. He defends the station from charges of bias, but when I suggest that the station is also serving political purposes, he concedes, "Yes, you can say that" - although when I ask what they are, he responds with a smile, "To be honest, I'm not sure."



## Speaking to the region across a wide gulf

Al Arab is different, he assures me, more of commercial venture sponsored by local investors (Al Jazeera gets direct government funding) and one in which he has a freer editorial hand.

An engaging personality, Mahmoud is at ease discussing and debating an Israeli journalist on various regional issues. But ordinary Qataris (if there is such a thing) are apparently less comfortable with the idea, he concedes, telling me the Israeli trade office had initial difficulty finding someone to rent it space until the government intervened. Full normalization will only come, he insists, after a final agreement with the Palestinians is reached.

As for Qatar's own normalization in the area of press freedom, it has clearly made some impressive strides. Earlier this year the emir authorized the establishment of the Doha Media Center, an NGO set up in collaboration with the international organization Reporters Without Borders, whose mission will be to "focus on violations committed against media in the Arab world and other countries."

Still, even Reporters Without Borders last year ranked Qatar in 79th place on its Worldwide Press Freedom Index, below neighbors Kuwait and the UAE (Israel was 44th). Al Jazeera may feel free to criticize Jerusalem and other Arab regimes, but it is noticed that it rarely turns that critical eye on Qatar's own government, especially Emir Hamid and Sheikha Moza.

ONE MAN in Qatar who insists he operates under no editorial restrictions at all is Doha Debates creator and host Tim Sebastian.

"I just wouldn't have accepted working here under any other condition," the veteran BBC reporter insists, in the same self-certain tone he used to such great effect taking on various world leaders in his years on HARDtalk.

The Doha Debates evolved out of a conversation Sebastian had four years ago with Sheik Hamid, "in which he asked me what kind of program I would do here if I had the freedom to do so, and I said one based on the Oxford Union debates," in which notable figures take sides over a particular motion, and a student audience votes afterward, either in favor or against.

Like much else in Qatar that happens with lightning speed once the emir gives his assent, a pilot program was quickly set up on the motion: "This House believes the Arab world is not interested in genuine reform," and Sebastian recruited an old colleague, Ali Willis, to act as producer.

"Initially we thought this might be a one-off or limited series," says Willis. "It was only after the third program, when it got picked up by BBC World, that we realized it would be a continuing series."

The only input from the sponsors, she says, "was a request that we take down a portrait of the emir that we had hung in the background for the first show."

There certainly seems to be virtually no regional hot-button topic the program has not dealt with in the past four years, including: "This House believes in the separation of mosque and state"; "This House believes that Iran poses the greatest threat to security in the region"; "This House believes Hizbullah had no right to fight a war on Lebanon's behalf"; and "This House believes that Arab women should have full equality with men."

In January 2007, Shimon Peres was invited to appear on the program, becoming the first high-ranking Israeli to visit Qatar in more than a decade, and he has been followed by Meretz MK Yossi Beilin and former foreign minister Shlomo Ben-Ami. The Doha Debates segments dealing with the Israeli-Arab conflict are among the most controversial and popular, according to Willis.

"The show on the motion 'This House believes the Palestinians should give up their full right of return,' probably generated the greatest response," she says.

Unfortunately, that motion was rejected, although last month's "This House believes the Palestinians risk becoming their own worst enemy" was approved. Certainly it's harder to imagine a better example of that proposition than Zahar, who, during his contentious 90-minute give-and-take with the studio audience, rejected any criticism of Hamas, showed not the slightest sign of any possible acceptance of Israel's existence and displayed not even a

## Speaking to the region across a wide gulf

sliver of self-doubt or remorse in his organization's policy of deliberately targeting innocent civilians (or, for that matter, attacking fellow Palestinians it considers a threat).

Certainly on this occasion, The Doha Debates lived up to its stated mission as "a public forum for dialogue and freedom of speech in Qatar."

Sitting in the crowd is 24-year old Almuhammad al-Hammadi, one of the bright young Qataris who regularly attend, and who recently began working in the country's Foreign Ministry.

"It is helping to open up the country to discussion and debate, giving the people courage to speak out about certain issues that were once considered taboo," he says.

One sign of this is that just three months ago the country held its first-ever student debating competition, organized by the recently formed Qatar Debate Society, which next autumn will also be sending a national team (three of whom are girls) to the World Schools Debating Championships in Washington DC.

So impressive and quick are the apparent strides being made by Qatar in the realm of free expression, one can't help wonder if it may pose a possible danger to the country's social and political stability down the line.

"It's true that it is still primarily the younger Qataris, the students seen as the 'Qatar Foundation' generation, that is being influenced by all this," says al-Hammadi. "And they are being given certain expectations that could become problematic if these aren't met."

If the possibility of a local backlash against this rapid liberalization should remain a concern, that trend is already evident on a regional level. In February, the Arab League adopted a new "satellite channel charter" that officially allows its member-states to withdraw broadcast permits from stations that "offend the leaders or national and religious symbols" or "damage social harmony, national unity, public order or traditional values" of Arab countries. Clearly, outlets such as Al Jazeera, and programs like The Doha Debates, were the spur to the measure - and Qatar and Lebanon were the only countries that voted against it.

"It's a worrying development," says Sebastian. "Free speech in the region is under pressure, and we stand out even more as a forum where people can say things they can't say anywhere else."

[calev@jpost.com](mailto:calev@jpost.com)

## Graphic

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2 photos: A PANORAMIC view of Qatar's capital. Doha's skyline is dotted by ultra-modern skyscrapers in various stages of construction or completion. HEATED EXCHANGE. **Hamas** official Mahmoud Zahar fields questions from host Tim Sebastian. (Credit: Courtesy of 'The Doha Debates')

**Load-Date:** October 4, 2011

**PEACE MISSION OR COSTLY PR STUNT?; Tony Blair's much trumpeted Middle East role costs Britain £400,000 a year. An entire floor of the best hotel in Jerusalem is permanently reserved for him, although he is hardly ever there. But with BOTH sides growing increasingly frustrated, what has he achieved?**

Mail on Sunday (London)

May 18, 2008 Sunday

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**Section:** FB; Pg. 52

**Length:** 2039 words

**Byline:** David Rose

## **Body**

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IN JERUSALEM it has become much harder to get a room in the city's best hotel, a carved stone palace that was once the haunt of Churchill and Lawrence of Arabia.

The reason for the shortage is simple.

There are only 86 bedrooms at the American Colony Hotel and ten of them - more than an entire floor - have been booked indefinitely by Tony Blair to be used as offices by his mission to the Middle East.

The cost, much of it borne by the British taxpayer, is considerable. The Mail on Sunday has obtained a copy of Mr Blair's contract with the hotel, which shows it is being paid nearly \$1.34million - about £700,000 - annually for the office rooms alone.

When Mr Blair and his entourage of six bodyguards, a Press officer and Nick Banner, a former member of his team at Downing Street, are in town, the space available at the Colony shrinks still further..

Although the well appointed British Consulate-General is just three streets away, they sleep at the Colony - adding about £2,000 per night to the bill, not including food.

Since Mr Blair's appointment last June, the mission has also purchased a £75,000 armoured car and spent £55,000 on security, £15,000 on phones, computers and stationery, £2,500 on car rental and £20,000 on general administration.

Naturally enough, when Mr Blair flies to Israel, something he does at least once a month, he and Mr Banner go first-class on British Airways, a return fare costing £2,424 each. The bodyguards have to put up with club, which costs £1,732.

Mr Blair was appointed largely due to pressure from President Bush. He and his peace mission work for the diplomatic Quartet, an ad hoc coalition of the UN, the EU, Russia and the US.

## PEACE MISSION OR COSTLY PR STUNT? Tony Blair 's much trumpeted Middle East role costs Britain £400,000 a year. An entire floor of the best hotel in Jerusalem is....

According to a UN spokesman, the biggest slice of the running costs is met by Britain - to date that is £400,000. But it is not clear to whom, if anyone, Mr Blair is accountable.

Earlier this month he was supposed to appear before the Commons International Development Committee. But six days before the meeting, he pulled out.

'We put out a Press notice saying he was coming to give evidence. As soon as we did that, his office rang to say, "He can't come now,"' said the committee chairman, Liberal Democrat Malcolm Bruce.

'We think it is quite important.

After all, the Department for International Development is funding the office of the Quartet so it is right and proper to hear exactly what he is doing.' Mr Blair's spokesman, Matthew Doyle, dismissed as 'depressingly pathetic' suggestions that the former Prime Minister's decision not to attend the committee amounted to a 'snub', insisting Mr Blair would come before the committee when he was less busy 'in a few weeks'.

As for Mr Blair himself, speaking in Jerusalem last week, he portrayed his mission as a success, presenting a new plan for Palestinian economic development and restating his belief that an independent Palestinian state at lasting peace with Israel could be created before the end of this year.

If that goal materialised, his mission might seem cheap. But on the ground in the Middle East, where last week President Bush made his second visit this year, I found a very different story.

Both Israelis and Palestinians expressed deep scepticism about the Blair mission and the US-led peacemaking effort of which it forms a part. The prospects for a deal before the end of 2008 were, they said, extremely slim.

No one doubts Mr Blair's good intentions. 'We take his mission very seriously,' said Mark Regev, spokesman for Israeli prime minister Ehud Olmert. 'He meets the Israeli leadership at the highest level.' But his practical impact, other sources said, is small. 'The idea that some outside coach can solve all our problems and teach a society how to rebuild itself is a mistake,' a top Israeli intelligence official said. 'I don't think it will work.' Among Palestinians - the group to which Mr Blair is supposed to be directing his principal efforts - the criticism is harsher.

'He is creating illusions and false expectations and living in a fantasy world,' said Dr Hanan Ashrawi, the veteran Palestinian human rights campaigner.

'That's a very dangerous thing to do. It means the very idea of peace risks losing its constituency.' Part of the problem, Dr Ashrawi said, was that Mr Blair did not dedicate enough time to the region and was insufficiently engaged in its myriad details.

The day he left Downing Street last June, Mr Blair promised to approach his new job with 'huge intensity and work'. But, according to Dr Ashrawi, Mr Blair's many other commitments - his part-time post with merchant bank J. P. Morgan, which pays £2.5million a year, his campaign to curb global warming, his global inter-faith foundation, the Tony Blair Sports Foundation and his occasional but lucrative lectures in America - mean he is 'only an occasional actor, not the consistent, insistent person we need'.

This is rejected by Matthew Doyle. However, Israeli sources say that in some months, Mr Blair has spent only two or three nights in his American Colony suite, though Mr Doyle insists it is usually at least a working week.

Asked to provide details, he said this was a 'ridiculous question' and that he could not supply this information because his diary 'only contains the future, not the past'.

Dr Ashrawi revealed that last November, at a dinner hosted by Richard Makepeace, Britain's Consul-General in Jerusalem, a delegation of six high-level Palestinians voiced their concerns to Foreign Secretary David Miliband about Mr Blair's apparent lack of commitment.

PEACE MISSION OR COSTLY PR STUNT? Tony Blair 's much trumpeted Middle East role costs Britain £400,000 a year. An entire floor of the best hotel in Jerusalem is....

'We were all shocked that someone of his experience was not delivering,' said another of those present, who asked not to be named.

'Ten months after he was assigned, I can't quote a single thing that has made a real difference.' In Britain, it is not commonly realised just how restricted Mr Blair's role is. In the last weeks of his premiership, he allowed his spokesmen to talk it up, suggesting that on his shoulders would fall the burden of negotiating Middle East peace.

This, they let it be known, promised to provide a brilliant coda to his career, a sequel to his pacification of Northern Ireland.

In fact, as prime minister Olmert's spokesman Mr Regev said, his job is far more limited: 'To move ahead on the economic and quality-of-life issues, which cannot be underrated.' Perhaps not. But Mr Blair's job lacks the political clout that might enable him to do what he accomplished in Ulster. The clearest illustration comes from Gaza, where **Hamas**, the militant Islamist group responsible for a continuing barrage of rockets into southern Israel, seized power from its rivals in a bloody coup days before Mr Blair's appointment last June.

There, the writ of Palestinian president Mahmoud Abbas does not run, and it is hard to see how any peace deal can emerge while the crowded Gaza strip remains a **Hamas** statelet.

Indeed, when Mr Blair started work, his aides said that 'working to restore Palestinian unity' would be 'the central purpose of his mission'.

Ten months later, Mr Blair has yet to set foot in Gaza, home to 1.5million Palestinians, and the rift between it and the West Bank is deeper than ever.

'Everyone here would welcome a visit by Blair,' said Ghazi Hamad, a **Hamas** leader and adviser to Gaza prime minister Ismail Haniyeh.

'There's no sign of it happening.' On his website, [www.tonyblairoffice.org](http://www.tonyblairoffice.org), Mr Blair cites the 'risks for peace' he took in Northern Ireland, negotiating with Sinn Fein before the IRA had laid down its weapons. A growing body of Israeli opinion believes it is time to take a similar risk with **Hamas**.

With **Hamas** and 12 other extremist factions in Gaza recently offering what amounted to an unconditional ceasefire, I asked Mr Doyle whether he thought Israel should accept this offer and negotiate. His reply exposed the Blair mission's truncated scope. He could 'express no view' on the matter, he said. It was 'a matter for the Israelis'.

Meanwhile, Gaza's isolation is proving very expensive. At the end of last year in Paris, Mr Blair trumpeted his success in securing pledges of £3.9 billion of aid over three years for the Palestinians from international donors, with £250 million set to come from British taxpayers.

Some of this money is earmarked for development projects. But the lion's share - £900million a year - goes to pay the Palestinian Authority's salaries for teachers, health workers, civil servants and police.

The authority's ministers, however, have ordered almost all of their 60,000 staff not to go to work as long as **Hamas** remains in control, so that in Gaza, £450million is going to pay people who stay at home.

Mr Blair has also announced a series of big development projects he has 'greenlighted', describing them as 'a critical part of the whole process'.

Top of the list is a new sewage treatment works for Gaza where, last summer, a huge open cesspool burst its banks, engulfing a nearby village in a tide of human waste. At least ten people drowned. But Mr Hamad said there was no sign of progress, largely because Israel had blocked entry to key engineers and materials.

PEACE MISSION OR COSTLY PR STUNT? Tony Blair 's much trumpeted Middle East role costs Britain £400,000 a year. An entire floor of the best hotel in Jerusalem is....

Recently a UN report confirmed that claim, adding that since the beginning of 2008, Gaza had dumped 60million litres of untreated sewage into the Mediterranean, 'posing health risks for bathers and consumers of seafood'. The sewage flows north to Israel, threatening beaches and desalination plants.

Travelling around the West Bank, I found other examples where the things delivered by Mr Blair seem not to match his rhetoric. Engineer

Bashar Masri, a proprietor of internet, advertising and construction firms in Ramallah, plans a new town of affordable stone-built homes for up to 40,000. But he needs the international donors who pledged billions in Paris to provide £25million to the Palestinian Authority to pay for the infrastructure - roads, schools, library and clinic.

'I met Tony Blair at the American Colony on February 5,' said Masri. 'I pleaded for his help. I told him, "You can make this happen." He sounded very positive. He said we had his full support. Since then we have not heard from his team once. This is an investment in peace, an investment in Palestine. But silence.' Another of Mr Blair's jobs is to improve 'movement and access' by persuading the Israelis to dismantle security checkpoints within the West Bank, where vehicle queues lasting hours choke the Palestinian economy.

But so far, according to the UN, only five out of 600 have been abandoned.

Another of his 'greenlighted' projects is to develop a huge industrial park at Tarqumia. But Israel has refused permission to build on a level site next to its border, offering an alternative half a mile away. This consists of rocky hills and ravines - hardly a place to build factories.

I found another, sadder example of Mr Blair's failure to deliver - a small but inspiring joint scheme by Palestinian and Israeli women in Tel Aviv to make and sell designer clothing using Palestinian embroidered cloth.

At the suggestion of Consul-General Makepeace, a friend of the women, British-born writer Susan Nathan, submitted a proposal to Mr Blair last November.

'We needed £10,000,' said Janete al-Amar, a Palestinian. 'We needed a workshop and a little money for marketing. Most of these women's husbands are unemployed and this could transform their families' lives.' To Janete al-Amar and Susan Nathan's disgust, Mr Blair's team has not replied. 'I'm shocked,' Ms al-Amar said. 'He's done nothing.

Maybe the problem is that he only wants to help the big people, the people with connections.' Last night Mr Doyle said Mr Blair hoped to visit Gaza when the security situation improved. He said Mr Blair was determined to help the Gaza sewage project, Mr Masri's housing scheme and the Tarqumia industrial zone succeed, and had been 'working actively' to those ends. He added that the first phase of the sewage treatment plan would be in place by June.

Speaking with Condoleezza Rice, Mr Blair himself said: 'I believe that we can achieve a breakthrough because there is a focus now both on improving the Palestinian security capability and on getting economic and social development going.' Outside his mission's opulent offices at the American Colony Hotel, many Palestinians and Israelis fear that 'focus' is a little blurred..

## Graphic

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LACK OF PROGRESS: Tony Blair in the West Bank earlier this month, left and right. Above: The American Colony Hotel where his mission is based

**Load-Date:** May 18, 2008

PEACE MISSION OR COSTLY PR STUNT? Tony Blair 's much trumpeted Middle East role costs Britain £400,000 a year. An entire floor of the best hotel in Jerusalem is....

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**Israel frees 198 Palestinians from jail; Rice, arriving for visit, acknowledges 'work ahead' on peace**

The International Herald Tribune

August 26, 2008 Tuesday

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**Section:** NEWS; Pg. 4

**Length:** 613 words

**Byline:** Isabel Kershner - The New York Times Media Group

**Dateline:** RAMALLAH, West Bank

## **Body**

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Israel on Monday released 198 Palestinian prisoners in a move intended to bolster President Mahmoud Abbas, hours before Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice arrived in the region to try to nudge forward halting Israeli-Palestinian peace efforts.

Before embarking on two days of talks with top Israeli and Palestinian officials, Rice said on her plane to Tel Aviv that there was a "lot of work ahead" if the sides hoped to reach their goal of a peace agreement by the end of the year.

Rice also said it was "extremely important to just keep making forward progress rather than prematurely to come to some set of conclusions," according to news reports - an apparent acknowledgement of the reluctance of Israeli and Palestinian negotiators to come to a hasty partial agreement despite the eagerness of the Bush administration for results before its term ends in January.

While Rice's visits here have become routine - this is her seventh since this round of peacemaking began in November - the prisoner release was a rare cause for celebration in the West Bank. Jubilant Palestinians clambered atop buses that carried the freed prisoners into Ramallah, and a convoy of cars bedecked with flags, horns honking, accompanied them to the presidential headquarters, where hundreds of relatives were waiting.

Departing from its usual policy of not releasing Palestinians with "blood on their hands," Israel this time included two veteran prisoners sentenced for life for murdering Israelis, saying they no longer presented any significant risk.

One, Said al-Ataba, was convicted in 1977 for a bombing that killed an Israeli woman. The other, Muhammad Abu Ali, was convicted in 1980 for killing an Israeli student in the West Bank and, later, for killing a fellow prisoner whom he suspected of collaborating with Israel.

Ataba was affiliated with the leftist Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine at the time of his attack, while Abu Ali was elected while in jail as a legislator for the Fatah Party led by Abbas.

Abbas addressed the crowd from the steps of his office, stating that "there will be no peace without the release of all the prisoners."



Israel frees 198 Palestinians from jail Rice, arriving for visit, acknowledges 'work ahead' on peace

About 9,000 Palestinian security prisoners remain in Israel's jails, according to the Israeli Prisons Authority. Palestinian officials put the number at 11,000. Gaining the release of hundreds of long-term prisoners like Ataba is a priority for Abbas.

About half those released Monday were in any case scheduled to be freed within the next year. Several dozen others were serving medium terms on charges like shooting at Israelis and laying explosives. One of three women released, Khawla Zeitawi, was sentenced in January 2007 for two years for membership in an illegal organization. Fully veiled, she returned with a baby who had been born in prison.

The release of prisoners has been one of the few tangible benefits of the peace process for ordinary Palestinians, with the prisoner issue always high on the public agenda. Despite intensive talks with Israel, Abbas has not been able to show much progress in other spheres, like the removal of major West Bank roadblocks or unauthorized settler outposts. At the same time, his power is challenged by Hamas, the rival Islamic group that rejects the peace process and has taken over Gaza, routing Fatah forces there last year.

Almost a thousand prisoners, mostly Fatah and a few from leftist groups, have been released in four rounds since Hamas took control of Gaza.

Mark Regev, a spokesman for Prime Minister Ehud Olmert of Israel, said the idea was "to strengthen the moderate and pragmatic Palestinian leadership" and to show that engagement brought more results than extremism.

**Load-Date:** August 27, 2008

## *Turkish TV soap sows seeds of independence*

The New Zealand Herald  
August 6, 2008 Wednesday

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**Section:** NEWS; World

**Length:** 942 words

### **Body**

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Every evening for the past four months, a tall young man with soulful blue eyes has been stealing hearts across the Middle East, from the refugee camps of the Gaza Strip to the gated mansions of Riyadh.

But it's not just the striking good looks of Mohannad, hero of the hugely popular Turkish TV soap Noor, that appeal to female viewers. He's romantic, attentive to his wife Noor and supportive of her independence and ambitions as a fashion designer - in short, a rare gem for women in conservative, male-dominated surroundings.

Noor delivers an idealised portrayal of modern married life as equal partnership which clashes with the norms of traditional Middle Eastern societies where elders often have the final word on who a woman should marry, with many still confined to the role of wife and mother.

Some Muslim preachers in the West Bank and Saudi Arabia have taken notice, saying the show is un-Islamic and urging the faithful to change channels. But all the same, the show may be planting seeds of change.

"I told my husband, 'Learn from him [Mohannad], how he treats her, how he loves her, how he cares about her'," said Heba Hamdan, 24, a housewife visiting the West Bank from Amman, Jordan. Married straight out of college, she said the show inspired her to go out and look for a job.

Noor seems particularly effective in changing attitudes because it offers new content in a familiar setting: Turkey is a Muslim country, inviting stronger viewer identification than Western TV imports. The characters in Noor observe the Muslim fasting month of Ramadan and Mohannad and Noor were married in a match arranged by his grandfather.

But it also upholds secular liberties. Protagonists have a drink with dinner and sex outside of marriage. Mohannad, while faithful to Noor, had a child with a former girlfriend and a cousin underwent an abortion.

The nightly soap opera "shows that there are Muslims who live differently", said Islah Jad, a professor of women's studies at the West Bank's Bir Zeit University.

The show's Turkish producer, Kemal Uzun, added: "We are a little more open, not as conservative as some of these countries and I think this might have some appeal for the audience."

Even though some of the racier scenes are sanitised for Arab consumption, clerics have been preaching against Noor.

## Turkish TV soap sows seeds of independence

"This series collides with our Islamic religion, values and traditions," warned Hamed Bitawi, a lawmaker of the Islamic militant group **Hamas** and preacher in the West Bank city of Nablus.

But the purists seem powerless to halt the Noor craze.

In Saudi Arabia, the only country with ratings, up to four million people watch daily, out of a population of nearly 28 million, according to MBC, the Saudi-owned satellite channel that airs the show dubbed into Arabic for Middle East audiences.

In the West Bank and Gaza, streets are deserted during show time and socialising is timed around it. In Riyadh, the Saudi capital, and in Hebron, the West Bank's most conservative city, maternity wards report a rise in babies named Noor and Mohannad. A West Bank poster vendor has ditched Yasser Arafat and Saddam Hussein for Noor and Mohannad.

Jaro's Clothing Store in Gaza City is doing brisk business in copies of blouses seen on the show, including a sleeveless metallic number adapted to Gaza standards by being worn over a long-sleeved leotard.

Producer Uzun said the Istanbul villa on the Bosphorus - fictional home of Mohannad's upper-class clan - has been rented by tour operators and turned into a temporary museum for Arab visitors.

A recent cartoon in the Saudi paper Al-Riyadh showed a plain-looking man marching into a plastic surgeon's office with a picture of Mohannad with his designer stubble. (Kivanc Tatlitug, who plays Mohannad, won the 2002 Best Model of the World award.)

In the West Bank city of Nablus, civil servant Mohammed Daraghmeh said he had MBC blocked at home so his kids couldn't watch. But the family vowed to watch it at an uncle's house, so he backed down.

In **Hamas**-ruled Gaza, keeping up with Noor is a challenge.

Power goes out frequently because of a year-long blockade imposed by Israel and Egypt after the violent **Hamas** takeover. When a blackout disrupts viewing, many set their alarms to catch the pre-dawn repeat.

Recently, in the Shati refugee camp, teenage girls huddled around an old TV set to follow the action despite overflights by Israeli aircraft that scrambled reception.

Ala Hamami, 17, wearing a black robe and head scarf, said she looked up to Noor because she was independent.

"This series gives strength to **women** in the future," said Hamami, even though she was set on a very traditional path as she had just gotten engaged in an arranged match.

The cultural divide between modern Turkey and traditional Gaza became apparent in a scene where Mohannad and Noor, played by Songul Oden, end up hospitalised. The girls giggled and Hamami quickly changed channels when Mohannad entered his wife's room and lay beside her to comfort her. The display of physical contact clearly made her uncomfortable.

Whether the Noor effect will last is not known. The season finale falls on August 30, the day before Ramadan begins. Next up on MBC will be Bab al-Hara, a Ramadan favourite that takes a nostalgic look at traditional Arab life.

## BREAKING TABOOS

The Turkish TV show Noor is breaking barriers across the Middle East.

Its male lead accepts his wife as an equal partner - despite norms in a region where elders often have the final say.

Bravely it upholds secular liberties: there are scenes of a drink with dinner and sex outside marriage. Hero Mohannad had a child with a former girlfriend, and a cousin underwent an abortion.

## Turkish TV soap sows seeds of independence

- AP

**Load-Date:** August 5, 2008

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End of Document

**Protesters arrested as Israeli ambassador's visit sparks row; Prosor hits out at Presiding Officer's action**

The Western Mail

June 25, 2008, Wednesday

First Edition

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**Section:** NEWS; Pg. 4

**Length:** 573 words

**Byline:** David Williamson Senedd Correspondent

## **Body**

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ISRAEL'S ambassador mounted a fierce defence of his nation amid arrests and protest as he visited the National Assembly.

Ambassador Ron Prosor was greeted by around 30 protesters who were joined by Plaid AMs Nerys Evans, Bethan Jenkins, Helen Mary Jones, and Leanne Wood - plus Plaid Cardiff councillor Neil McEvoy.

South Wales Police last night confirmed two women and a man were taken into custody for questioning after a "minor disturbance".

Mr Prosor met with the leaders of all four parties and a cross-party group of around 10 AMs took part in a discussion session organised by Plaid Cymru's Mohammad Asghar - the first Muslim politician elected to the Assembly.

But the Assembly's Presiding Officer Dafydd Elis-Thomas was not present - he had previously called for a boycott of the ambassador's visit.

In response Mr Prosor said a boycott was "against the Welsh spirit" and said of Lord Elis-Thomas: "Although a lord, his statements are not very noble."

The ambassador described Israel as a "democracy under fire" confronting Islamic extremists who threaten the stability of neighbouring countries.

He ruled out the return of Palestinian refugees to Israel and insisted Jerusalem must remain the capital of the Jewish state.

However, he said: "We are as a democracy trying to find a way to reach peace and we are looking for leaders who are really willing to sit down and make peace with us."

He said Israel had struck lasting peace settlements with Egypt and Jordan but could not negotiate with Hamas, which holds power in Gaza.

Mr Prosor said: "Instead of turning this into a model state they could be proud of they turned it into a terrorist hub. I could call it 'Hamastan'."

Protesters arrested as Israeli ambassador's visit sparks row Prosor hits out at Presiding Officer's action

Negotiating with **Hamas** would, he said, encourage Muslim groups which threaten the stability of neighbouring countries.

The West, he added, should not demand Arab countries in the Middle East hold elections if it is likely an Islamist party will win power. He argued: "It's very clear today if there were real democratic elections the extremists, the fundamentalists, would have the upper hand."

The ambassador refused to contemplate a move to a South African style "binational" state, involving a merger of Israel and the Occupied Territories.

He said: "The one state solution is a code word for the destruction of the state of Israel, through numbers, through demographics.

We will never, ever agree to that."

Plaid's Ms Wood explained her decision to join the protest, saying: "The Israeli ambassador has been able to travel here unhindered, which is in stark contrast to the way Palestinian people are corralled by Israeli troops, herded through security gates and kept in what has become virtually an open prison."

Conservative Assembly leader Nick Bourne defended Mr Asghar's decision to invite Mr Prosor to the cross-party meeting, saying: "I think it was an act of political courage for a Muslim to arrange the meeting with the ambassador."

He also defended the position of the Lord Elis-Thomas, stating: "There is no appetite in our group for seeking the removal of the Presiding Officer. From day one he has had our support."

Protester Andy Williams, a journalism researcher at Cardiff University, said the party leaders had been used in a public relations exercise by the Israeli government.

He said: "Any opportunity the new ambassador gets to bang the drum and spread his propaganda, he'll take it. I think our politicians have been caught hook, line and sinker."

## Graphic

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DEMONSTRATION: Protesters at the Senedd in Cardiff Bay protest against the visit of Ron Prosor, the Israeli ambassador to Britain, left Picture: Wales News

**Load-Date:** June 25, 2008

## *Breaking bread*

The Jerusalem Post  
January 25, 2008 Friday

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**Section:** FEATURES; Pg. 5

**Length:** 1090 words

**Byline:** Liat Collins

**Highlight:** You can cast your bread upon the waters off Herzliya, but by the time it reaches the coast in Gaza it will be too soggy for consumption. Opening Lines

### **Body**

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Nationality

I have grown past hate and bitterness,

I see the world as one;

But though I can no longer hate,

My son is still my son.

All men at God's round table sit,

And all men must be fed;

But this loaf in my hand,

This loaf is my son's bread.

- Dame Mary Gilmore

There are poems you are forced to learn in school. And some you simply choose to remember. I came across this poem by the under-appreciated Australian writer and social activist Dame Mary Gilmore when I was at a particularly impressionable stage of adolescence. It made such an impact that I copied it down on the back page of a notebook in writing considerably more legible than I have today, and kept it.

Nowadays, when I scribble words like "loaf" on a piece of paper it is usually a reminder to buy bread for the sandwiches that my six-year-old takes to school. The mundane nature of my shopping lists and a "to-do" list so long I'm tempted to add a few adverbs and seek a book publisher are far from the poetry I cherished in my youth. But the sentiment aroused by Gilmore's concise verse has traveled well: It has accompanied me from my early teens in London to my mid-forties in Jerusalem. The last stanza sprang to mind last week when I grabbed the shopping list, and felt guilty as it revealed the to-do list reminder to call my friend in Sderot.

## Breaking bread

I had wanted to phone the previous day, but every time I started to dial, the radio broadcast another news flash of incoming missiles on the Negev town and surrounding communities. Fifty missiles struck the area on January 16. When I finally called my friend the next day I wasn't sure I'd have anything to say. The feeling was compounded when she translated the dry facts into her experience: Her young son had got on and off the school bus four times in one journey because the Red Color alert had been sounded, giving them all of 15 seconds to seek shelter from the incoming Kassams. A long time ago, hundreds of missiles back, she told me that she doesn't use safety belts when driving in the area because of the fear she won't be able to extricate her three sons quickly enough when the warning is sounded. I know parents who, in similar circumstances, carpooled simply to disperse their kids among different vehicles to reduce the chances of losing all their offspring in one attack.

Fifty Kassams is unusual for one day's tally. Sderot residents put up with three or four as a matter of routine. My friend's children are so used to living with Kassams that when her seven-year-old invites my six-year-old to "Come for a Shabbat!" it is in that wonderful way that young children have of being proud of their homes and parents no matter what.

I can sympathize, too, with the mothers in Gaza.

I sympathize with them but I identify with the Sderot residents, who Public Security Minister Avi Dichter has repeatedly declared are being subjected to a game of "Gaza Roulette."

Like the rest of the world, I saw the images of Palestinian women using candlelight to cook in their kitchens as electricity was cut off and fuel supplies allegedly ran down. I saw the protests against the "fuel blockade" by Gazans alerting the world to Israel's "inhumanity."

Eventually, the Gazans did the natural thing: They turned to their southern neighbor, Egypt, which responded by wounding 90 people, most of them women, as they stormed the Rafah border crossing into Egyptian territory.

The end result was highly predictable: Israel was forced to ease the blockade - which in any case had not been as total as Hamas would have us believe - when "only" four Kassams landed in the Negev. The fact that the reduced number of missiles is proof that Hamas can control the rocket launchers - and more significantly evidence that Israel's tough measures had worked - is largely being ignored. Also being overlooked - blurred by the blood of the wounded at Rafah and silenced by the arrests of some 500 protesters in Cairo - is the fact that it is far more natural for Palestinians in Gaza to look to Egypt than to look to Israel.

The Palestinians continue to decry "the occupation" in Gaza - even after the forcible removal of every Jewish resident from the area - because Israel still controls the border crossing. To demand that Egypt open up its border did not enter into the equation, although it was eventually done by force.

Hamas won the PR war. Yet again the Palestinians were the victims. Warnings of a "humanitarian crisis" flashed across the globe with the speed that does justice to the age of computers and satellites. Dr. Margaret Chan, secretary-general of the World Health Organization, stated the organization in Geneva is "concerned about the health situation in and around Gaza and the suffering this has caused for civilian populations in the area."

The UN planned a debate. The crisis was avoided - in Gaza. My friend still thinks twice about popping out to buy a loaf of bread for her sons. She can't risk leaving them alone in an alert but is hesitant about taking them out of the relative safety of their house to the store. The physical and mental health of residents of Sderot, a civilian population very much in the area of Gaza, has not made it to the WHO's agenda as far as I know.

Foreign Minister Tzipi Livni, speaking on January 22 at the Herzliya Conference, said both Israel and the Palestinian Authority "must refrain from letting problems from the outside come into the negotiating room." But these aren't problems from the outside: They are - to hijack a phrase - "core issues."

You can cast your bread upon the waters off Herzliya, but by the time it reaches the coast in Gaza it will be too soggy for consumption. And not even the crumbs will make it to Sderot.



## Breaking bread

Maybe we should just eat cake. Several of my neighbors in Jerusalem have adopted the practice of ordering their Sabbath loaves from a Sderot bakery as an act of solidarity. One friend surprised me this week with the offer of a Sderot chocolate cake - which we both found tastier than the hallot.

An army marches on its stomach; the home front in the Jewish state can certainly relate to that. Consuming chocolate cake to avoid being consumed by guilt is definitely an unusual but very Israeli way of participating in the war effort.

And war it is. I wish the world would make as much of an effort to save Sderot from Gaza as it does to save Gaza from itself. I could save on phone bills, my neighbor could save on calories. We could all be saved from worrying. And next time my friend's son invites us for a Shabbat, we could happily set off to break bread together.

## Graphic

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3 photos: A Sderot woman surveys the destruction in her home after it was hit by a Kassam rocket fired from Gaza last week. A Palestinian woman uses a lantern for light as she works in her kitchen in Gaza. Sderot Mayor Eli Moyal points to the remains of Kassam missiles during a visit by Dutch Foreign Minister Maxime Verhagen. Verhagen said 'Hamas is deliberately intensifying the crisis in the Gaza Strip in order to create pressure from the international community on Israel.' (Credit: Tsafrir Abayov/AP. Hatem Omar/AP. AP)

**Load-Date:** October 4, 2011

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End of Document

## *Israel's Islamic Movement: Filling the vacuum, aiming for a caliphate*

The Jerusalem Post

August 3, 2008 Sunday

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**Section:** NEWS; Pg. 1

**Length:** 946 words

**Byline:** BRENDA GAZZAR

### **Body**

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It wasn't just sermons and prayers that filled the gender-segregated soccer field in Kafr Kara on Friday night during the annual summit of the southern branch of the Islamic Movement in Israel.

Thousands of devotees gathered from around the country to commemorate Muhammad's journey to "the farthest mosque" and his ascension to the heavens on a winged steed, but politics also hung heavily in the air.

Children waved green Islamic flags, young women in hijabs sold large maps of "Palestine before the Nakba," the catastrophe of 1948, and sheikhs and politicians spoke of the need to support their Palestinian brothers in the territories, defend the Aksa Mosque and fight for equal rights as Arab citizens of Israel.

In a passionate speech, Sheikh Abdullah Nimr Darwish, the founder of Israel's Islamic Movement, said Palestinians in the territories "have the right" to choose for themselves via elections between the path of "resistance," represented by Hamas, and that of "negotiations," represented by Fatah.

"The solution to the [Hamas-Fatah] split is to have elections now, and the people will decide whether to elect Abu Mazen [Palestinian Authority President and Fatah Chairman Mahmoud Abbas] or Hamas," he told The Jerusalem Post afterward. "They should be responsible for their own decisions."

In addition to political activism, both the southern and the more radical northern branch of the Islamic Movement are working hard in the social welfare sphere to occupy every vacuum that the government has failed to fill.

"This is the way they work, from [providing] medical services to religious services to even soccer teams," said Prof. Yitzhak Reiter from the Department of Islamic and Middle Eastern Studies at the Hebrew University of Jerusalem. "If the government doesn't give enough money for sports activities or sports facilities, they will construct them by donations and provide the services. By so doing, they will attract particularly the poor - those that don't have enough money to pay."

In Umm el-Fahm, the southern branch of the Islamic Movement is helping to build the city's first hospital - a mammoth five-story structure - to serve the surrounding Wadi Ara area.

At present, the nearest hospitals for Umm el-Fahm's residents - numbering about 45,000 people - are about 25 minutes away in Afula or Hadera.

## Israel 's Islamic Movement: Filling the vacuum, aiming for a caliphate

"If the government doesn't build a hospital here, there is a vacuum," said Yousef Jabareen, an Umm el-Fahm resident and director of the Nazareth-based Dirasat: The Arab Center for Law and Policy. "This allows the Islamic Movement to come here and build hospitals, take the credit, provide the service and connect to the people."

The Islamic Movement also runs a 24-hour medical clinic that offers ambulance, urgent care and emergency services and is helping to build a new shopping center.

In 1996, the Islamic Movement in Israel split into two factions, the southern branch headed by Darwish of Kafr Kassem, and the more radical northern branch, led by Sheikh Raed Salah of Umm el-Fahm.

The northern faction tends not to recognize the state as a Jewish one and opposes voting or running for Knesset elections for ideological reasons but participates in local elections, Reiter said.

The southern faction, which includes MK Ibrahim Sarsour (United Arab List-Ta'al), participates in both national and local politics to help achieve its aims.

Since 1988, the northern branch has dominated the Umm el-Fahm city council. Zaki Igbaria, the deputy mayor of Umm el-Fahm, believes it is because of the programs and services it has provided, ranging from drug rehabilitation to raising money for underpaid teachers.

"The Islamic Movement gathered money here to pay for teachers and to clean the streets, and people started trusting them," Igbaria said recently from his office in Umm el-Fahm. "The main goal of the Islamic Movement is to bring people to the best situation here, in education, in ethics...."

Despite the high volume of activity in some areas, Reiter believes that support for the movement - which he estimates at around 20 percent among Muslims - has not changed significantly in the last decade.

One reason, Reiter said, was because of political competition. There are other strong Arab political parties, such as the Balad Party, formerly led by then-MK Azmi Bishara, "which are not less moderate," and "they are struggling in the same political field as the Islamic Movement."

In addition, while Israel has a unique democratic system that gives ethnic preference to Jews in certain laws and institutions, Arabs in Israel enjoy better welfare services, a strong economy and more political and other freedoms than Arabs in Arab countries such Egypt, where the Muslim Brotherhood was a powerful player, he said.

"They still know their situation is better than elsewhere in the Arab world," Reiter said.

But over the years, some in the northern branch have pushed the limits of what is legally allowed - for example by donating money to families of Palestinian suicide bombers or attackers - until such acts were outlawed by the state.

"Where the Israeli government is neglecting or failing to set lines and limits, they go in and do whatever they can in support of their ideology until someone wakes up and says, 'We have to show them the limits of laws,'" Reiter said.

But Igbaria insists they are realistic and that despite their ultimate goal of having a Caliphate, or a united Islamic state that would include Israel, will continue to pursue only legal and peaceful means.

"It is not a secret. We believe that the Islamic state will be the best solution for the world, but actually we live here and we are working according to the laws of the state," he said.

## Graphic

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Photo: THE **WOMEN'S** SECTION at the Islamic Movement summit in Kafr Kara on Friday. (Credit: Brenda Gazzar)

Israel 's Islamic Movement: Filling the vacuum, aiming for a caliphate

**Load-Date:** October 4, 2011

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## *Thinking Right: DNA samples, air safety, truck lanes*

The Atlanta Journal-Constitution

April 18, 2008 Friday

Main Edition

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

**Section:** @ISSUE; Pg. 12A

**Length:** 630 words

**Byline:** JIM WOOTEN

Staff

## **Body**

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Thinking Right's weekend free-for-all. Pick a topic:

\* Among the pork barrel spending inserted in this year's state budget was \$2,500 to help purchase materials and equipment for a commercial aviation museum in Clay County, population 3,180, south of Columbus on the Alabama line. The grant is presumably to foster preservation of Clay's rich commercial aviation history. But with this kind of pork, who asks? It's some legislator's reward for voting as the leadership wanted.

\* The Georgia Budget and Policy Institute opposing tax cuts is the fat man opposing smaller portions of french fries. "These tax cuts will continue the erosion of the tax base, which means fewer people will be footing the bills or less dollars will be going to education, health care and public safety," said Sarah Beth Gehl, the advocacy group's deputy director.

\* Wonder how many of the women's advocates expressing dismay at the gender imbalance under the Gold Dome would be thrilled to see more who are pro-life and social conservatives? Ah, that's what I thought. It's not women. It's women with particular political leanings.

\* Two extraordinarily good bits of news concerning commercial airlines. One is Delta. (We love you, buddy.) The other is that not a single person died in an accident involving scheduled airlines in this country in 2007. Sure, our lives and schedules are momentarily ruined when American Airlines cancels nearly 3,100 flights affecting 250,000 passengers to inspect wiring. But nobody died in 2007. Credit the Federal Aviation Administration and the airlines. Wow. They're achieving a safety record equal to nuclear power.

\* The feds intend to collect DNA samples from everybody arrested by any federal agency. Some express concerns about privacy and about potential for misuse of the information. Not a concern here. Existing laws prevent it from being used to identify genetic traits, diseases or disorders. A 2005 study in Chicago finds that 53 murders and rapes could have been prevented had samples been collected on arrest. Go for it.

## Thinking Right: DNA samples, air safety, truck lanes

\* Atlanta and Fulton County water customers may be asked to pay rates that are 15 percent higher to offset customers' conservation efforts. Use less, pay more. No good deed ...

\* Much as the private sector is a key player in the state's transportation solutions --- toll roads, for example, and private bus operators --- the Georgia Department of Transportation gets good advice from its financial adviser, Aaron Barman of Royal Bank of Canada: Suspend consideration on projects like truck lanes until the DOT makes decisions on how high tolls should be and whether use by truckers should be mandatory. (To the latter, yes.) The DOT has to make certain that it has the people and procedures to manage private-sector contracts, keeping relationships at arm's length.

\* Insurance Commissioner John Oxendine becomes the first Republican to jump into the 2010 governor's race. It's not too early. And it's hard to argue with his logic that the next governor should be from a "neutral" corner --- that is, not part of the current leadership problem. Republicans who can't deliver tax cuts to those who don't hire lobbyists are probably not gubernatorial material.

\* **Hamas** officials said Jimmy Carter's meetings with them boost their legitimacy. And they're right. At least one Democrat, Barack Obama, got it right: "We must not negotiate with a terrorist group intent on Israel's destruction. We should only sit down with **Hamas** if they renounce terrorism, recognize Israel's right to exist and abide by past agreements." Which means we don't sit down with them in Carter's lifetime. Or Obama's.

\* Jim Wooten is the associate editorial page editor. His column appears Fridays, Sundays and Tuesdays. His Thinking Right blog appears daily.

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**Load-Date:** April 22, 2008

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## *Event Review: Comedy doesnt mask prejudice*

The Daily Cougar: University of Houston

April 1, 2008 Tuesday

University Wire

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**Section:** NEWS; Pg. 1

**Length:** 601 words

**Byline:** Sousan Hammad

### **Body**

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Four comedians with the same opportunistic rhetoric have come together under the banner of the Israeli-Palestinian Comedy Tour "to promote peace through comedy," in a show sponsored by the World Affairs Council. However, rather than promoting a just end to the conflict, their material exploited it in a disturbing manner.

"We rely on the conflict. Peace would ruin our show," Ray Hanania, co-founder of the group, said.

Both Hanania, a Palestinian-American journalist, and Charles Warady, an American Jew who moved to Israel 12 years ago, said the group broke the taboo of Palestinians refusing to appear and perform with Israelis. The false argument that Palestinians and Israelis have never worked together only canonizes Palestinians as xenophobes, when in fact there are numerous artist and non-profit organizations in the West Bank that have culturally collaborated with Israelis.

The other comedians in the group - Aaron Freeman, a black, Jewish convert, and Yisrael Campbell, an Orthodox Jew who was born a Catholic - signaled their dire and desperate attempt to make people laugh.

Freeman was the first to perform on stage, and after a brief sarcastic introduction stating his goal to end the Palestine-Israel conflict in six years, he went into a musical frenzy. Freeman sang the story of a patriotic Palestinian woman who falls in love with an Israeli settler, using an anti-Semitic pun to reference the phonetics of the Arabic and Hebrew languages.

Warady followed his performance, referring to the Arabic script as being "backwards" and "tough to read." Warady used this as a nonsensical explanation as to why Palestinians voted for Hamas. "They must have read Hamas as hummus and Fatah as pita," he said. Warady then went on a tangent of how beautiful it is to live in Israel. He insisted Israeli women are the worlds "hottest" and talked about that to some extent.

The saddest portion of the night had to go to Hanania, a guest columnist for Israeli publications such as The Jerusalem Post and Ynetnews. Almost every one of his jokes focused on himself as a Palestinian Muslim, despite being an Orthodox Christian. He joked how as a child, instead of playing with a G.I. Joe he played with a "G.I. Abdallah" action figure, while his sister played with a "Fatima" doll instead of a Barbie. He then pointed at different Arab men in the audience and asked them how many wives they had.

Hanania said after he joined the Israeli-Palestinian Comedy Tour he had performances cancelled by five Arab-American organizations because of his performance alongside Israelis. But what Hanania doesnt mention is his

## Event Review: Comedy doesnt mask prejudice

problematic perspective on the Palestine-Israel conflict. In December 2007, Hanania wrote an article for The Jerusalem Post titled "Getting past Normalization," in which he states Palestinians refuse to accept reality (or, normalization of Israeli occupation).

Ironically, this is a man who says through his comedy he is "defining the moderate Palestinian Arab voice, offering reason to the American, Israeli and Arab public," according to his Web site. Yet Hanania calls the Israeli occupation of Palestine a "self-imposed imprisonment."

The group delivered a performance similar to that of Academy Award-nominated short film, The West Bank Story, a musical comedy that romanticizes the conflict in stereotypic scenes. All the comedians did was reinforce the racist characterization of Palestinians and Israelis through the Orientalist contextualization of the Arab and anti-Semitic illustration of the Jew. It is hard to imagine how any person can support this type of performance and call it "comedy."

**Load-Date:** January 17, 2018

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**IDF blasts WHO criticism for 'inhumane' treatment of Gaza sick. Over 90 percent of requests are approved, top officer says**

The Jerusalem Post  
April 2, 2008 Wednesday

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**Section:** NEWS; Pg. 2

**Length:** 569 words

**Byline:** YAAKOV KATZ

## **Body**

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A World Health Organization (WHO) report that sharply criticized the IDF's screening of Palestinians who seek medical treatment in Israeli hospitals was flatly rejected by defense officials on Tuesday, who called it "completely wrong."

The report was released during a press conference in Jerusalem on Tuesday held by Ambrogio Manenti, the head of WHO in Gaza and the West Bank, who called Israeli policy when it comes to allowing Gazans into Israel for treatment "inhumane."

Manenti said that case studies of patients who died while waiting for permits to travel to Israel for treatment "show nonsense, inhumanity and, at the end, tragedy".

Col. Nir Press, commander of the IDF's Gaza Coordination and Liaison Administration, rejected the report which he said was mistaken and ignored the fact that of the five case studies presented by the WHO, two of the sick Palestinians were in fact treated in Israeli hospitals.

The other three, he said, were all granted permits that were never used due to internal Palestinian considerations.

Press said that while the IDF was stringent with its screening of sick Palestinians - due to daily terror attacks in Gaza and attempts to smuggle suicide bombers into Israel this way - over 90 percent of the requests were approved to visit Israeli hospitals.

In 2007, 7,226 permits were granted to sick Palestinians to travel to Israel, an increase of over 50% from 2006 when 4,754 were allowed in.

All of those who receive permits are allowed to bring a family member to accompany them to Israel. Since the beginning of the year, 2,317 Palestinians have been allowed into Israel for medical treatment.

The 10 percent denied permits - due to security threats - are, however, given the opportunity to take an Israeli shuttle to the Allenby Bridge and cross into Jordan or down to a crossing into Egypt.

Since Israel does not talk to the **Hamas** terror group which controls Gaza, the CLA receives the requests and coordinates travel arrangements for the sick Palestinians with the Palestinian Authority Health Ministry in Ramallah.

IDF blasts WHO criticism for 'inhumane' treatment of Gaza sick. Over 90 percent of requests are approved, top officer says

"Despite the non-stop rocket fire, Israel is doing all it can when it comes to allowing sick Palestinians into Israel from Gaza and the West Bank," Press said. "The reality is the outcome of the terror that does not stop against Israel and which targets the crossings that are used to take people out of Gaza for medical treatment."

On Tuesday, mortars were fired into Netiv Ha'asara, right next to the Erez Crossing. Last May, two women who had received permits to enter Israel for treatment were discovered to be on their way to carry out suicide bombing attacks in Tel Aviv and Netanya.

During the press conference, Manenti presented five cases of Gazans who died recently while he said they waited for a permit to enter Israel.

Press rejected the claims that the five died while waiting for permits and claimed that each Palestinian mentioned in the report received permits to be treated in Israeli hospitals.

One such case was of 34-year-old Mona Nofal who died of rectal cancer at Shifa Hospital in Gaza in November. The report claimed that Israel delayed granting her permits.

Press pointed out, however, that Nofal's requests were approved each time and that she had in fact been treated in Israeli hospitals in July, August and October.

Press said that Hamas used Nofal's case to blame Israel when in fact "she had died of cancer and not because of the siege."

## Graphic

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Photo: A PALESTINIAN doctor tends to a patient at Gaza's Shefa Hospital. THE IDF has rejected World Health Organization claims criticizing policy on allowing Palestinians into Israel for health treatment. (Credit: Hatem Moussa/AP)

**Load-Date:** October 4, 2011

**World Journal**

The Telegraph-Journal (New Brunswick)

April 9, 2008 Wednesday

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**Section:** NEWS;NEWS; Pg. A8

**Length:** 657 words

**Body**

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Mexico

'Killer bees' sting Mexican police

MEXICO CITY - Mexican police say at least 70 officers are in hospital after so-called Africanized bees swarmed a police shooting range. Witnesses say the attack happened after one of the policemen hit the bees' hive with a bullet during shooting practice Monday. The swarm then came after the fleeing officers, stinging dozens of them.

Gaza

**Hamas** threatens border breach

GAZA CITY, Gaza Strip - A leading **Hamas** official says Gazans will storm into Egypt and Israel if they don't lift their embargo of the territory. Khalil al- Haya says Palestinians in Gaza can no longer bear being confined to the strip and subjected to shortages of food, power and substandard health care. In January, Palestinians breached their southern border and poured into Egypt, buying up everything in sight. Al-Haya says Palestinians will do it again, and might breach other borders - a clear reference to Gaza's borders with Israel.

Afghanistan

Red Cross says war is spreading

KABUL, Afghanistan - The war in Afghanistan is spreading, forcing thousands of people to flee their homes this year, the international Red Cross said Tuesday during the visit of its president. "There is growing insecurity and a clear intensification of the armed conflict, which is no longer limited to the south but has spread to the east and west," Jakob Kellenberger, president of the International Committee of the Red Cross said in a statement. The UN has said that more than 8,000 people, mostly militants, were killed in 2007, the deadliest year in Afghanistan since the 2001 ouster of the Taliban from power by a U.S.-led coalition. At least 1,500 civilians were among the dead last year. Graziella Leite Piccolo, a Red Cross spokeswoman in Kabul, said at least 13, 000 people have fled their homes since January because of the conflict, but that getting more precise numbers or tracking where the people have gone is difficult because of limited access to dangerous regions.

Iraq

Vehicle ban in effect in Baghdad

BAGHDAD - Unauthorized vehicles are being banned in Baghdad on Wednesday, the fifth anniversary of the city's capture by U.S. troops. The decision by the Iraqi military command for Baghdad was announced on Iraqi state TV. The ban is in effect from 5 a.m. to midnight Wednesday night.

Iran

Iran says it tested new centrifuges

TEHRAN, Iran - President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad announced major progress in Iran's push for nuclear power, saying Tuesday that his country was installing thousands of new uranium-enriching centrifuges and testing a much faster version of the device. Ahmadinejad said scientists were putting 6,000 new centrifuges into place, about twice the current number, and testing a new type that works five times faster. That would represent a major expansion of uranium enrichment, a process that can produce either fuel for a nuclear reactor or material for a warhead. U.S. Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice cautioned, however, that the claim could not be immediately substantiated. Diplomats close to the UN nuclear watchdog agency say Iran has exaggerated its progress and seen problems operating the 3,000 centrifuges already in place.

Space

South Korea's first astronaut in space

BAIKONUR, Kazakhstan - A Russian Soyuz TMA-12 capsule carrying South Korea's first astronaut and two cosmonauts blasted off from the Baikonur cosmodrome in Kazakhstan on Tuesday, en route to the international space station. South Korean bioengineer Yi So-yeon, 29, cosmonauts Oleg Kononenko and Sergei Volkov will spend two days in the cramped capsule before docking at the orbiting station on Thursday. Live footage broadcast from inside the capsule showed Yi So-yeon, 29, smiling and waving and giving the thumbs-up sign. Hundreds of Korean, Russian and American officials, relatives and other onlookers watched mostly silently as the rocket climbed slowly over the launch pad. NASA said she is the world's youngest-ever female astronaut.

**Load-Date:** April 9, 2008

## EDITORIAL COMMENT

Weekend Australian

April 19, 2008 Saturday

1 - All-round Country Edition

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**Section:** FEATURES; Pg. 30

**Length:** 646 words

### **Body**

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#### THE NEW YORK TIMES

##### Pope in prime position

BENEDICT XVI's condemnation of priests who for decades preyed on thousands of children left the Pope in a stronger position to ``demand more from diocesan authorities who continue to deny their own complicity in covering up the abuse'', the daily said. Despite calls to dismiss prelates who protected the abusers by members of the National Review Board of laity, which investigated the scandal, ``there has been no diocesan resolve to lay bare the hierarchy's guilt ... There is a lot on the papal agenda, from immigration to world poverty. But the American church remains deeply wounded ... The faithful still await an accounting of the long years of cover-up and the stunning failures of the overwhelmingly majority of US bishops."

#### MIDDLE EAST TIMES

##### Envoy for peace

FORMER US president Jimmy Carter's desire to meet Hamas officials should be supported, the paper said. Both Arabs and Israelis owed a lot to Carter, who had done much to promote peace in the region. ``It is also worth noting that one is forced to negotiate with one's enemies when seeking peace. Throughout the six decades of conflict in the Middle East, violence has only bred more violence and has never been the solution to the problem ... Clearly, the longer the crisis continues to simmer, the more complex it becomes. Hard as it may be to comprehend or accept Jimmy Carter's initiative, to engage Hamas in talks should be encouraged, if not welcomed. War has never been the answer; let's give peace -- and Carter -- a chance."

#### THE ASIAN WALL STREET JOURNAL

##### Power play in Shanghai

THE fraud conviction of Chen Liangyu, the former Communist Party secretary of Shanghai, put a corrupt politician behind bars, but ``without a free judiciary, corruption will only deepen'', the daily warned. Hu Jintao had consolidated his power base by jailing Chen, who was at the centre of the ``Shanghai faction'', and replacing him with Xi Jinping, Hu's expected successor. ``In a country where slipping envelopes under the table and doing favours for friends is a way of life, fighting corruption would be a welcome step. But no system can truly combat corruption until everyone, including party officials, is subject to the same law. The party eventually will have to root out corruption to survive. But Chen's case doesn't show that's yet happening."

## EDITORIAL COMMENT

## EL MUNDO

## Mother courage

COULD Carme Chacon be pregnant and in the Government, the Madrid daily asked after she was appointed Defence Minister in Spain's new **female** majority cabinet. ``It is clear that (Prime Minister Jose Luis Rodriguez) Zapatero succeeded with this decision to surprise public opinion, which never thought this portfolio would be given to a 37-year-old pregnant woman who calls herself `red-green' ... He's made Chacon's appointment an exercise in political marketing. Both of them succeeded in making it into the Guinness, the book of world records that brings together the greatest feats and the most ridiculous acts. Chacon is the first defence minister in the world to be named while seven months pregnant. The future will tell us if this is progress or folly."

## THE TIMES OF INDIA

## Better ties in train

THE restoration of rail links between India and Bangladesh after 43 years of hostility and suspicion was a welcome sign, the daily commented. ``The train between Kolkata and Dhaka has the potential of improving bilateral ties. It would facilitate easier and legitimate movement of people between the two countries, which is the first step towards better relations." The biggest hurdle to improved relations remained the huge flow of illegal migrants from Bangladesh into India. Instead of building ineffective fences, it would be far better to accept that there would be migration of people from Bangladesh looking for jobs and to regulate the inflow. ``A formal agreement on migration ... should be considered."

**Load-Date:** November 5, 2008

## **Gaza Strip mortar hits southern Israel**

Cape Times (South Africa)

July 08, 2008 Tuesday

e1 Edition

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**Section:** NEWS; Pg. 2

**Length:** 238 words

### **Body**

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A mortar round fired from the **Hamas**-ruled Gaza Strip struck southern Israel yesterday without causing any casualties or damage in what the Israeli military slammed as a new breach of a two-week-old truce.

Hundreds of royalists gathered at the gates of the summer residence of Gyanendra, Nepal's ousted king, to celebrate his 61st birthday yesterday, but Gyanendra himself decided against coming out to greet his well-wishers.

London marked the third anniversary yesterday of the suicide bombings on the city's transport network, with ceremonies at blast sites, as survivors and the victims' families remembered the deadly attacks. A total of 56 people were killed, including the four bombers who detonated their homemade devices on three London Underground trains and a double-decker bus.

Suspected Islamic insurgents opened fire on a school bus in Thailand's restive south yesterday, killing two paramilitary rangers and wounding three teenage students, police said.

A 20-year-old woman in Saudi Arabia, where **women** are banned from driving, was killed when the car she was driving overturned in the capital Riyadh, a newspaper reported yesterday. The driving ban is among a host of restrictions imposed on **women** in the ultra-conservative Muslim kingdom.

Sri Lanka beefed up security yesterday and warned of possible rebel attacks around the capital Colombo as the Tamil Tiger rebels marked the 21st anniversary of a rebel suicide attack.

**Load-Date:** July 7, 2008

## *Turkey's abandonment of the West*

The Jerusalem Post

August 12, 2008 Tuesday

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**Section:** OPINION; Pg. 16

**Length:** 1890 words

**Byline:** CAROLINE B. GLICK

**Highlight:** OUR WORLD

### **Body**

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Russia's invasion of Georgia should serve as proof that there are some regimes that simply cannot be considered strategic allies of the West. And as the US and NATO try to assess the wreckage of their attempt to forge a post-Soviet alliance with Russian dictator Vladimir Putin, another erstwhile ally is showing that it too, cannot be trusted.

On Wednesday, Iran's genocidal, nuclear weapons- seeking leader, President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad, will arrive in Istanbul for a "working visit" with Turkish leaders. This visit represents a diplomatic triumph for Teheran. Since assuming office three years ago, Ahmadinejad has feverishly pursued diplomatic ties with Western-allied states in an effort to weaken the West's will to take action to prevent Iran from acquiring nuclear weapons. Turkey is the first NATO member to welcome him to its territory.

According to media reports, during his visit Ahmadinejad is scheduled to meet with President Abdullah Gul and with Prime Minister Recip Tayyip Erdogan. On the agenda are Iran's nuclear program and Turkish-Iranian financial ties. Turkey favors advancing both.

In recent months, the Turkish government has become one of the most outspoken advocates of Iran's nuclear program. At least publicly, Turkish leaders credulously accept Iran's dubious assertions about the peaceful intent of its nuclear program - which it refuses to fully expose to the UN's International Atomic Energy Agency's inspectors.

As for financial ties with Iran, Turkey is working feverishly to expand them. From 2002, when Erdogan's and Gul's Islamic fundamentalist AKP party first assumed leadership of the country through 2007, Turkey's trade with Iran expanded from \$1.2 billion to \$6.7 billion. In July 2007, Turkey signed a \$3.5 billion deal to develop one of Iran's oil fields. Over US objections, Turkey is planning to finalize that deal with Ahmadinejad this week. Trade between the two countries is expanding so quickly that most Turkish businessmen will tell you that Iran is their hottest market.

TURKEY'S WARM ties with Iran are matched by its embrace of Iranian satellites and proxies like Syria and Hizbullah. Turkey was the first Western-allied state and NATO member to host Syrian President Bashar Assad on a state visit after Assad's regime assassinated former Lebanese prime minister Rafik Hariri in 2005. In 2006, Turkey sided with Hizbullah in its war against Israel. It even allowed Iran to transfer weapons to Hizbullah through Turkey.

Then there is Turkey's open support for Hamas. After Hamas's victory in the January 2006 Palestinian legislative elections, Turkey became the third non-Arab state after Iran and Russia to openly embrace Hamas. Hamas's Syrian- based leader Khaled Mashaal paid an official visit to Ankara where he met with then foreign minister Gul and senior AKP party officials a month after his Iranian- sponsored terror group's electoral victory.



## Turkey 's abandonment of the West

The Turkish government's support for Hamas is complemented by its support for al Qaida financiers. In the summer of 2006, Erdogan endorsed his top advisor's donations to senior al Qaida financier Yasin al-Qadi after they were exposed in the Turkish media. And since entering office, Erdogan, Gul and their AKP colleagues have repeatedly accused Israel and the US of committing genocide against Muslims in Gaza, Lebanon and Iraq.

While both the US and Israel have voiced their displeasure with Turkey's embrace of their enemies, neither country has taken any steps to either discredit Ankara or to distance themselves from the Turkish government. To the contrary, both Israel and the US continue to praise Turkey as a strategic ally. Both insist that under the AKP, Turkey is demonstrating that it is possible to be Islamic fundamentalist and pro-Western. And both are enabling and indeed encouraging Turkey to act as an intermediary between them and their sworn enemies.

In Israel's case, Turkey has been mediating the Olmert-Livni-Barak government's negotiations with Syria. And in the US's case, it appears that Turkey has played a mediation role between Washington and Teheran. On July 17, both US National Security Advisor Steven Hadley and Iranian Foreign Minister Manoucher Mouttahi just happened to be visiting Ankara on the same day. Two days later, US Assistant Secretary of State William Burns met with Iran's nuclear negotiator Saeed Jalili in Geneva.

In both cases, it is far from clear that either Israel or the US have benefitted from Turkey's increasingly prominent role in their foreign policy. In fact, in both cases, Israel and the US have weakened their position by allowing Turkey to serve as a mediator between them and their adversaries.

IN THE case of Syria, as Assad's recent visit to Teheran showed clearly, Israel's attempt to use negotiations with Syria to pry Damascus away from its strategic alliance with Teheran has failed. To date, the only thing its decision to hold indirect negotiations with Syria in Turkey has done is end Syria's isolation from the West.

As for Iran, the Bush administration's decision to allow Turkey to mediate between it and the ayatollahs has arguably emboldened Turkey to move forward with its Iranian oil deal. Beyond that, Turkey's success in convincing the Americans to actively pursue diplomacy with the Iranians paved the way for the US's humiliation in Geneva last month. During that meeting, Jalili made no attempt to reach an agreement with the US and its partners. And by joining the Europeans and the Russians in directly engaging Iran, the US facilitated Russia's announcement last week that it sees no reason to impose additional UN Security Council sanctions against Iran for its failure to agree to temporarily suspend of its uranium enrichment activities.

Like Russia under Putin, Turkey under Erdogan's leadership has masked its rapid transformation from a flawed but pro-Western democracy under its previous governments into an anti-Western - and in Turkey's case Islamist - regime by paying lip service to the West even as it has taken steps to purge its power structure of pro- Western voices. Just as Putin's popular government has taken brutal action against his political, intellectual and financial foes, so too, Erdogan's popularly elected Islamic fundamentalist regime has worked steadily to discredit, criminalize and intimidate its pro-Western rivals.

SINCE TAKING office in 2002, the AKP under Erdogan has taken control over Turkey's bureaucracy. It has weakened women's rights. It has launched brutal campaigns against its foes in the media, taking over opposition television stations and arresting and intimidating anti-Islamic editors and reporters. It has taken over the Turkish secret police and regular police forces. It has stacked the Turkish courts with its loyalists. It has enabled the opening of radical Islamic madrassas. It has penetrated the military and demoralized and intimidated the senior officer corps. It has ignored court judgments against it.

Through the police, it has launched a massive wire tapping campaign against its political opponents and has leaked embarrassing transcripts of these tapped phone calls to its loyalist press to humiliate and intimidate its rivals. It has used wiretaps of opposition journalists in police interrogations of their editors.

The only remaining secular check on Erdogan's government is Turkey's Constitutional Court. Last week, the court narrowly rejected the court's chief prosecutor's lawsuit calling for the outlawing of the AKP party on the grounds that it is seeking to overthrow Turkey's secular constitutional order. In their ruling, ten out of eleven judges did agree that the AKP is seeking to weaken Turkey's secular identity and ruled that it be denied government funding.

## Turkey 's abandonment of the West

In an apparent bid to both distract the public from the court case and to further delegitimize its opponents, the government claims that it uncovered a conspiracy by senior opposition officials, including leading journalists, businessmen and generals, called the Ergenekon plot to overthrow the government. It alleges that most of the terror attacks carried out by Islamic terrorists over the past several years were actually carried out by members of this secularist cabal. Last month the police arrested two retired generals, a prominent industrialist and a respected journalist along with 17 others in its prosecution of the Ergenekon plot.

In all of this, of course, Erdogan and his associates are mirroring Putin's actions in Russia since he assumed office in 2000. Like Putin, the AKP replaced a deeply corrupt, unpopular pro-Western government. While Putin has built his popularity on xenophobia and hatred of the West, Erdogan and the AKP have built their popularity on a rejection of secular Turkish nationalism in favor of pan- Islamism and hatred of the US and Israel. And as they have moved their countries away from the West, both Putin and Erdogan have managed to maintain good relations with Washington by going through the motions of supporting its war against terror even as they have both embraced terrorists and their state sponsors.

THE LESSON moving forward from all of is not that Israel and the US should turn their backs on Turkey. In an international environment that is increasingly hostile to liberal democracies, there is no reason to cut off ties with hostile regimes just because they are hostile. But at the same time, neither the US nor Israel should delude themselves by thinking that Turkey remains their strategic ally. It is not. And there are consequences to this fact.

For the US, beyond ending immediately Turkey's role as an intermediary with Iran, it would make sense to float the notion of removing Turkey from NATO due to its expanding ties with Iran. Just the suggestion of such a move would no doubt have a profound effect on the Turks. Certainly, the US should be reaching out to regime opponents and calling for Erdogan and his associates to end their attempts to repress the anti-Islamic media and secular politicians, businessmen and military commanders.

If the US is concerned about inflaming Turkish sentiment against it through such moves it should consider that since Erdogan took power, and as the US has bent over backwards to be nice to him, anti-US sentiment in Turkey has risen steeply. According to a recent Pew international opinion poll, today the Turks are the most anti-American society in the world.

For its part, Israel should reassess its willingness to sell sensitive military equipment to Turkey given its close ties to Israel's enemies. It should certainly stop its Turkish-mediated talks with Syria and reject Turkish offers to mediate between Israel and the Palestinians.

Like Russia, Turkey's anti-Western regime is promoting itself to the West by pretending not to be anti-Western. And as was the case with Russia up until it decided to invade defenseless Georgia over the weekend, the US and its allies have been willing to endanger their strategic interests to believe this lie.

It can only be hoped that the West will abandon this policy before it inadvertently paves the way for a new Iranian-allied axis of evil populated by the likes of Russia, Turkey and Pakistan. All of these governments owe much of their power to the West's willingness to believe that their anti-Western regimes could be trusted as strategic allies until it was too late.

## Graphic

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Photo: TURKEY'S LAND Forces Commander Ilker Basbug. Might the suggestion of removing the country from NATO scare it out of pan-Islamism? (Credit: AP)

**Load-Date:** October 4, 2011

## Turkey 's abandonment of the West

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End of Document

**DIGEST**

St. Louis Post-Dispatch (Missouri)

February 9, 2008 Saturday

THIRD EDITION

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**Section:** NEWS; Pg. A33

**Length:** 577 words

**Byline:** FROM NEWS SERVICES

## **Body**

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### N'DJAMENA, CHAD

Troops on alert after rebels advance

Turbaned troops patrolled the streets of Chad's capital in pickups Friday while residents took stock of the damage from days of fierce fighting that brought rebels to the doorstep of the presidential palace.

Hundreds of civilians were killed and about 1,000 were wounded in the weekend violence in the oil-rich Central African nation, Chad Red Cross officials said. Thousands fled into neighboring Cameroon, though many were headed back Friday.

Half the stores remained shut in the capital of N'Djamena on Friday, and many had doors forced open, exposing their bare shelves. Buildings were scorched by rocket fire and pockmarked with bullet holes.

### NAIROBI, KENYA

Rival parties move toward power-sharing

Kenya's rival political parties moved toward an agreement to share power, the chief mediator said Friday, raising hopes for a breakthrough in the postelection crisis that has left more than 1,000 people dead.

In another sign tension was easing, the internal security minister lifted the ban on public rallies imposed after violence broke out over the East African nation's disputed presidential election Dec. 27.

Former U.N. chief Kofi Annan, who is mediating talks, said he expected to complete work on a settlement by early next week.

### TOKYO

Killing of whales gets backing in poll

Nearly two-thirds of Japanese support the nation's much-criticized whaling program, a poll showed Friday, reflecting growing sentiment in the country that the international anti-whaling campaign is fueled by Western cultural bias.

## DIGEST

The newspaper Asahi said 65 percent of respondents to a telephone survey favored the hunts, while 21 percent said they were opposed. Three-quarters of the men surveyed backed whaling, versus 56 percent of the women, it said.

Japan kills more than 1,000 whales each year under a scientific research program allowed by the International Whaling Commission, despite a 1986 freeze on commercial whaling of many species. The meat is sold at market.

## JERUSALEM

Militants fire rockets in face of power cuts

Palestinian militants launched nearly 20 rockets at Israel on Friday hours after Israel began cutting electricity to the Gaza Strip to try to halt the barrages.

Last week, Israel cut back around one percent of the power it supplies to Gaza, Defense Minister spokesman Shlomo Dror said. Israel will continue gradually scaling back electricity until the territory's Hamas rulers end the rocket fire, he said Friday.

Hamas has said it will not be cowed by the sanctions.

One of the rockets damaged a factory in southern Israel Friday, police spokesman Micky Rosenfeld said. There were no casualties, he said.

## THE HAGUE, NETHERLANDS

Cabinet has plans to limit Islamic robes

The Dutch Cabinet said Friday it wants to ban burqas from all schools and prevent government employees from wearing the head-to-toe Islamic robes, but said it was impossible to outlaw them altogether.

In a policy letter to Parliament, the Cabinet said it would send a proposal to lawmakers within a few months on banning burqas. The move is largely symbolic, as only around 150 women are believed to wear burqas in this country of 16 million. But it is another sign of the turning tide of Dutch tolerance as the nation seeks to assimilate its Muslim population of about 840,000.

"I value being able to look somebody in the eye," Prime Minister Jan Peter Balkenende said, referring to the fact that the robes cover a woman's face. "I find it unpleasant."

## Graphic

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## PHOTO

PHOTO - Chadian children wander through the destroyed central market in N'Djamena, Chad, on Friday. Residents of the capital took stock of the damage from fighting that brought rebels to the doorstep of Chad's presidential palace. Jerome Delay | The Associated Press

**Load-Date:** February 9, 2008

## **Fatah linked to bombing; Israeli Killed; Second bomber with 'twitching' hand shot dead**

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

February 5, 2008 Tuesday

National Edition

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**Section:** WORLD; Pg. A11

**Length:** 558 words

**Byline:** Isabel Kershner, The New York Times, with files from news services

**Dateline:** DIMONA, Israel

### **Body**

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DIMONA, Israel - One of two suicide bombers from Gaza who may have sneaked into Israel from the Egyptian Sinai blew himself up at a shopping centre in this southern desert town yesterday, killing an Israeli woman and wounding 11 others.

It was the first suicide attack in Israel in more than a year.

The second bomber was knocked unconscious by the blast from the first bomb and failed to detonate his explosive belt.

Police officer Kobi Moor, 34, said he approached the man as he lay on the ground, then shot him when he moved his hand toward an explosives belt strapped to his abdomen.

"His hand was twitching," Mr. Moor said. "He raised it again. So I shot four bullets into his head and neutralized him."

"I saw them grab him and open his jacket, and I saw his explosive belt before they shot him in the head," said Jacqueline Ganish, 58.

"Terrorism in Dimona? We've never had anything like this."

The remote working-class town in the Negev desert is best known for its proximity to Israel's nuclear reactor. The attack took place several kilometres from the reactor.

Palestinian groups made the names of the attackers public later yesterday, saying they had come from Gaza.

Al Aqsa Martyrs Brigades, a militia loosely affiliated with the mainstream Fatah movement headed by Mahmoud Abbas, the Palestinian President, claimed responsibility and said it carried out the attack with another faction, the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine, and another unknown group calling itself the United Popular Brigade.

Mr. Abbas's office condemned the attack.

Fatah linked to bombing; Israeli Killed; Second bomber with 'twitching' hand shot dead

Shimon Peres, the Israeli President, attacked "the despicable terrorists who want to murder innocent women and children and nip in the bud any chances of peace." However, Israeli officials vowed to press on with peace talks with Mr. Abbas.

After the bombing, the police services went on high alert in various areas of the country. Near Dimona, officers were stationed at main junctions on roads leading to the city and the bombing site was closed to the public.

In the previous 11 days, Gaza residents had been able to move in and out of Egypt with relative ease because of a temporary breach in the Gaza-Egypt border, which the Egyptian military resealed on Sunday.

The Israeli authorities had warned that Palestinians were taking advantage of the breached border, which occurred after members of the Hamas movement that runs Gaza blasted sections of a wall on Jan. 23.

Over the past few days, Egyptian authorities have reported the arrest of more than 12 Palestinians carrying weapons and explosives in the Sinai Peninsula near the border with Gaza.

The last suicide attack in Israel was in January, 2007.

"Palestinian terror groups continue to strike at Israeli civilians," said David Baker, an Israeli government spokesman, yesterday. "Israel will continue to take the requisite steps to defend its people."

Israeli retribution was swift. A senior member of the Popular Resistance Committees, a group linked to Hamas, was killed in an air strike in Gaza within two hours of the bombing.

"The Palestinian terrorist organizations have shown once again who they are and what they stand for," said Aryeh Mekel, an Israeli Foreign Ministry spokesman. "Just like the Qassam rocket fire on Sderot and the sniper fire on Israeli fields bordering Gaza, today's attack deliberately targeted innocent civilians."

## Graphic

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Black & White Photo: Menahem Kahana, AFP, Getty Images; Zaka volunteers clean up the site of a suicide bombing in the southern Israeli town of Dimona yesterday. ;

**Load-Date:** February 5, 2008

## **Medical aid trickles into Gaza; 10 injured in protest**

Windsor Star (Ontario)

January 23, 2008 Wednesday

Final Edition

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**Section:** NEWS; Pg. C12

**Length:** 557 words

**Byline:** Matthew Fisher, Canwest News Service

**Dateline:** JERUSALEM

### **Body**

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JERUSALEM - Israel made its first fuel, food and medical deliveries to Gaza since last week on Tuesday, as Egyptian troops used gunfire and water cannons to quell a demonstration on its border with the Palestinian territory where hundreds of women demanded entry to purchase goods denied to them by the Israeli blockade of the territory.

At least 10 people were injured, including an Egyptian soldier who was shot during the protest, which was caused by Egypt's refusal to open the Rafah crossing.

The only border crossing with Gaza not controlled by Israel is under UN supervision.

Israeli tanker trucks and a pipeline began to pump the first of more than two million litres of fuel into Gaza at dawn Tuesday.

Hours later, several trucks loaded with emergency medical supplies and wheat and rice from the UN's World Food Program moved across the Kerem Shalom crossing, sealed Thursday by Israel in retaliation for hundreds of rockets being fired into the Jewish state.

Tuesday's limited imports, which included enough fuel to supply Gaza's only power plant for several days, arrived as five more rockets were fired into Israel and snipers fired shots into border kibbutzes from the coastal enclave.

Israel's about-face on cutting Gaza off from the world came after warnings of a looming humanitarian crisis in Gaza from Arab states and many allies, including the United States, and threats from the Palestinian Authority to abandon peace talks that have been struggling since they were revived two months ago.

While welcoming Israel's slight easing of the blockade, John Ging, the UN's lead representative in the territory, told a news conference in Gaza City that what had happened since the borders were sealed last week is a reminder that most of the territory's 1.5 million residents could not survive for long without food from outside.

"We are teetering for the past seven months on the brink of a catastrophe," said Ging, who is from the UN's Relief and Works Agency.



## Medical aid trickles into Gaza; 10 injured in protest

Israel's limited reversal of its border closure was the result of international pressure, government officials said, but a one-day measure due to its own review of the situation, which included a sharp reduction in rocket fire since the weekend.

However, **Hamas** leader Khaled Meshaal said Tuesday in Damascus that the rocket attacks would continue.

"Let Israel stop its aggression and its occupation of Palestinian land and the resistance, including rockets, will stop," Meshaal told Reuters. "If the Zionists make an offer, we will study it. Our cause is based on steadfastness and patience. The enemy will not break us." Because of U.S. and French objections, the UN Security Council, which met in emergency session in New York on Tuesday to discuss Gaza, was not expected to adopt a Libyan motion condemning Israel for closing its borders with the territory.

Israel's position in New York and at home has been that **Hamas**, which is considered a terrorist organization by Canada, had exaggerated the humanitarian situation in Gaza and that the sudden reduction in rocket fire was proof that its measures had reduced the risk of rockets hitting its citizens.

While supportive of Israel because of the "intolerable" rocket attacks that it had been suffering from Gaza, U.S. Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice told journalists in Berlin that "nobody wants innocent Gazans to suffer."

## Graphic

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Photo: Getty Images; SHOUTING SLOGANS: A Palestinian woman shouts slogans during a protest at the Rafah border crossing with Egypt Tuesday in Rafah, the Gaza Strip. ;

**Load-Date:** January 23, 2008

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End of Document

**Broken wall, reunited town Palestinians crossing into Egypt seek out friends and relatives not seen for years.**

St. Louis Post-Dispatch (Missouri)

January 27, 2008 Sunday

FOURTH EDITION

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**Section:** NEWS; Pg. A8

**Length:** 542 words

**Byline:** By Ibrahim Barzak and Omar Sinan THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

**Dateline:** RAFAH, Gaza Strip

## **Body**

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Divided by a twist of history 26 years ago, this remote town straddling the Gaza-Egypt border has been reunited in just as haphazard a fashion.

After the towering border wall slicing through Rafah was toppled last week, long-separated relatives, friends and even former soccer buddies just had to walk a few yards to embrace and reminisce.

Some even dared to make plans for an uncertain future: One large Palestinian clan quickly married off four women to relatives on the Egyptian side.

"How can we leave the other side? We were always one place," said Kamal al-Nahal, 40, an uncle of one of the brides.

But almost three decades of separation have also produced marked differences in customs, building styles and dialect. Al-Nahal said he wasn't exactly impressed with Egyptian Rafah, with mudbrick buildings and unpaved streets.

About 40,000 people live on the Egyptian side and about 200,000 in Gaza's Rafah, which includes both the original town and an adjacent refugee camp. Those on the Egyptian side are mostly of Palestinian origin, but their Arabic often has more of an Egyptian dialect.

Rafah was bisected in 1982 to accommodate land claims negotiated as part of the Egyptian-Israeli peace agreement. While suddenly holding different citizenship, residents of both sectors could cross the border with relative ease for several years.

However, travel became increasingly difficult as Israeli-Palestinian fighting intensified. During the second Palestinian uprising, which erupted in 2000, Gazan Rafah became one of the bloodiest flashpoints of violence, with gunmen often exchanging fire with Israeli troops patrolling the Gaza-Egypt border.

Israeli troops razed hundreds of Rafah homes to widen the patrol road and erected a tall wall - the one toppled Wednesday - as cover against ambushes.

Broken wall, reunited town Palestinians crossing into Egypt seek out friends and relatives not seen for years.

The border breach was engineered by the Islamic militant **Hamas** to pressure Egypt to negotiate new border arrangements. Both Israel and Egypt had kept Gaza largely sealed in the past two years, especially since **Hamas** violently seized the territory in June.

At least 38 members of the Egyptian security forces have been wounded in confrontations on the border in recent days, Egypt said. On Saturday, Egyptian riot police and armored vehicles blocked Gazan cars from moving beyond Egyptian Rafah, but the border remained otherwise open.

Even during years of separation, the two sides of Rafah had long stayed connected through underground smuggling tunnels ferrying cigarettes, weapons and other contraband. After the fall of the border wall, much of that trade went above ground.

Huge crowds of Gazans have descended on Egyptian Rafah, many buying just about everything on offer, from crates of Coke to cement and motorcycles, and some shops have closed for lack of wares.

Many came in search of friends and relatives.

Bassem el-Akhras, 45, a nurse in the Palestinian Health Ministry, used to play in a local Rafah soccer team before the 1982 split. On Saturday, he tracked down the team's former striker, Walid Hosni, 47, in Egyptian Rafah, and the two sat on chairs outside Hosni's grocery.

"It was the best day ever, that we were able to break (through) the wall and get together again with our friends," said Hosni, who coaches the local high school soccer team.

## Graphic

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### PHOTO

PHOTO - Along the Gaza-Egypt border Saturday, Palestinian children climb over a metal fence that used to separate Egyptian town of Rafah from the community on the Gaza Strip side. AFP / Getty Images

**Load-Date:** January 27, 2008

## *Lords take moms seriously*

The Star (South Africa)  
February 13, 2008 Wednesday  
e2 Edition

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**Section:** NEWS; Pg. 4

**Length:** 657 words

### **Body**

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London - The House of Lords yesterday began considering the argument by the mothers of two teenage soldiers killed in Iraq that servicemen and women have the right not to have their lives jeopardised in illegal conflicts. The women accused Tony Blair's government of going to war "on a lie" and took their fight for a public inquiry into the conflict to the House of Lords.

Berlin - A 58-year-old German man apparently starved himself to death in despair at his broken marriage and at losing unemployment benefits. Hunters found the half-mummified body of the man in a hunters' hideout in the Solling woodland near Uslar on Friday. According to entries in a diary the man kept, he stopped taking food 24 days before the last entry early in December.

Sydney - Leisel Jones models a futuristic swimsuit during the launch yesterday of the space-age Speedo outfits Australians will wear at this year's Beijing Olympics. The suits are seamless and boast less passive drag.

Islamabad - Public support for President Pervez Musharraf is at an all-time low, and opposition parties appear poised to score a landslide victory in next week's parliamentary elections that could threaten his rule. A survey by the International Republican Institute also found that only 9% of those polled believed Pakistan should co-operate with the US in the "war against terror".

Luanda - More than 10 000 people have been forced from their homes and 2 000 makeshift houses swept away by floods after heavy rain pounded parts of southern Angola. Authorities, who said yesterday they were unable to cope with the numbers rescued, have put up some in tents at makeshift camps and others in schools in the provinces of Cunene, Namibe and Huila.

Rome - Abortion is playing an important early role in Italy's election campaign, with frontrunner Silvio Berlusconi endorsing a universal moratorium and prominent journalist Giuliano Ferrara yesterday coming out on an anti-abortion ticket. Berlusconi told the weekly Tempi magazine he believed the UN should recognise as a human right the right to life "from conception until natural death".

Jerusalem - Israel's Asian restaurants went on a one-day spring-roll strike yesterday in protest over government plans to rid kitchens of foreign chefs, and said sushi and noodles would be next off the menu. As part of a broader programme to cut the number of foreigners working in the state, Israel wants to purge Japanese, Chinese and Thai eateries of Asian cooks and replace them with Israelis.

## Lords take moms seriously

Washington - Russia has become a "superpower" of spam e-mail, becoming the second most prolific country after the US in producing junk e-mails. "The country has stormed into second place, accounting for 8,3% of the world's spam, or one in 12 junk mails seen in inboxes," according to security firm Sophos. The US accounts for 21% of spam e-mails.

Kabul - Afghanistan needs more international assistance, particularly from Islamic countries, to help build religious schools, President Hamid Karzai said yesterday. He said that if Afghan parents sent their children to madrassas outside the country - a reference to Pakistan - they would not know what their children ended up studying. Less than 2% of Afghan students are in the country's 336 madrassas.

Gaza City - Leaders of **Hamas** have scaled back their public appearances and stepped up other security measures, following Israeli threats to step up assassinations in response to a wave of Palestinian rocket attacks on southern Israel. "We are taking all the precautions. We take the Israeli threats seriously," said **Hamas** spokesperson Fawzi Barhoum yesterday.

Washington - US National Guard and Reserve troops who fought in Iraq and Afghanistan comprise more than half the veterans who committed suicide after returning home, says new government data. A Department of Veterans Affairs analysis found that Guard or Reserve members were 53% of the veteran suicides from 2001 through the end of 2005.

**Load-Date:** February 13, 2008

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## 2-MINUTE T-D

Richmond Times Dispatch (Virginia)

April 15, 2008 Tuesday

State Edition

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**Section:** GENERAL; Pg. A-2

**Length:** 222 words

### **Body**

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**Load-Date:** April 18, 2008

**Israelis kill 9 in raids into Gaza; Katyusha fired by Palestinians shows rocket's longer range**

The International Herald Tribune

January 4, 2008 Friday

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**Section:** NEWS; Pg. 1

**Length:** 957 words

**Byline:** Steven Erlanger - The New York Times Media Group

**Dateline:** JERUSALEM

## **Body**

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Taghreed El-Khodary contributed reporting from Khan Yunis, Gaza.

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Israeli forces operating in Gaza killed at least nine Palestinians on Thursday and blew up the houses of some known militant commanders as the Palestinians fired a Katyusha rocket from Gaza that landed in northern Ashkelon, a city of 120,000 people.

The rocket did no damage, landing in an open field, but it traveled more than 16 kilometers, or 10 miles, the farthest of any rocket so far from Gaza, the Israeli police said. The Katyusha has a range of as much as 13.7 miles and there are thought to be fewer than 20 of them in Gaza.

But Mark Regev, a spokesman for Prime Minister Ehud Olmert, said that the firing Thursday showed that the Palestinians were improving their ability to use the weapon, which could soon bring into range a quarter of a million Israelis, and he called on Egypt to do more to stop the smuggling of weapons into Gaza.

"It's a sign of things to come and an issue of great concern," Regev said. "These rockets are not homemade and are smuggled in, and our concern is not one or two Katyushas, but a whole range of weapons, including antitank and antiaircraft rockets."

Israel is upset with Cairo for allowing more than 2,000 Gazans to return home from the hajj pilgrimage through the Rafah border crossing with Gaza, rather than, as originally agreed, through the Kerem Shalom crossing controlled by Israel. Israel wanted to check the returning pilgrims to see if they were smuggling cash back for ***Hamas***, which runs Gaza, or if some of those returning were wanted militants who had received military training in Lebanon, Syria or Iran.

Regev denied there was a diplomatic crisis with Egypt, but said, "There is tension." Egypt is a crucial ally of Israel, he said, "So we want to try to encourage Egypt to do more, but at the same time to ensure that the relationship remains stable."

## Israelis kill 9 in raids into Gaza Katyusha fired by Palestinians shows rocket's longer range

"Peace with Egypt is fundamental to us. But if Hamas is allowed through a porous border to strengthen itself, build a more formidable military regime and expand the range of its rockets, it's not in Egypt's interests, either," Regev said.

Israel continued its attacks on Palestinian militants in Gaza, especially from Islamic Jihad. In an incursion in southern Gaza, in a village near Khan Yunis, Israeli troops and tanks, backed by helicopter gunships, destroyed a house of the Fayyad family, killing two brothers, Ahmad and Sami Fayyad, their sister, Asma, 24, and their mother, Karima, 60. Their father, Muhammad, a farmer, was wounded.

Medics at Nasser Hospital in Khan Yunis said that the wife of Sami Fayyad and their daughter were also wounded, and that the daughter, 3, is clinically dead.

Sami Fayyad, 30, was a fighter with Islamic Jihad's military wing. Ahmad, 32, was a former member of the Palestinian Authority security forces. Israeli army spokesmen said that the two brothers were firing on Israeli forces from alongside and inside the house. The house was hit by at least one tank shell, and Palestinian witnesses said that Israeli forces, using armored bulldozers, then collapsed the rest of the house, from which medical workers dug the remains of the dead.

In a statement, Israel said blame for the deaths of the women "lies with the gunmen, who operated intentionally from a civilian environment."

At the hospital in Khan Yunis, the bodies of two other Palestinian fighters were seen, killed in an exchange of fire with Israeli troops. Munir Burhom, 22, and Burhom Abu Lehyia, age unknown, were members of Hamas's military wing, and the house they were firing from was also bulldozed, Palestinians said.

The Israelis also carried out airstrikes on what they said was an Islamic Jihad warehouse in Gaza City and three other military targets. But Palestinians said the Israelis also bombed the Gaza City homes of two senior Islamic Jihad commanders whom the Israelis killed in rocket attacks more than a week ago. The homes of Karim Dahdouh and Muhammad Abdallah Abu Murshad were bombed from the air and destroyed. At the time, Israel said they were responsible for making rockets and launching hundreds of them at Israel. Dahdouh was killed Dec. 17 and Murshad was killed a week ago.

The Israelis often destroy the homes of prominent enemies, usually by bulldozer, in the occupied West Bank. To destroy the homes from the air in Gaza, where Israel no longer keeps a permanent military presence, seems to be a new policy, designed to deter other militants.

Israeli military officials insisted, however, that the four targets bombed were specific military objectives and not homes, and that only one airstrike took place in Gaza City, on the warehouse.

A more primitive Qassam rocket landed in a backyard of a house in the Israeli town of Sderot, damaging the house and sending the woman owner into shock.

In the West Bank, Israeli troops in about 70 trucks moved into the center of Nablus and arrested three senior members of the Al Aksa Martyrs Brigades, affiliated with Fatah, and dozens were wounded in the raid. The Israelis are pursuing leads into the murder of two Israeli settlers near Hebron last week, which Israel says was carried out by men associated with Fatah.

Meanwhile, Friday is the second anniversary of the severe stroke that incapacitated the former prime minister Ariel Sharon, 79. Doctors at the Sheba Medical Center near Tel Aviv said that Sharon's condition had changed little and that his body was functioning normally, although he was connected to a feeding tube. They said that he showed some responses to the sound of voices of his close family.

Sharon "has not been in deep coma since his admission and throughout this period there have been some signs of response to several kinds of stimuli," the medical statement said.



Israelis kill 9 in raids into Gaza Katyusha fired by Palestinians shows rocket's longer range

**Load-Date:** January 15, 2008

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## **Israeli leader busy forging new coalition; Netanyahu demands quick election**

The Vancouver Sun (British Columbia)

September 19, 2008 Friday

Final Edition

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**Section:** NEWS; Pg. A17

**Length:** 671 words

**Byline:** Matthew Fisher, Canwest News Service

**Dateline:** JERUSALEM

### **Body**

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JERUSALEM -- With only six weeks to forge a new coalition in Israel or face national elections, Tzipi Livni will have little time to savour winning the Kadima leadership early Thursday.

To succeed the disgraced Ehud Olmert and become Israel's 13th prime minister, the former secret agent, lawyer and serving foreign minister must win over 32 members of Israel's incredibly Byzantine Knesset in order to form a coalition with Kadima's 29 deputies.

"The national mission we have is to quickly create stability," Livni told reporters in Tel Aviv before returning to Jerusalem. "This responsibility is not just mine but inside Kadima and members of the Knesset."

The process of wooing potential coalition partners and millions of Israeli voters began within hours of the official announcement of her narrow victory.

Whether Livni is successful at building a coalition or not, at some point between next February and 2010 she must face an election against Benjamin Netanyahu, the leader of Likud and a hardliner who has very different views about the peace process between Israel and Palestine.

"It should not be left up to registered Kadima voters alone" to decide who the next prime minister is, Netanyahu said Thursday, in demanding that Livni call a snap election. "The people should decide who will lead them. Anyone who fears the people's choice is not fit to lead."

Netanyahu, who was prime minister from 1996 to 1999, lost power after a series of scandals but returned to lead the Likud in late 2005. Well known for his blunt one liners, he lampooned Kadima supporters this week as being similar to people who invested in Lehman Brothers, the failed U.S. financial giant.

No matter what Netanyahu wants, it is extremely unlikely that Livni will go to the polls for at least several months, if she can avoid doing so by forming a new coalition.

Aside from devoting herself to this task, she must explain to anxious Israelis why she would be the best person to confront the threat represented by Iran's nuclear ambitions. She must also handle smaller but potentially bloody tests from **Hamas** in Gaza and Hezbollah in southern Lebanon and explain what her red lines are concerning the future of Jerusalem and Palestinian demands that millions of refugees be allowed to return to where they once

## Israeli leader busy forging new coalition; Netanyahu demands quick election

lived. The Fatah-led Palestinian Authority, which has been discussing a U.S.-backed peace deal with Livni since last fall, had little to say about the Kadima leadership race throughout the campaign.

"At the end of the day we want to make peace with all Israelis, not with this party or that party or that person or this person," chief negotiator Sayed Erekat told the BBC on Thursday. "I hope that once the dust settles down in Israel, whether they are going to form a government of national unity, a new one, or have early elections, that we will stay the course of peace and negotiation."

A greater Israel from the Mediterranean Sea to the Jordan River is an ideology that Livni imbibed as the daughter of Zionist parents who fought the British to create the Jewish state. But a few years ago she did an about-face. Facing with a rapidly growing Palestinian population living within Israel and the territories, she became a believer in a two-state solution.

But her position on Iran, **Hamas**, Gaza and the peace talks are not why Livni got elected as the new leader of Kadima. Nor was it because she closely identified herself with **women**'s issues as U.S. presidential hopeful Hillary Clinton did. The fact that she is a woman barely figured in her leadership campaign.

Kadima members backed the stylish, modestly dressed 50-year-old mother of two because she is squeaky clean in a political culture that has become the subject of derision. Serious allegations, charges and convictions have been levied against a string of major political figures including former president Moshe Katsav, former prime minister Ariel Sharon and the incumbent, Olmert, who, police have alleged, received hundreds of thousands of dollars in illegal campaign donations.

**Load-Date:** September 19, 2008

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End of Document

## *Welsh villagers in shock after suicide of another youth brings total to 20*

Sunday Independent (Ireland)

June 8, 2008

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**Independent.ie** 

**Section:** WORLD NEWS

**Length:** 1021 words

### **Body**

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A community blighted by a series of apparent suicides was last night coming to terms with the death of another young person.

Neil Owen, 26, is believed to have been good friends with 19-year-old Sean Rees, who was found hanging in Bridgend, south Wales, in April. Twenty young people in or from the county of Bridgend are suspected to have killed themselves since the beginning of last year. Mr Owen was from the Bettws area of the county and residents said he lived in a flat above the Oddfellows pub.

Mr Rees, who lived in the same village, was found hanging in woodlands after he had been out socialising with friends.

People in Bettws were reluctant to talk about the latest death, the majority of them simply saying "no comment".

And the landlord of the Oddfellows pub, David Simons, said: "The police have told me I'm not allowed to say anything".

One man, who did not want to be named, said: "I know he was very good friends with the lad who died in April".

Inspector Marion Stevenson, of South Wales Police, said: "The death is not being treated as suspicious. HM Coroner has been informed".

She added: "South Wales Police now ask that the media respect the privacy of the family and that no attempt be made to contact them".

She would not confirm yesterday when the latest death was discovered or whether it was being treated as a suicide.

South Wales Police has previously said the earlier deaths do not appear to be linked.

### **Attack on home of Kosovar PM Thaci**

SECURITY guards exchanged fire with a man trying to enter the house of Kosovo Prime Minister Hashim Thaci late on Friday, in what the government said was an attack on the home.

## Welsh villagers in shock after suicide of another youth brings total to 20

Mr Thaci was not in the building at the time of the incident. Police say guards spotted a man on the balcony of the Pristina home and there was an exchange of fire.

Mr Thaci's wife and son were in the house, but were unhurt.

"The attackers ran away in an unknown direction. We believe one of the suspects was injured," police said in a statement yesterday.

"This is a very serious event," said deputy Prime Minister Hajredin Kuci. "We still don't have details or information on who is behind this criminal attack."

Mr Thaci is an ethnic Albanian and former commander of the Kosovo Liberation Army, which fought a guerrilla war against Serb forces in the province in 1998-99.

## Five recovering after island rescue

Five Europeans were recovering from dehydration and exhaustion last night following their rescue from a remote Indonesian island two days after they failed to return from a diving trip.

Britons Kathleen Mitchinson, Charlotte Allin and Charlotte's boyfriend James Manning were found Friday morning on deserted Rinca island, along with two other divers from France and Sweden. The group had been missing since 3pm local time on Thursday.

The alarm was raised after the group failed to return following a dive off Komodo National Park in Indonesia.

The good news followed a tense night for their families.

## Abbas will run for president in 2010

Palestinian President Mahmoud Abbas, who had said he would not seek another term, will stand in presidential elections in 2010, a senior official said yesterday.

"President Abbas is Fatah's candidate for the Palestinian presidency," said chief Palestinian negotiator Ahmed Qurie, a member of Abbas's secular Fatah group.

Fatah officials have said they would press Abbas, who has also reportedly threatened to resign unless Israel and Palestinian officials reach a peace agreement by the end of the year, to run again because of no better alternative.

The long-dominant Fatah faction was defeated by Hamas, its Islamist rival, in 2006 parliamentary elections, ending more than 40 years of Fatah ascendancy. Hamas later routed Fatah forces to take over the Gaza Strip in June 2007, leaving Abbas's authority to the Israeli-occupied West Bank.

Younger members of Fatah have said the Hamas's victory reflected dissatisfaction over the monopoly of power and corruption with some of the older guard.

## Spelman used public funds for nanny

THE chairman of Britain's Conservative Party, Caroline Spelman, confirmed yesterday that she would meet with the British parliament's standards watchdog after confirming she had paid her nanny money from publicly-funded allowances.

Spelman paid the woman, Tina Haines, for secretarial work from her parliamentary staffing allowance while also providing free board and lodging in return for childcare.

"At the time I thought that was entirely within the rules and that is still my belief," Spelman said.

Welsh villagers in shock after suicide of another youth brings total to 20

The arrangement, which began when Spelman was elected as an MP in 1997, was ended after she hired a separate secretary following a conversation with the party's chief whip.

Labour MP Kevan Jones said there was a "big question mark" over Spelman's use of the allowance, claimed during 1997 and 1998, after BBC's Newsnight raised doubts over the amount of secretarial work the nanny actually did.

### **Posh more influential than politicians**

NEARLY half of young women surveyed could name more WAGs -- footballers' wives and girlfriends -- than female politicians. And politicians have less influence on young women than celebrities and the internet when forming opinions, a UK survey revealed yesterday.

Victoria Beckham was the celebrity most Girlguiding UK members said was likely to influence them. The singer and designer was chosen by 35 per cent of those polled.

Behind her were X Factor winner Leona Lewis with 32 per cent, model Kate Moss with 29 per cent and singer Amy Winehouse on 23 per cent.

Female friends were the biggest influence on those questioned, all members of Girlguiding UK aged 10-25.

Almost three-quarters (72 per cent) of around 650 respondents to the internet poll said friends influenced them, with family a close second on 63per cent.

More than two fifths (42 per cent) admitted they were swayed by celebrities and 40 per cent said the internet had an influence on them.

But hardly any people -- only 2 per cent -- said they believed their opinions were influenced by politicians and only one in 10 (10 per cent) thought that they were affected by advertisers.

**Load-Date:** June 8, 2008

## *Islamic group condemns Israeli plan to expand prayer site at Western Wall*

The Jerusalem Post

August 13, 2008 Wednesday

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**Section:** NEWS; Pg. 9

**Length:** 223 words

**Byline:** ETGAR LEFKOVITS

### **Body**

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An Islamic group on Tuesday condemned a long-time Israeli proposal to enlarge the section of the Western Wall allotted for women's prayer.

The criticism by the Al Aksa Foundation, which is affiliated with the Islamic Movement in Israel, was the latest flare-up over control of the Temple Mount and comes just weeks after the organization criticized the Chabad movement in Israel for holding seminars about the ancient Jewish temples.

"There is no such thing as innocent work so long as the Aksa mosque is under occupation," said Zahi Nujeidat, spokesman for the Islamic Movement in Israel.

The Islamic group, which held an east Jerusalem press conference Tuesday to protest the Israeli plans, denies the existence of the Jewish temples on the Temple Mount and refers to the Western Wall as "the al-Buraq wall."

The plan for the expansion of the women's section at the Western Wall has not yet been approved by a state planning committee.

"There is nothing new at the site," said Aryeh Banner, a spokesman for the Western Wall Heritage Foundation.

Last month, a Chabad seminar about the temples was condemned by the organization as "endangering" the mosque.

In the past, the fiery leader of the Islamic Movement in Israel, Sheikh Raed Salah, served a two-year sentence for a series of security-related offenses including financing Hamas activities.

**Load-Date:** October 4, 2011

## **82 detained in bid to curb terrorism at Olympics**

Cape Times (South Africa)

July 11, 2008 Friday

e2 Edition

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**Section:** NEWS; Pg. 2

**Length:** 244 words

### **Body**

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China said it had foiled five terrorism plots to target the Beijing Olympics, less than a month before the games begin. In the first six months of 2008, police detained 82 in the Xinjiang region.

Iran tested more missiles in the Gulf yesterday, and the United States reminded Tehran that it was ready to defend its allies. Washington said there should be no more such tests.

Deadly gunbattles between rival sectarian factions in Lebanon's northern city of Tripoli ended yesterday as the army reinforced troop numbers to shore up a fragile ceasefire.

Turkish Prime Minister Recep Tayyip Erdogan said he has received support from Baghdad and Iraqi Kurdish leaders to fight rebel Kurdistan Workers' Party guerrillas inside Iraq.

India violated Kashmiri ceasefire, says Pakistan

Pakistan has accused India of violating a 2003 ceasefire in Kashmir. A Pakistani army spokesperson said the Indian army fired mortars and small arms without provocation.

**Hamas** arrested two militants who fired cross-border rockets into southern Israel from the Gaza Strip, militants said.

The heads of eight leading cellphone service providers in Sweden have signed a letter protesting against a law monitoring data traffic. Google is also considering withdrawing its servers.

A Malaysian minister favours castrating habitual rapists to contain the rising number of rape cases in the country. "Personally, I am all for it (castration)," said **Women**, Family and Community Development Minister Ng Yen Yen.

**Load-Date:** July 11, 2008



## *Israel reopens crossings*

The Star (South Africa)

August 28, 2008 Thursday

e4 Edition

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**Section:** NEWS; Pg. 4

**Length:** 652 words

### **Body**

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Gaza - Israel today reopened its border crossings with the Hamas-controlled Gaza Strip, two days after they were shut in response to rocket attacks. Palestinian officials said three of the main commercial crossings were opened but a fourth remained closed. Israel tightened its borders with the Gaza Strip after Hamas Islamists seized the enclave more than a year ago.

Taipei - Traffic stopped and roads emptied in northern Taiwan today for the new government's first air raid drill, a public reminder that China could attack despite a recent thaw in relations. Sirens sounded at 2.30pm local time in seven counties and cities, a cue for vehicles to move to the sides of roads and pedestrians to wait in back streets, all in practice for a possible attack.

Bosasso - Somali pirates have released an Omani ship they had held hostage for months, a senior government official said today. "The Omani ship held for six months was released last night," Abdiqadir Muse Yusuf, assistant minister for fisheries in northern Somalia's Puntland region, said. "I think a ransom was paid but I do not know the exact amount," he added.

Hanoi - Police in Vietnam have arrested a woman accused of strangling her boyfriend to death with her bra, a police official said today. The 26-year-old woman was arrested yesterday at her rented house in a small town in Quang Ninh province, 160km east of Hanoi, according to Le Sy Toan, chief investigator of the town's Police Department. The alleged murder took place on Monday.

Wellington - New Zealand police will arm some officers with Taser stun guns after a year-long trial showed the effectiveness of the weapon, the nation's police chief said today. Commissioner Howard Broad said he had delayed the use of Tasers to seek input from lawmakers. "As I understand the conventions that exist, it was quite proper for me to seek input," he said.

London - British police say they are still trying to find the owners of a property gutted by fire in western England. West Mercia police say they haven't yet established whether the family of three were inside the house in Oswestry at the time of the blaze. But the Daily Telegraph says emergency workers found the front door barricaded from the inside and spent bullet cartridges scattered around.

Mumbai - A security officer practises laughter therapy during a yoga session at a park in the northern Indian city of Allahabad yesterday.

## Israel reopens crossings

New York - German Chancellor Angela Merkel was yesterday named the world's most powerful woman by Forbes magazine, putting her at the top of the prestigious list for the third year in a row. Merkel soundly beat the likes of US Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice, who is at No 7, and former US first lady and Democratic presidential contender, Senator Hillary Clinton, who was ranked 28th.

Canberra - A brothel owner who smuggled five Thai women into Australia to be prostitutes had her conviction and 10-year sentence for sex slavery upheld by the High Court today in the first case of its kind in the country. Wei Tang (44) was convicted by a jury in 2006 of five counts of possessing a slave and five counts of exercising power of ownership over a slave between August 2002 and May 2003.

Srinagar - Government forces ended a hostage crisis today in the mainly Hindu city of Jammu in Indian Kashmir when they killed the last of three rebels believed to have seized eight people, army officials said. The slaying ended a 20-hour gunbattle with rebels who were hiding inside a two-story concrete building, said senior army official DL Chowdhary.

Valetta - Two rescue helicopters today were searching for as many as 70 illegal migrants reported missing off Malta. They were reported missing by eight of their companions who were found floating on a half-submerged boat about 65km south of the Mediterranean island. Survivors told a fishermen who rescued them that they were in a group of 18, but the number was revised.

**Load-Date:** August 28, 2008

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## 2-MINUTE T-D

Richmond Times Dispatch (Virginia)

November 13, 2007 Tuesday

Final Edition

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**Section:** GENERAL; Pg. A-2

**Length:** 225 words

### **Body**

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**Load-Date:** November 17, 2007

## **Report all viral illness cases, China orders**

Cape Times (South Africa)

May 08, 2008 Thursday

e2 Edition

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**Section:** NEWS; Pg. 2

**Length:** 245 words

### **Body**

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China announced new rules yesterday that require health-care providers to report all cases of a viral illness that has killed 28 children. So far there have been 15 799 cases of hand, foot and mouth disease this year, Xinhua News Agency said.

A court in northern Brazil has acquitted a rancher previously convicted of arranging the 2005 murder of US nun Dorothy Stang. Vitalmiro Moura was eligible for a second trial because he was a first-time offender sentenced to more than 20 years.

Two-minute memorial for fallen soldiers, civilians

Israel came to a standstill in a two-minute ritual yesterday as part of its annual Memorial Day for fallen soldiers and victims of Palestinian suicide bombings and other attacks.

Palestinian militant dies in Israeli air strike

An Israeli air strike killed at least one Palestinian militant in the Hamas-controlled Gaza Strip yesterday, medical workers said.

Six policemen killed in Afghanistan clashes

Clashes and a bombing killed six policemen in Afghanistan yesterday, while a blast in the east killed a suspected would-be suicide bomber, officials said.

Lebanon wage strike blocks roads, delays flights

Anti-government protesters blocked roads with blazing tyres and disrupted air traffic during a wage strike in Beirut yesterday.

Tribesmen kidnap Japanese women in Yemen

Two Japanese women tourists were kidnapped at the town of Marib in Yemen yesterday, a provincial government official said. The kidnappers were believed to be tribesmen.

**Load-Date:** May 7, 2008

Report all viral illness cases, China orders

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End of Document

## *The proud polemicist*

Weekend Australian

March 1, 2008 Saturday

2 - All-round First Edition

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**Section:** FEATURES; Pg. 23

**Length:** 1447 words

**Byline:** Rebecca Weisser

### **Body**

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A visiting author has questions to answer, writes Rebecca Weisser

TARIQ Ramadan has been called a Muslim Martin Luther by some and one of the most dangerous Islamists in the West by others. His support for the emergence of a new European form of Islam has raised the hopes of some in the West who yearn for a more engaged Islamic community that adapts to the challenges of modernity.

Yet his critics, however, are deeply suspicious, accusing him of a dual discourse, speaking a conciliatory message to the West while delivering a hard-line, anti-Semitic fundamentalist message of Salafism to Muslims.

Ramadan's newest book is *The Messenger*, a biography of the prophet Mohammed, described in his publicity as "an intimate portrait of a man who was shy, kind, but determined, as well as a dramatic chronicle of a leader who launched a great religion and inspired a vast empire".

Ramadan will be promoting the book in Australia next week. A senior research fellow at St Antony's College at Oxford University, he has "contributed substantially to the debate on the issues of Muslims in the West and Islamic revival in the Muslim world (and) has also lectured extensively (on) dialogue between civilisations", adds the publicity.

A self-described activist professor, Ramadan is never far from controversy. Last month, the prominent Swiss Muslim scholar called for a boycotting of the Paris and Turin book fairs because they had chosen to celebrate the 60th anniversary of the founding of Israel by inviting some of Israel's greatest living writers, including Amos Oz, David Grossman and Etgar Keret.

Ramadan wrote on his website that when he agreed to participate in the Turin Book Fair, he had no idea that the guest of honour would be in effect Israel, which he described as an "ugly provocation". Ramadan's views on Israel can appear contradictory. On his website, in English, he says he supports Israel's right to exist. At the same time, he says he favours a single Israel and Palestine. In other words, he does not support, in the long term, a two-state solution that would preserve Israel and its identity.

Ramadan is little known in Australia but he has been at the centre of a passionate debate on the relationship between Islam and the West that has raged across continents. He shot to prominence in the US when, in 2004, he was denied an entry visa because he had donated money to a group that passed some of its funds to *Hamas*. The

## The proud polemicist

Palestinian party, which won the last elections, is listed as a terrorist organisation in the US, and its military wing, Izz ad-Din al-Qassam Brigades, is proscribed as a terrorist group in Australia.

Ramadan says that between 1998 and 2002 he contributed small sums of money to a French charity supporting humanitarian work in the Palestinian territories but that he did not know that the money was passed to Hamas. He also says that even the US did not know of the links between the group and Hamas at that time.

The denial of Ramadan's US visa was the eventual catalyst for fiery debate among liberal intellectuals including Paul Berman and Ian Buruma. In February 2007, Buruma, a professor and author at Bard College in New York state and an occasional columnist in Inquirer, wrote a profile of Ramadan for The New York Times Magazine in which he canvassed some of Ramadan's key ideas.

Buruma characterised Ramadan in American terms as "a Noam Chomsky on foreign policy and a Jerry Falwell on social affairs". But Ramadan describes himself as a Salafist reformer, which sounds alarming since Salafists believe that Islam was at its best in the time of Mohammed and the next two generations and wish to revive the practices of those times.

Ramadan is irritated when Western critics mention that he is the grandson of Hassan al-Banna, the founder of the radical Muslim Brotherhood. But as Buruma noted, Ramadan is often introduced to Muslim followers with a tone of reverence, as al-Banna's grandson, and Ramadan happily notes that "with older people, it lends authority to what I'm saying".

The Muslim Brotherhood is a fundamentalist organisation that has been accused of a string of assassinations in Egypt, where it was founded and has been banned. It has also given rise to Islamist groups including Hamas. The example of one of the Muslim Brotherhood's famous members, executed Egyptian writer Sayyid Qutb, influences Osama bin Laden and his deputy, Ayman al-Zawahiri.

Ramadan says that resistance is a key concept and that he is promoting Islamic socialism. In his book Western Muslims and the Future of Islam, Ramadan says global capitalism and neo-liberal economics must be resisted. He says he will respect Western laws only up to a point. "I will abide by the laws, but only insofar as the laws don't force me to do anything against my religion ... If any given society should take this right away, I will resist and fight that society," he has said in a recorded speech.

Despite these fighting words, Buruma concluded that Ramadan was not part of a holy war against Western democracy. But Berman, a US author, professor of journalism and writer in residence at New York University, found the Buruma article naive and responded with an article titled "Who's afraid of Tariq Ramadan?" in The New Republic that ran to 28,000 words. Berman distils Ramadan's position on violence as "a double message. The first message condemns terrorism. The second message lavishes praise on the theoreticians of terrorism."

Ramadan created a public furore in France in 2003 during a television debate with then French interior minister and now President Nicolas Sarkozy. Sarkozy brought up the point of view expressed by Ramadan's older brother, Hani, who supports women who commit adultery being stoned to death. The most Ramadan could do was call for a moratorium. As Berman observed, "Some six million French people watched that exchange. A huge number of Muslim immigrants must have been among them: the very people who might have benefited from hearing someone speak with absolute clarity about violence against women. Ramadan couldn't do it."

Berman laments that so many on the liberal Left thought that Ramadan won the debate. Yet some of Ramadan's fiercest critics come from the Left. French author and journalist Caroline Fourest analysed hundreds of Ramadan's recordings, more than a dozen books, and 1500 pages of interviews that had appeared in the press. Fourest says that in his cassettes "one here discovers Ramadan the warlord, giving orders and spelling out his political objectives: to modify the secular state and help matters evolve towards 'more Islam'. Unfortunately, the Islam in question is not an enlightened and modern Islam but a reactionary and fundamentalist one."

Fourest believes there is no one as effective as Ramadan in furthering fundamentalism in France. "He radicalises the Muslims under his influence by introducing them to the thought of Hassan al-Banna (this constitutes the

## The proud polemicist

introduction to his recorded seminars), then he brings them into contact with the present-day ideologues of the Muslim Brotherhood: Youssef al-Qaradhawi, one of the few Muslim theologians openly to approve suicide attacks, or Faycal Mawlawi, who is not only a Muslim Brother but also the principal chief of a Lebanese terrorist organisation.

``And that is not all. He weakens secular resistance to fundamentalism by forming alliances with secular anti-racist associations. He has accomplished a sort of tour de force: to make Islamism seductive in the eyes of certain militants of the anti-globalisation Left. His tactic is simple: to send young partisans of his cause to register in anti-racist associations and left-wing parties."

Fourest says she was struck by the extent to which the discourse of Ramadan is often a repetition of the discourse that al-Banna had at the beginning of the 20th century in Egypt. ``He never criticises his grandfather. On the contrary, he presents him as a model to be followed, a person beyond reproach, non-violent and unjustly criticised because of the `Zionist lobby'.

``This sends chills down one's spine when one knows the extent to which al-Banna was a fanatic, that he gave birth to a movement out of which the worst jihadis have emerged and that he wanted to establish a theocracy in every country having a single Muslim.

``Tariq Ramadan claims that he is not a Muslim Brother ... a Muslim Brother is above all someone who adopts the methods and the thought of al-Banna. Ramadan is the man who has done the most to disseminate this method and this thought."

Yet to his supporters, Ramadan is ``a charismatic and interesting man".

[www.tariqramadan.com](http://www.tariqramadan.com)

Cracks appear in the monolith -- Page 29

**Load-Date:** March 3, 2008



## Ceremony or no ceremony

The Jerusalem Post

April 25, 2008 Friday

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**Section:** OPINION; Pg. 10

**Length:** 1120 words

**Byline:** SARAH HONIG

**Highlight:** Another Tack. Nothing good can come of emboldening 'good terrorists' who identify with Mona and want her back in action

### **Body**

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At the very last moment, PA figurehead Mahmoud Abbas (Abu Mazen) got cold feet. Fearing flak, he canceled the awards ceremony in which the PLO's highest medal of heroism was to be conferred on five women - all convicted terrorists behind Israeli bars.

All honorees were handpicked by Abbas himself. Three were foiled in their homicidal attempts but not so the two stars. They in particular point to the nature of Abbas's followers - with whom we so longingly seek coexistence. Ahlan Tamimi planned the August 9, 2001 attack on Jerusalem's Sbarro pizzeria and drove the suicide bomber to the destination where he killed 15 persons, including seven children and five members of a single family.

Amana Mona - insolently unrepentant and the most aggressive despot of the women's security wing in whichever facility she's transferred to - is the fetching Fatah operative who via Internet chats lured 16-year-old Ofir Rahum to a cruel death on January 17, 2001.

Just as Abbas was off globe-trotting - yet again - his minister for prisoner affairs, Ashraf el-Ajami, blabbed about the projected ceremony. That rendered Abbas's choice of heroines an especially superfluous embarrassment and the event was expediently called off.

Abbas, after all, had managed to convince willingly gullible saps everywhere that he substantially differs from Hamas's supposedly more villainous terror warlords. Measured by the simplistic yardstick of moral relativism, Abbas appears a trustworthy moderate.

WHEN CHRONIC peaceniks have nobody else to appoint as their interlocutor, they pretend that the hypothetical lesser-evil is humanity's great hope for the greater good. When incorrigible political con artists like Ehud Olmert need any semblance of an achievement on which to base future election campaigns, they negotiate a "shelf-agreement" and make real concessions to their imaginary peace partner.

When Abbas's own minions belie their front man's pro- forma moderation by doing the immoderate thing - like indiscriminately murdering Israelis - Olmert & Co. rely on Abbas's predictable lip-service, condemning "the damage to Palestinian interests." It's never the shedding of innocent Jewish blood that offends Abbas, but the potential inconvenience to his charlatan administration.

### Ceremony or no ceremony

Yet even Abbas's wan sham-censure suffices to enable Israel's homegrown self-bamboozling "Peace Camp" to absolve him of culpability. And so with official Israeli connivance, and enthusiastic State Department patronage, Abbas postures as a saint on the side of the angels, indeed as a victim of terrorism rather than its devious promoter.

Like all shysters, however, Abbas occasionally slips up. The hullabaloo about his chosen laureates for the Al- Kuds Mark of Honor threatened to expose his true colors. After all, the release of Abbas's heroines - along with all other female terror convicts - was, significantly, the taunting initial Hamas precondition for any morsel of information about hostage Gilad Schalit.

Ceremony or no ceremony, by so much as considering accolades for child-slayers, Abbas collaborates with Hamas's manipulative psychological warfare, which - in order to tug at the heartstrings of progressive do-gooders - disguises mass-murderers as prisoners of conscience, persecuted altruists and vindictively incarcerated political philosophers.

Ceremony or no ceremony, by championing barbarous murderers, Abbas endorses his heroines' atrocities. When sadists of Mona's ilk become their society's poster- children - the objects of reverence, compassion and/or models for emulation - then their underlying moral code inevitably characterizes the collective which sponsors and supports them.

MONA'S COLD-BLOODED hunting expedition began long before 20 AK-47 bullets riddled Ofir's young body. This homicide was meticulously and maliciously premeditated and executed painstakingly, over months, in scrupulously plotted phases, to wrest an unsuspecting boy from his protective environment and trick him to his death.

Mona acted with noxious purposefulness to tempt the randomly selected teenager from his home. All that mattered was to get her hands on a Jewish kid. Ofir's predator ruthlessly stalked her prey and prepared his execution. Like her, the Jewish state's would-be destroyers pursue their deadly deliberate task over time, resorting to the same cunning, exactly lethal determination.

Mona played Ofir like Abbas plays Israeli dupes. Ofir embodied the shared Israeli dream of peace and bliss. He fell for the charms of something virtual in cyberspace. He had stars in his eyes. He hoped. He yearned to make love, not war. Like most of us.

Ofir sought puppy-love in Jerusalem. Identically infatuated, Osloites were mesmerized by no-less-mythical geopolitical romance in "the New Middle East." Ofir wanted to believe the pretty decoy who flirted with him, the sly impostor who posed as "Sally." We want to believe that the "peace" on Olmert's shelf is more genuine than Abbas's affectations.

Ofir, however, didn't know he was walking into a trap. This nation should have known about the ambush down Oslo's path, the road map's dangerous detours and the transparent recklessness of disengagement. We were explicitly alerted to consequences Ofir couldn't envision.

Yet dire warnings remain unwelcome killjoys, even if everything Oslo-critics prophesied came to be with uncanny accuracy. Though the writing was on the wall then and still is now, too many refuse to read. It's less of a strain to dismiss cautions that territorial surrenders fuel confrontation.

Our choice is between hard times or a colossal collective calamity as awful and final as that which cut short Ofir's life. We're as well-meaning and trusting as he was and enticed by beguilements as tantalizing as the bait which fatally attracted Ofir to a rendezvous with a hail of bullets. He, however, was a typical schoolboy with the right to dream, while Israel's national aggregate has no right to stay as na-ve. Delusions can terminate our existence just as they did Ofir's.

Therefore, we cannot afford the luxury of ignoring what Abbas had in mind. What counts isn't that he backtracked to preserve his image and avoid excessive discomfiture to his Israeli "useful fools." What counts is that he contemplated glorifying Ofir's callously calculating assassin. The inescapable subtext is that her crime is his ideal,

## Ceremony or no ceremony

his prescription for all Israelis. Mona is the benchmark of popular Palestinian intentions toward us all. That's why they acclaim her malevolence instead of denouncing it, instead of beating their own breasts for sanctioning and commissioning her blood lust.

Nothing good can come of emboldening "good terrorists" who identify with Mona and want her back in action.

## Graphic

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3 photos: Aftermath of terrorist attack. A medal from Abbas? Mona after being sentenced to life at her November 2003 trial; her victim, Ofir Rahum. (Credit: Ariel Jerozolinski; Archive photos)

**Load-Date:** October 4, 2011

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## *Defensive posturing*

The Jerusalem Post

May 16, 2008 Friday

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**Section:** FEATURES; Pg. 14

**Length:** 2971 words

**Byline:** SAM SER

**Highlight:** Typical finger-pointing and passing the buck lead to the utter disrepair and inefficiency of our porous southern border. Box at end of text.

## **Body**

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Project Schmerling isn't working. All along Route 10 signs bearing the name of the project, an initiative of the army's Division 80 which is responsible for security in the area, use decidedly undiplomatic language in calling on drivers to exercise extreme caution. The so-called Philadelphi Route, running the length of the southern border, was not built for high speeds, they warn.

"If you exceed the recommended speeds," one particularly ominous sign reads, "you will end up either crippled for life, or dead and buried. Be especially cautious in the curves, and even more so at night. Don't say I didn't warn you!"

Yet soldiers keep on getting killed or injured here, spilling over the sides of a narrow road that twists through the rocky brown cliffs that mark the intersection of the Negev and Sinai deserts. Recently, a **female** soldier became the latest casualty when the jeep she was driving flipped near Mount Harif.

"It happens all the time, man," said Laurend, a Hummer driver in his compulsory military service who has been patrolling the same stretch of road for more than a year now. "I've seen soldiers get killed, soldiers get hurt. In one incident some months ago, an officer was crippled when his Hummer flipped over and crushed his abdomen.

"There are some nasty stories here, man," Laurend said, dragging on a cigarette as he waited to head out on patrol. "You don't want to know."

Cautioning his troops on the dangers of the road, one battalion commander put it this way: "It's very difficult to flip a Hummer. But in this area, we've done it several times. When you travel on this highway, realize that this is no joke."

In truth, the term "highway" is an exaggeration for the road, which was built in 1982, as Israel completed its withdrawal from the Sinai. Although it is ostensibly two lanes wide, with vehicles traversing its length in both directions, the pale gray, unlit path is barely broad enough for the Hummers and semitrailers that make up most of its traffic. The pavement is cracked and scarred from the stress it endures, from the stretching in the heat of the day and the contracting during the chill of the night, as well as from the weight of the massive military vehicles that continuously travel the highway. There are gashes running through the middle of the road, and chunks of asphalt lie at its side like so many cookie crumbs. One gets the impression that if this road were an animal, it would be put down to end its suffering.

### Defensive posturing

Success has many fathers, as the saying goes, but failure is an orphan. And so it is with Route 10. The Israel National Road Company claims it is and always has been the responsibility of the military. The Defense Ministry, in turn, claims the highway, like any other, is the responsibility of the company. So a road that was paved 26 years ago slowly disintegrates into the desert, with no plans for its upkeep or improvement, as soldiers who fail to heed the warning of Project Schmerling end up, as promised, either crippled for life or dead and buried.

THE POOR STATE of the highway has other costs, however, that combine with a series of failures to make the Egyptian border the worst guarded in the country.

Take the drug smugglers, for example.

"At night," said a soldier standing guard outside the Shikma outpost near the Sayarim junction, "we see the Egyptian smugglers flashing their lights, signaling to the smugglers on our side of the border to come meet them. And we see the Israelis in their jeeps, waiting for an opening.

"If they see that we're alert and on patrol, they slink away. If notÉ well, the next morning, we see their tracks in the tishtush" - the smoothed-over path running parallel to the border, making tracks and footprints of infiltrators apparent.

Twice in the past month, smugglers sneaked past the Shikma outpost, undetected until after they were long gone. Even had they been spotted in the middle of their crime, though, there is no guarantee they would have been caught.

"We are helpless against the smugglers," complained Dror, a reserve officer recently stationed at the nearby Carmit outpost. "There's no lighting, so we have to fire off a hundred flares any time we want to see 100 meters in front of us. And even when we can see them coming, we can't stop them. It takes forever because you can't drive fast enough, safely enough, to get there in time."

There are hardly any police in this part of the Negev, which is made up almost entirely of seldom visited nature reserves and live ammunition firing zones for the army and the air force. So, once they have eluded the IDF patrols, smugglers are basically home free.

"In that whole area, I have only 300 men," a police captain explained to the Knesset Committee for the War on Drugs in 2006. "You can drive for kilometers and not see a single security agent."

The Egyptian border "is the No. 1 smuggling pipeline of drugs and prostitutes in all of Israel," Moshe Karadi, then head of the Southern Police District, said in 2003, when police estimated that tons of marijuana and hashish, together with as many as 1,000 prostitutes and hundreds of illegal workers were being smuggled across the border each year.

Smugglers wouldn't be able to make a living, though, were it not for the ease with which they obtain their goods. That is due to a border fence that, for the better part of its 240-kilometer stretch, poses no significant obstacle. Even at its most formidable, the fence stands little more than a meter high, and is comprised of looping coils of barbed wire stretched between thin metal poles. In many places the barbed wire has been folded to the ground; in others, the poles have fallen over. No great effort is required to pass drugs, weapons or other contraband over the fence.

"The problem with the smugglers is that the fence is very low... so they come with their camels and their sacks and they can pass their stuff right over the fence, with no effort," said Dror. "So if in effect there's no border, then our tishtush is the border. And that's just not enough."

OF LATE, THOUGH, the group exploiting the porous border the most is the mass of Africans seeking a decent life in Israel. The migration began slowly, in 2005, after Egyptian riot police fired indiscriminately into a crowd of Sudanese refugees demonstrating outside the Cairo office of the United Nations High Commission on Refugees. At first, compelled by the moral weight of the Jewish people's past suffering, Israel accepted the presence of a few hundred asylum seekers from Darfur. But that number has since multiplied many times, as close to 8,000 people

## Defensive posturing

from Sudan, Ghana, Eritrea and other African nations have entered the country via Sinai since the beginning of 2007.

Few, if any, have felt it necessary to cut the barbed wire fence. They simply climb over it and wander eastward until they are discovered by the IDF.

At a small lookout point near Mount Dela'at one recent morning, four reservists awoke to find seven gangling black men walking toward them from the early morning haze. One, who spoke a decent English, introduced himself and promptly asked if the soldiers could help him find work.

"Tell me," said one of the soldiers, "Where are you from?"

"From Eritrea," he answered.

"Wow, that's a long way!" replied the soldier. "Who told you to come all the way to Israel?"

"My friend in Tel Aviv!" the Eritrean said excitedly. "He said there is plenty of work here."

Such incidents are repeated every few days.

Once they are searched by soldiers, the Africans are driven to a military court at Mount Harif and then taken to large detention centers in the South - where they wait, either to be given jobs and shelter somewhere in the country, or to be deported to their home countries. Israel does not wish to return them to Egypt, where tens of thousands of Sudanese refugees are often abused, but their numbers are beginning to overwhelm the government.

"Wake up!" Prime Minister Ehud Olmert declared at a February meeting to discuss the issue. "We can no longer continue in this way, not stopping the border infiltrations."

Olmert, who a year ago suggested allowing soldiers to fire on refugees trying to enter, is demanding that the army step up its efforts on the border. Without a more robust barrier, however, there isn't much it can do.

Following a handful of attacks and attempted attacks on soldiers along the border, the defense establishment has repeatedly asked for a bigger, better fence to be built. "We are trying to prevent infiltrations and smuggling," an officer involved in Division 80's reinforcement plan for the border said at the end of 2006. "We would prefer a fence - but the government needs to decide to build one."

Noting that the West Bank barrier and the fence surrounding the Gaza Strip have both been highly effective in frustrating terror activity, while the southern border is breached routinely, a Defense Ministry spokesman confirmed the ministry's continued desire for a more formidable obstacle.

"It's like what happens when a thief is looking for a car to steal," he said. "If he has to choose between a car that has an alarm system and a car that doesn't have an alarm system, he's going to choose the one that doesn't."

The ministry has received preliminary approval for a more robust fence along the border, the spokesman said, but it would take "at least two years" to complete and would cost up to NIS 200 million. That money has not been allocated by the government, however - so the ministry is only in the planning stages of the project, and it will still need to win final approval for its plan to proceed.

Along Route 10, the soldiers who struggle to keep up with the pace of the smuggling and the infiltrations know not to expect a change any time soon.

"Everyone in this company has had something to say about the poor state of the border," said Dror. "People who have been serving here for a year and more have said they've tried to bring it to the attention of the higher-ups. They told us, 'Don't even bother talking to us about the sorry state of affairs here. We've already complained about it a thousand times, to no avail.'"

## Defensive posturing

"The scary thing is, if smugglers, or terrorists, used their heads a little bit - just a little bit - no one here would even know they had infiltrated. Just the smallest bit of effort is all it takes, because our border consists of a pathetic fence for cattle and sheep."

Shaking his head, he asked, "Can't we at least make it a little more difficult for them?"

(BOX) The grass is no greener on the other side of the fence

The poor state of affairs on this side of the border is only half the story. After all, the smuggling and infiltrations that bedevil the Jewish state are carried out under the noses of Egyptian policemen. Wouldn't these activities decrease if they more effectively fulfilled their duties?

"There's a tendency to blame the Egyptians for what's going on at the border," said Shmulik Bachar, research fellow at the Institute for Policy and Strategy of the Interdisciplinary Center (IDC) Herzliya, "and the truth is that they don't do much."

The flow of Sudanese and Eritrean refugees, for example, could be stopped at Egypt's southern border, a thousand kilometers from the Negev, if Cairo would move to seal the area. But Egypt maintains only a small military presence in the south, Bachar said, "because their military conception is based entirely on the Israeli threat, and because they're concerned about Cairo's survival, nothing else."

Despite the fact that Sudan's Islamist government is believed to have supported assassination attempts against Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak, Bachar said, "Israel will always be considered more of a threat than any other Arab or Islamic state."

Egyptian security along the Israeli border, meanwhile, is a study in incompetence and paralysis. The policemen stationed there do little - and what they do, they do harmfully. (Specifically, their sole method of intervention is to shoot the Africans trying to reach Israel; they have killed and maimed dozens, including women, sometimes within sight of IDF soldiers.) As per the peace accords with Israel, Egypt may not send soldiers to the border, nor even a large number of police. Add to this restriction the fact that Egyptian authorities choose to assign to the border a low caliber of personnel, and the problem intensifies.

Anyone who has listened to the Egyptian police screaming nonsensically into the night, or witnessed them firing their weapons simply to pass the time, can attest to the character of such men. Some have revealed, in their occasional conversations with Beduin trackers serving in the IDF, that they were convicts offered shortened prison sentences in exchange for being stationed on the remote outposts of the border. Others simply go mad from the loneliness, as for many the occasional sight of IDF patrols is the entire extent of their human interaction.

Why allow such a situation?

"Sinai has always been regarded as something of a foreign body in relation to the body politic of the Egypt that revolves around Cairo," Bachar explained. "They don't treat it with the same seriousness as the rest of the country."

That is not to say that the government takes no interest in the goings-on in the peninsula, or that it doesn't attempt to show that it is active there. Recently authorities announced that they had arrested leaders of the opposition Muslim Brotherhood, two Sinai Beduin and a Palestinian, charging them with plotting a terrorist attack with Hamas.

The Muslim Brotherhood members were alleged to have paid the equivalent of \$3,600 to two Beduin to buy 30 jerry cans of fuel, spare parts and a remote control for an unmanned aircraft to be built by Hamas for an unspecified attack.

The Muslim Brotherhood and Hamas immediately denounced the report as a fabrication. Bachar wouldn't be surprised if that were so.

"Every so often Egypt announces it has caught terrorists. But it's all propaganda," he said. "There's no strategic decision to treat this seriously."

## Defensive posturing

One expression of this failure to treat Sinai security seriously is the emergence of local Beduin as professional drug smugglers and gunrunners. In addition to growing marijuana in hard-to-reach valleys near the border, they are widely acknowledged as being responsible for the devastating bombings of prime tourism magnets on the peninsula in the past few years.

"When it comes to the involvement in terrorism of the Beduin of the northern Sinai," Bachar said, "people often talk about the influence of radical Islam. Well, that's bullshit. These are just tribes that are bitter about being abandoned by the government. They smuggle weapons for money, and to get back at the government for decades of neglect and mistreatment."

A year ago, Egypt rushed hundreds of policemen to the border to fend off hordes of machine gun-wielding Beduin who were protesting mistreatment at the hands of the authorities in Cairo. The threat remains, Bachar said, because Cairo has not taken steps to better integrate the Sinai Beduin into Egyptian society or to share with them the benefits of the local tourism trade.

Worse, and more complex, is the threat emanating from Gaza. Hamas's bombardment of the Rafah border earlier this year, and its threat to do so again, have brought the government to a much higher level of alert and concern than any other security incident in recent memory.

"They see the Gordian knot between the Muslim Brotherhood and Hamas," Bachar said, referring to the strong ideological bonds between Egypt's largest opposition group and the Palestinian group that is its offshoot.

"The Brothers are really the true threat to the administration, so [Egypt] can't be too harsh on the organization's friends, Hamas. On the other hand, they see Hamas setting up a state inside Sinai. They're stuck between a rock and a hard place.

"The government does understand the danger of Hamas infiltrating Sinai," he continued. "But it has gone so far, that it's hard to stop. The organization is smuggling tremendous amounts of weapons through and into the area; they're traveling with and to members of the Iranian Revolutionary Guards. With only a small number of forces there, what can [the Egyptian police] do?"

Israel, Bachar suggested, "ought to seriously consider allowing Egypt to add more forces to the area... but the question is, once you allow that situation, how can it be undone?"

Yet he does not blame the Egyptians entirely for the lack of strenuous security at the border, saying that Israel could do more as well.

"A few years ago," Bachar said, "when I was in the army and I would bring my soldiers to the border, they would see how bad the fence was and how few people were there to defend it, and they would ask me who was guarding the border. I'm sorry to say it, but I had to admit that the forces there were insufficient. And you know what? The situation hasn't changed much for the better."

Once guarded by a small number of soldiers and border police, the Israeli side of the border is now patrolled by a slightly larger number of forces. However, these are mostly reservists and standing army units like Karakal, which include a high percentage of women soldiers - a force structure that, despite its merits, cannot be compared with the more highly regarded troops of the infantry brigades.

If the issue of personnel is merely problematic in Bachar's eyes, though, the issue of infrastructure is much more severe.

"Not until Israel wakes up and a serious fence is erected along the entire length of the border, something along the lines of the barrier being built in the West Bank, will we be able to control what goes on there," he said. "We aren't taking care of things on our end, yet we complain about the Egyptians. Let's take care of our own responsibilities, and then worry about the Egyptians."



## Graphic

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6 photos: Deterrent, anyone? The border fence is comprised of looping coils of barbed wire stretched between thin metal poles. Soldiers along our border with Egypt. Camel crossing. Smugglers can merely jump their steeds over the border. Drive at your own risk. An area sign reads, 'If you exceed the recommended speeds, you will end up either crippled for life, or dead and buried.' Israeli soldiers at the border. Without Egyptian cooperation they can only do so much. (Credit: Ariel Jerozolimski)

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## **Pakistani fury at US raid**

The Star (South Africa)

June 12, 2008 Thursday

e2 Edition

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**Section:** NEWS; Pg. 4

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### **Body**

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Islamabad - Pakistan said an "unprovoked and cowardly" US airstrike on Tuesday had killed 11 Pakistani soldiers on its border with Afghanistan and undermined the basis of security co-operation. The soldiers were killed as US coalition forces battled militants attacking from Pakistan. The incident came amid Pakistani efforts to negotiate pacts to end militant violence on its side of the border.

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## Letters

The Jerusalem Post

March 13, 2008 Thursday

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**Section:** OPINION; Pg. 14

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**Byline:** R. Ehrlich, Sharon Lindenbaum, Steve Lax, Judy Ford, Harvey Matthew, Sarit Williams, Charles Oren, Cyril Atkins, David Dothager, Fay Dicker, Esti Allina-Turnauer

**Highlight:** Readers' Letters

### **Body**

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Birthday gift

Sir, - At last, MKs Sa'ar, Ben-Sasson and Paz-Pines are hearing Israeli citizens' call for a more representative government. Israel's 60th anniversary would be a perfect time to pass the electoral reform bill giving the people a voice in our government.

To those who would refuse to grant an already disconnected and alienated citizenry a reason to trust and respect the government - beware! We will recognize you as politicians more interested in keeping your seats than in governing our country fairly ("For Israel's 60th anniversary - electing MKs from 60 regions?" March 11).

R. EHRLICH

Jerusalem

To the task, undeterred

Sir, - The actions of David Shapira, the IDF officer who ignored the police warning to stay outside the Mercaz Harav Yeshiva building, entered and shot the Arab terrorist to death, thus preventing even more tragedy, represent the type of determined, unwavering leadership Israel desperately needs ("An officer and a hero," March 10).

The behavior of the police officers, on the other hand, echoed the government's hesitant, too-little-too-late tactics which strengthen our enemies and weaken our deterrence.

Determination and efficiency stem from a deeply entrenched belief in the rightness of one's cause and a willingness to take a risk for that cause. Clearly our ministers, including the PM, lack that belief, and should make way for others who have it.

SHARON LINDENBAUM

Rehovot

Please build

## Letters

Sir, - Eli Yishai's idea is fantastic ("Shas: Build houses in memory of yeshiva students," March 12). First, it would improve the real estate market, helping new olim, such as my family, find an affordable place to live. Second, it would give the Arabs more of an incentive to come to the table in a timely manner and make a deal.

Finally, since the signing of the road map Israel has kept its word and not built up these areas. What do we have to show for our commitment? Nothing. The Arabs continue to bomb us in the South, we have terrorists living in Jerusalem, and their leaders condone their activities.

Can it get any worse? No. Please build.

STEVE LAX

Modi'in

Delay this return

Sir, - May I be so bold as to suggest that our government hold back and not release the body of the terrorist who massacred eight innocent yeshiva students until Hamas returns Gilad Schalit, alive and well?

("Police put off terrorist's funeral, fearing media spectacle," March 11.)

JUDY FORD

Petah Tikva

Pipe-dream

Sir, - Alex Sinclair's hope that the Palestinians in Gaza will vote Hamas out of office raises a question: When was the last time a police state allowed its citizens to democratically vote it out of office?

I wouldn't hold my breath ("International condemnation is good for Israel," March 4).

HARVEY MATTHEW

Jerusalem

A lesser evil

Sir, - I completely understand Mohammed Khan's logic inasmuch as the Muslim media and their amen-corner in Europe have been chanting "It's the Occupation" for decades (Letter, March 11).

However, such a facile solution overlooks historical reality, which is that Arab terror against Jews existed prior to the 1948 Partition, and again prior to the 1967 occupation.

Many skeptical Israelis like myself see the occupation as the lesser of two evils, since prior withdrawals (Lebanon and Gaza) have only increased terrorism, not reduced it.

Has Mr. Khan a solution more workable than surrender to those who terrorize us and publicly demand our deaths?

SARIT WILLIAMS

Jerusalem

Sir, - Mohammed Kahn's letter deserves a reply, as his opinion is widely believed.

It seems simple, logical and correct to give the Palestinians the West Bank. They claim that it is all they request - their own state in their own land.

## Letters

Yet few readers today remember that they established the Palestine Liberation Organization in 1964, when Jordan occupied the West Bank. The PLO never tried to end Jordan's occupation!

The aim of the PLO has always been the destruction of Israel. It has not changed its charter. Its many murderous attacks have included attacks by other groups with different names, but the same ideas.

Many have been against non-Israeli and non-Jewish targets.

CHARLES OREN

Givatayim

Required reading

Sir, - Further to "AJC blasts Swiss UN vote condemning Israel as detrimental to regional peace" (March 11): Barry Rubin's brilliant, clear-sighted enumeration of the Middle East's new rule-book should be required reading for all democratic governments, their foreign offices, the media, and especially the self-righteous NGOs that ignore physical and verbal attacks on the free world ("Fear and gullibility as weapons," March 10).

It should especially be read by the Swiss government - the only Western state to vote for the infamous anti-Israel resolution by the equally infamous UN Human Rights Council condemning Israel for the escalating violence in Gaza; completely ignoring the rocket attacks and terrorism against us during the past few years.

CYRIL ATKINS

Beit Shemesh

Sir, - In war, predictability is a weakness. The Arabs seem to be very predictable. Maybe Israel should find ways not to be so predictable. Israel is letting the bad kid make the rules of the game.

DAVID DOTHAGER

Mulberry Grove, Illinois

Last in, first out

Sir, - Andrew Kerr of Brisbane posits an ingenious solution to the unrelenting Hamas attacks on Israeli civilians ("Move to Tasmania," Letters, March 7). This, he believes, would bring about "world peace." Since there is irrefutable evidence of a Jewish presence centuries before the first Arab migration to the area, it would surely make more sense for the "newcomers" to move to Tasmania and thus put an end to their "sick ideologies."

FAY DICKER

Lakewood, New Jersey

It's always about sex

Sir, - Shmuley Boteach protests too much as he continues to obsess about sexuality in his op-ed "Let modest be the new sexy" (February 26).

But what's the difference? If one man finds bare midriffs sexy while another finds modesty sexy and, as Rabbi Boteach put it, "oh so desirable, to boot," this is still objectifying women and failing to recognize them beyond their sex appeal.

With men, it seems, it's always about sex, no matter what we women do.

Even dressed modestly and with my hair completely covered, I got "hit on" by men.

Letters

I guess they thought I was just having a bad hair day.

ESTI ALLINA-TURNAUER , Netanya

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Pretoria News (South Africa)

June 12, 2008 Thursday

e1 Edition

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## *Israel eases Gaza blockade*

The Star (South Africa)

June 23, 2008 Monday

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**Section:** NEWS; Pg. 4

**Length:** 680 words

### **Body**

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Gaza - Israel yesterday began to gradually ease its economic blockade of the Gaza Strip following last week's six-month truce, by allowing additional goods into the **Hamas**-ruled enclave - but Palestinians said the increase in deliveries was meagre. The goods were left in the morning, to be picked up in the afternoon by the Palestinians. Israel refuses to deal directly with **Hamas**.

Washington - A third of Americans admit to racist feelings and close to half believe race relations are poor, a new poll suggests. Asked if they had at least some feelings of racial prejudice, 30% of whites and 34% of African-Americans said "yes". Just over 50% of whites said Democrat Barack Obama was a "risky" choice for the White House, while two-thirds saw John McCain as "safe".

Beijing - An opera performer waits to take part in the "Telling Our Stories - Peking Opera Lover's Competition" in Beijing yesterday. A total of 30 amateurs competed in the final to promote Chinese opera ahead of the Beijing Olympic Games.

Lagos - Nigeria's main militant group yesterday declared a unilateral ceasefire from midnight tomorrow, saying elders had asked them to allow peace efforts to go ahead. Regional traditional chiefs wield great influence in Nigeria. The Movement for the Emancipation of the Niger Delta has been behind two years of crippling attacks on the oil infrastructure in the Niger Delta.

Skopje - A 56-year-old Macedonian journalist has been charged with murdering two elderly **women** - crimes he wrote about for his newspaper - and police are investigating possible involvement in a third death. His stories revealed details known only to the police and the killer. All the victims were elderly cleaners whose bodies were found naked and stuffed in nylon bags.

Kabul - Roadside bombs have killed five more foreign troops and five government soldiers in Afghanistan, part of a surge of violence that has made the country's battlefields deadlier for foreign forces than those in Iraq. Last year, more than 8 000 people were killed in insurgency-related attacks - the most since the 2001 US-led invasion - while violence claimed more than 1 700 so far this year.

Paris - French President Nicolas Sarkozy yesterday led condemnation of a Sabbath attack in Paris that left a Jewish teenager in a coma after he was beaten with metal bars. The 17-year-old is in a coma after being attacked in a multi-ethnic district of Paris "by a gang of about a dozen youths because he was wearing a skullcap and because he is a Jew", according to his parents.

## Israel eases Gaza blockade

Baghdad - A **female** suicide bomber struck near a government compound north-east of Baghdad yesterday, killing 15 people - including seven police officers - and wounding 40. Nearly 20 suicide attacks this year have been carried out by **women**. The bomber detonated her explosives in front of a heavily guarded area that includes the court, the post office and governor's offices in Baqouba.

London - British Prime Minister Gordon Brown's Labour party is lagging way behind its main rival the Conservative Party. A poll for the Mail on Sunday newspaper found Labour trailing 23 points behind the Conservatives - with support at 26% versus 49% for the Tories. About 44% thought Brown should resign now while 85% said he had performed worse in his first year than Tony Blair.

Mexico City - Youths as young as 13 were among the dozen people killed in a nightclub stampede in Mexico City at the weekend. Police involved in the "unethical" raid that sparked the crush have been suspended. Hundreds of young people, celebrating the end of the school year, tried to flee through a solitary exit during the raid on the working-class bar to check reports of underage drinking and drugs.

Vatican City - Pope Benedict said yesterday that only the pure of heart - those free of sin - could receive communion, a day after Italian Prime Minister Silvio Berlusconi joked that the Church should extend it to those divorced and remarried. Berlusconi himself is divorced and married a second time. The Church regards such people as living in sin, and they are forbidden communion.

**Load-Date:** June 22, 2008

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End of Document

## **TRAVEL BAN FOR GAZANS CRITICIZED; RICE URGES ISRAELIS TO LET PALESTINIANS GO ABROAD TO STUDY**

Pittsburgh Post-Gazette (Pennsylvania)

May 31, 2008 Saturday

SOONER EDITION

Copyright 2008 P.G. Publishing Co.

**Section:** WORLD; Pg. A-4

**Length:** 631 words

**Byline:** RICHARD BOUDREAUX, LOS ANGELES TIMES

**Dateline:** JERUSALEM

### **Body**

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Confined by Israel's blockade of the Gaza Strip, two Palestinian sisters who dreamed of post-graduate studies abroad got their chance in January, when Gaza militants destroyed part of a wall along the Egyptian border.

Yasmin Abukwaik, 22, joined the thousands who fled Gaza before the breach was sealed, and she now studies X-ray technology in the United Arab Emirates. Her sister Hadeel, a 23-year-old software engineering instructor, took a risk and stayed, so she could qualify for one of the few Fulbright grants for Gaza residents to study this fall in the United States.

The young women's divergent paths illustrate the increasingly slim odds for Gazans seeking Israeli clearance to study abroad. Few succeed. The rest, including hundreds who have earned scholarships in the West, are frustrated by Israel's policy of isolating the coastal enclave, which is run by the militant group Hamas.

On Thursday, the older Abukwaik sister was told that her gamble had not paid off. The U.S. State Department notified her and six other Palestinians that it was withdrawing their Fulbright grants because Israel had not given them permission to leave Gaza.

But the news took Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice by surprise, and the State Department yesterday said it was reviewing the decision and urging Israel to let the seven students travel to the United States. The Fulbright is the U.S. government's leading program in international educational exchange.

"I have sacrificed a lot for my dream," Hadeel Abukwaik said yesterday in a phone interview from Gaza City. "I am troubled, angry, confused. If this decision is not changed, what will I do? Wait in Gaza another year with no guarantee of getting out?"

Since Hamas seized control of Gaza from the more secular Fatah party last June, Israel has all but closed its Gaza border crossings in an attempt to weaken the group and end frequent rocket barrages aimed at Israeli towns. Egypt, Gaza's other neighbor, has cooperated with Israel to keep 1.5 million Palestinians cooped up in the tiny, impoverished strip.

## TRAVEL BAN FOR GAZANS CRITICIZED RICE URGES ISRAELIS TO LET PALESTINIANS GO ABROAD TO STUDY

Of the more than 1,000 Gazans who applied, Israel allowed 480 to study abroad during the 2007-08 academic year, according to Gisha, an Israeli organization that advocates freer movement of Palestinians. Israel stopped granting such permissions altogether in January.

At a hearing this week of the parliament's Education Committee, Defense Ministry lawyer Sagi Krispin explained that Israel's Cabinet had declared Gaza "hostile territory," and decided that movement out of Gaza for humanitarian concerns would be limited to people seeking emergency medical treatment. Higher education, he said, is not a humanitarian concern. That policy is under attack on two fronts in Israel.

Several Israeli lawmakers at Wednesday's hearing berated the government for denying bright young Palestinians the opportunity to acquire skills needed to modernize their society, saying such a policy will not contribute to peace.

"This could be interpreted as collective punishment," said Rabbi Michael Melchior, the Education Committee chairman. "This policy is not in keeping with international standards or with the moral standards of Jews, who have been subjected to the deprivation of higher education in the past. Even in war, there are rules."

The committee asked the government and the military to reconsider the policy and report within two weeks.

Meanwhile, Israel's Supreme Court next week is due to hear appeals by three Gaza scholarship students challenging the government's assertion that it has no legal obligation to allow them to travel abroad.

One of the plaintiffs, Wissam abu Ajwa, has been denied an exit visa five times. He said he and many other Gaza scholarship candidates want to return home and build a democratic Palestinian state.

## Graphic

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PHOTO: Muhammed Muheisen/Associated Press: A Palestinian demonstrator uses a sling-shot to hurl a stone at Israeli troops while others run to avoid rubber bullets during a protest against Israel's separation barrier in the West Bank village of Nilin near Modin, yesterday. Israel says the barrier is necessary for security while Palestinians call it a land grab.

**Load-Date:** June 3, 2008

**Women debate role in al-Qaida A high official tells them to stay home, but some extremist women want to join the fight.**

St. Louis Post-Dispatch (Missouri)

June 1, 2008 Sunday

FOURTH EDITION

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**Section:** NEWS; Pg. A8

**Length:** 526 words

**Byline:** By Lauren Frayer THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

**Dateline:** CAIRO, Egypt

## **Body**

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Extremist Muslim women are challenging al-Qaida's refusal to include - or at least acknowledge - women in its ranks, in an emotional debate that gives rare insight into the gender conflicts lurking beneath one of the strictest strains of Islam.

In response to a female questioner, al-Qaida No. 2 leader Ayman Al-Zawahri said in April that the terrorist group does not have women. A woman's role, he said in the two-hour audio recording posted on an Islamic militant website, is limited to caring for the homes and children of al-Qaida fighters.

His remarks have since prompted an outcry from fundamentalist women, who are fighting or pleading for the right to be terrorists. The statements have also created some confusion, because in fact, suicide bombings by women seem to be on the rise, at least within the Iraq branch of al-Qaida.

A'eeda Dahsheh is a Palestinian mother of four in Lebanon who said she supports al-Zawahri and has chosen to raise children at home as her form of jihad. However, she said, she also supports any woman who chooses instead to take part in terrorist attacks.

Another woman signed a more than 2,000-word essay of protest online as "Companion of Weapons."

"How many times have I wished I were a man. ... When Sheikh Ayman al-Zawahri said there are no women in al-Qaida, he saddened and hurt me," wrote "Companion of Weapons," who said she listened to the speech 10 times.

Such postings have appeared anonymously on discussion forums of websites that host videos from top al-Qaida leader Osama bin Laden.

"Women were very disappointed because what al-Zawahri said is not what's happening today in the Middle East, especially in Iraq or in Palestinian groups," said Rita Katz, director of the SITE Intelligence Group, an organization that monitors militant websites.

It's not clear how far women play a role in al-Qaida, because of the group's amorphous nature.

Women debate role in al-Qaida A high official tells them to stay home, but some extremist women want to join the fight.

Terrorism experts believe there are no women in the core leadership ranks around bin Laden and al-Zawahri. But beyond that core, al-Qaida is really a movement with loosely linked offshoots in various countries and sympathizers who may not play a direct role. Women are clearly among these sympathizers, and some are part of the offshoot groups.

In the Iraq branch, for example, women have carried out or attempted at least 20 suicide bombings since 2003.

Hamas, another militant group, is open about using women fighters and disagrees with al-Qaida's stated stance. At least 11 Palestinian women have launched suicide attacks in recent years.

"We don't have a special militant wing for women ... but that doesn't mean that we strip women of the right to go to jihad," said Huda Naim, a prominent women's leader, Hamas member and Palestinian lawmaker in Gaza.

Al-Zawahri's remarks show the fine line al-Qaida walks in terms of public relations. In a modern Arab world where women work even in some conservative countries, al-Qaida's attitude could hurt its efforts to win over the public at large. On the other hand, said SITE director Katz, al-Zawahri has to consider that many al-Qaida supporters, such as the Taliban, do not believe women should play a military role in jihad.

## Graphic

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### PHOTO

PHOTO - An image made from Jordanian state-run television on Nov. 13, 2005, shows Iraqi Sajida al-Rishawi showing an explosive belt as she confessed to her failed bid to set off the suicide bomb inside one of the three hotels in Jordan's capital targeted by al-Qaida. Women Muslim extremists have posted Internet messages in recent weeks expressing frustration with the al-Qaida No. 2 leader's refusal to give them a larger role in terrorist attacks. The Associated Press

**Load-Date:** June 1, 2008

## *Malaysia kicks Iran out*

The Star (South Africa)

April 30, 2008 Wednesday

e4 Edition

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**Section:** NEWS; Pg. 4

**Length:** 684 words

### **Body**

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Kuala Lumpur - Malaysia did not allow Iran to participate in the Defence Services Asia show after it displayed missiles, missile systems and other equipment that contravened UN resolutions banning Iranian arms exports. The Iranian embassy said it was willing to submit to Malaysia's demands, but was not given the opportunity to do so as it had already been kicked out of the event.

Amsterdam - Dutch media today reported that a controversial Dutch documentary had been named the best film at the International Documentary Festival of Arab news company al-Jazeera in Doha, Qatar. In the film, *Fighting The Silence*, women who experienced sexual violence during the war in the Democratic Republic of Congo speak openly about what happened to them.

Seattle - A pigeon with a needle-like dart piercing its head was shown in Seattle, in the US, by People for the Ethical Treatment of Animals. The organisation is offering a \$2 000 (R15 000) reward for information about the recent shootings that have left some Seattle pigeons impaled by darts, but still alive.

Beijing - China marked the start of the 100-day countdown to the Olympics today with songs, a mass run and even prayers, hoping to put behind it the tumultuous events of the past month. The city's smooth preparations have been overshadowed by the torch relay's troubled journey around the globe, with protesters targeting China's human rights record, in particular its policies on Tibet.

Sanaa - A strong blast rocked the administrative and residential district of Sanaa, Yemen, today, where the Italian embassy is located. Security forces immediately cordoned off the sector around the site of the blast in al-Safia district, where the finance ministry and customs also have buildings. There were no immediate reports of casualties, nor indication who was responsible for the incident.

Tokyo - Japan's oldest giant panda, Ling Ling, a long-time star at Tokyo's largest zoo, died of heart failure yesterday, zoo keepers said. Ling Ling was 22 years and seven months old, equivalent to about 70 human years, the Ueno Zoo said. It said he was the fifth-oldest known male panda in the world. The zoo had withdrawn him from public view earlier yesterday due to his worsening health.

Jerusalem - Israel's army says it has forced the closure in a West Bank city of offices of the "Islamic Charity Movement", a charity supposedly affiliated with Hamas. Israel believes the group works with the Hamas Islamic group to recruit operatives and raise money for militant activities. Troops closed the offices today. Israel had closed some Hebron offices of the movement earlier this year.



## Malaysia kicks Iran out

Singapore - Civil society groups plan to launch a website tomorrow as part of a year-long campaign to persuade Singapore employers to give maids at least one day off each month. The city-state's 180 000 foreign domestic workers are excluded from the Employment Act, which stipulates minimum days off and maximum weekly working hours.

Bogota - A man accused of being one of Colombia's biggest drug bosses has been killed in a shootout with police. Miguel Angel Mejia Munera was gunned down yesterday. Authorities were continuing their search for Mejia Munera's brother Victor Manuel, also on drug-trafficking charges. Together, the siblings were known in trafficking circles as "The Twins".

Casablanca - Casablanca's chief prosecutor has said that the weekend fire at a mattress factory that killed at least 55 people was started by a discarded cigarette butt, state media said. A person suspected of throwing the lit cigarette away carelessly is accused of "involuntary" fire-starting. The owner of the Rosamor factory in of Morocco and his son also face charges of involuntary homicide.

Buenos Aires - An Argentine court dropped charges yesterday against former President Fernando de la Rúa over the killing of five protesters in demonstrations that forced him from office in late 2001. De la Rúa fled the country's presidential palace by helicopter after demonstrators and police clashed in the streets of Buenos Aires at the height of a 2001-2002 economic and political crisis.

**Load-Date:** April 30, 2008

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End of Document

## *Israel eases Gaza blockade*

Pretoria News (South Africa)

June 23, 2008 Monday

e1 Edition

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**Section:** NEWS; Pg. 10

**Length:** 676 words

### **Body**

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Gaza - Israel yesterday began to gradually ease its economic blockade of the Gaza Strip following last week's six-month truce, by allowing additional goods into the Hamas-ruled enclave - but Palestinians said the increase in deliveries was meagre. The goods were left in the morning, to be picked up in the afternoon by the Palestinians. Israel refuses to deal directly with Hamas.

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Beijing - An opera performer waits to take part in the "Telling Our Stories - Peking Opera Lover's Competition" in Beijing yesterday. A total of 30 amateurs competed in the final to promote Chinese opera ahead of the Beijing Olympic Games.

Kigali - Twenty baby gorillas have been "baptised" in Rwanda, a ceremony seen as a way to raise awareness of the threats facing the endangered species. The babies were represented by 20 figurines in Saturday's ceremony, attended by Rwanda's first lady, Jeannette Kagame, on the edge of Volcano National Park. A total of 85 gorillas have been baptised and officially given a name.

Skopje - A 56-year-old Macedonian journalist has been charged with murdering two elderly women - crimes he wrote about for his newspaper - and police are investigating possible involvement in a third death. His stories revealed details known only to the police and the killer. All the victims were elderly cleaners whose bodies were found naked and stuffed in nylon bags.

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Paris - A 17-year-old French Jew wearing a skullcap was attacked in Paris on Saturday by youths of African descent - a violent assault condemned by President Nicolas Sarkozy. The National Agency of Vigilance Against Anti-semitism cited the use of iron bars in the attack. Yesterday, police sources said the teen was suffering from "serious neurological problems".

## Israel eases Gaza blockade

Baghdad - A **female** suicide bomber struck near a government compound north-east of Baghdad yesterday, killing 15 people - including seven police officers - and wounding 40. Nearly 20 suicide attacks this year have been carried out by **women**. The bomber detonated her explosives in front of a heavily guarded area that includes the court, the post office and governor's offices in Baqouba.

Jerusalem - An Israeli human rights group has accused the military of mistreating Palestinians after their arrest. In a report, the Public Committee Against Torture said its findings were based on testimonies from 90 Palestinians between June 2006 and last October. The report said abuse sometimes included "beating and degradation" even when prisoners didn't pose a threat.

London - British Prime Minister Gordon Brown's Labour party is lagging way behind its main rival the Conservative Party. A poll for the Mail on Sunday newspaper found Labour trailing 23 points behind the Conservatives - with support at 26% versus 49% for the Tories. About 44% thought Brown should resign now while 85% said he had performed worse in his first year than Tony Blair.

Mexico City - Youths as young as 13 were among the dozen people killed in a nightclub stampede in Mexico City at the weekend. Police involved in the "unethical" raid that sparked the crush have been suspended. Hundreds of young people, celebrating the end of the school year, tried to flee through a solitary exit during the raid on the working-class bar to check reports of underage drinking and drugs.

**Load-Date:** June 22, 2008

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## *Israel turns 60, still yearning for the peace that never comes*

The Salt Lake Tribune

May 15, 2008 Thursday

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**Section:** OPINION; Columnists

**Length:** 636 words

**Byline:** By William Tumpowsky

### **Body**

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This is a birthday celebration. Sixty years is a long time. At 60 some people are preparing to retire, but for nations it is still a childhood. States are spawned from the depths of political upheaval to assert independence in the spirit of hope for a better life. It is a beautiful promise.

Sixty years ago, on May 14, 1948, British troops marched out of the Holy Land and the fledgling State of Israel under United Nations resolution began what was to become a 60-year struggle for survival. To some of us, this is a day of joy. To others, the day is known as the "Naqba," which translates as catastrophe, a catastrophe that must be avenged.

Before the dust from departing British jeeps had even settled, the new State of Israel was threatened with annihilation from forces within and without. Egypt, Jordan, Syria, Lebanon, and Iraq mobilized and attacked. Most Palestinians left to join the hostile forces and became refugees. Jews throughout the Islamic world were subjected to massacres, expulsions and loss of rights and property. Israel did not respond in kind. The Palestinians who remained were given citizenship.

Like it or not, Israel is the only democracy in the region. If we exclude Europe and Turkey, there is a radius of thousands of miles of dictatorships and autocracies. Her legal system is independent of the forces of politics and fear and is a beacon of justice. Harvard law professor Alan Dershowitz, who has written extensively on the Arab-Israeli conflict, states, "No other nation with such high standards of morality has ever been regarded as so immoral by so many members of the media, academia and the intellectual elite."

Every nation and people owe something to the world. Please consider the region and then think of universities, contributions to science, the environment, literature and art. Israel is second only to the United States in technology innovation. Your cell phones were invented in Israel. Lifesaving medical technology and agricultural innovations begin the list of gifts.

Yet, there is no nation in history that has so many enemies. These foes and critics do not argue borders or policies; they wish for Israel to die. Israel wishes for peace, and that is not rhetoric.

Gaza was granted Palestinian leadership with this wish in mind. Control was then given to **Hamas**, and they intend to exterminate Israel. How many thousands of Palestinians have since died in regional infighting? Who does not believe Iran is building nuclear weapons? Who does not believe that Syria is doing the same?

## Israel turns 60, still yearning for the peace that never comes

These are not imaginary weapons of mass destruction. The promise of genocide for Israel is well documented. **Hamas**, and Hezbollah in Lebanon, attack civilian targets in uncontested regions, not in protest but to send a message. It is a promise of annihilation. When Israel defends herself, there can be no victory.

Former Israeli Prime Minister Golda Meir said, "We can perhaps forgive you for killing our children but we cannot forgive you for making us kill your children." Yet by design, **women** and children are used as shields and willing volunteers to wrap themselves in explosives to "martyr" themselves by taking innocent life. Jews are the target. We are accused of ritual killings, and are blamed for 9-11. Al-Qaida was actually offended by Iran's assertion that Jews were responsible. They are very proud of it.

The world has felt terror and death at the hands of those who fight for Islamic supremacy. Yet Israel and Jews are blamed. Will it stop with us? Can there be peace if supremacy is the goal?

It's a birthday. Join us in this celebration. We have a wish, one wish; peace.

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\* WILLIAM TUMPOWSKY is the president of the United Jewish Federation of Utah and a member of the Jewish Community Relations Council of Utah. He is former president of Temple Har Shalom in Park City.

**Load-Date:** May 15, 2008

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## **WALES: Euro MP to report to DP on war zone**

Daily Post (North Wales)  
February 2, 2008, Saturday  
North Wales Edition

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**Section:** NEWS; Pg. 9

**Length:** 237 words

**Byline:** TOM SIMONE

### **Body**

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WELSH Euro-MP Jill Evans is flying out to Palestine tomorrow to assess the deteriorating humanitarian crisis developing there.

She will be reporting back exclusively to the Daily Post on what she sees and on the EU's diplomatic peace efforts.

Ms Evans will be assessing the ongoing conflict between Palestine and Israel and the Israeli blockade on food and medical aid to the Gaza strip, set up as a retaliatory measure against ***Hamas*** rocket attacks.

The Plaid MEP said: "Vital supplies of electricity and fuel, water, food, medicines and other supplies have been cut off to the men, ***women*** and children living there.

"This is a human catastrophe. It is reported that over 65 people have died already because they have been refused medical treatment," she said.

"The Israeli siege of Gaza is illegal collective punishment. It is against international law as well as being morally abhorrent," Ms Evans claimed.

Jill Evans will be travelling out as a member of the European Parliament's Delegation with the Palestinian Legislative Council and will be meeting members of organisations from Palestine and Israel.

It will be the latest in a series of visits to the war-ravaged region she has undertaken.

JILL Evans will be in Palestine until Thursday and she will visit Tel Aviv, Ramallah, Nablus, Gaza, Bethlehem and Hebron.

Read Jill Evans' first person accounts and pictures of the situation in Palestine at [dailypost.co.uk](http://dailypost.co.uk) from Monday.

### **Graphic**

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Jill Evans MEP

WALES: Euro MP to report to DP on war zone

**Load-Date:** February 4, 2008

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## *Hope flickers, again*

Hindustan Times

November 27, 2007 Tuesday 2:25 PM EST

Copyright 2007 HT Media Ltd. All Rights Reserved

**Length:** 1599 words

**Byline:** Isaac Ben-Israel Hindustan Times

**Dateline:** NEW DELHI, India

### **Body**

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NEW DELHI, India, Nov. 27 -- Sixty years have passed since the United Nations resolved to settle the Arab-Israeli conflict by creating two homelands. The failure to achieve this two-State solution has meant decades of suffering for both peoples.

Yet, the justness of this solution remains valid. The two-State solution is the best way for Israelis and Palestinians to establish peace and security for themselves and for one another. The upcoming Annapolis conference is meant to revive this peace-making effort.

While no core issues or timetables will be negotiated at Annapolis, the fundamental commitment to a peaceful solution will be re-established. This is to be followed by intensive talks on all outstanding issues with the aim of putting an end to mutual suffering and beginning an era of mutual building. In this regard, it is well to remember the guiding vision of 'two States for two peoples'. Just as Israel is the homeland of the Jewish people, so Palestine will be established as the homeland and the embodiment of the national aspirations of the Palestinians - wherever they may be.

The burden of solving the Israel-Palestinian issue lies with the parties, and the compromises that must be made in the negotiations ahead will be difficult and challenging. Many complex core issues must be addressed, while, at the same time, the situation on the ground cannot be ignored. While negotiations on the shape of the two-State solution move forward, the implementation of the vision is dependant upon fulfilment of the performance-based roadmap. In the first phase of this document, the Palestinian Authority (PA) has obligated itself to stop all terrorism against Israelis everywhere. The world does not need another terrorist State. For this reason, the PA's roadmap commitments, especially those concerning security issues, must be completed before the establishment of the Palestinian State.

Israel, for its part, has shown its readiness to meet its own obligations under the roadmap as well, and has implemented a number of measures to support the process - for example, the recent release of 800 Palestinian prisoners involved in terrorist activity against civilians. Moreover, Israel has joined with international partners to promote Palestinian infrastructure development projects, and reconvened several of the bilateral committees established in the Oslo accords - all in order to address the ongoing needs of the PA.

While the responsibility to solve the conflict lies with the sides, the Annapolis meeting must also be followed by an international effort to provide a supportive environment for the sides to reach an agreement. For example, the Paris Donor's Conference scheduled for December will provide an opportunity for international donor States to help the PA advance in the process. The international community has an important role to play by enhancing the functioning



### Hope flickers, again

of the PA and improving economic conditions for the Palestinians at large. This is crucial to win the support of the population, which needs to see some of the fruits of peace-making even while negotiations are taking place.

Working for the realisation of a peaceful solution would be a daunting challenge even without the background of a worldwide escalation in Islamist extremism. For this reason, the Arab and Muslim worlds in particular have a special role to play in backing the moderates and isolating the extremists. When agreements between the parties are reached, even on smaller issues, the support of the moderate Arab States is crucial, especially in confronting those extremists determined to prevent any success. Similarly, as advancements are made, so should normalisation progress between the Arab world and Israel. With the support of the region's moderates, the Israeli-Palestinian dialogue should lead to enhanced ties and cooperation throughout West Asia.

While for Jews and Arabs alike, Annapolis represents the hope, Gaza represents the nightmarish alternative. Within Hamas-controlled Gaza, the Palestinian population is subjected to tyrannical religious oppression, Christian minorities are beaten and murdered and women in violation of the extremist dress code are harassed on the streets.

Additionally, since the Hamas takeover in June 2007, over 350 missiles and 500 mortar bombs have been fired at Israeli civilians from the Gaza Strip. Israeli efforts to create a new reality of peace with the moderate Palestinian leadership do not mean that Israel will cease to confront the extremists or forfeit the lives of its citizens.

The Annapolis meeting has the potential to restart the process, to change the face of West Asia. Israel hopes that all parties involved will seize this opportunity.

\$H HT071127

Hope flickers, again [DD] November 27 [BB] Isaac Ben-Israel

NEW DELHI, India, Nov. 27 -- Sixty years have passed since the United Nations resolved to settle the Arab-Israeli conflict by creating two homelands. The failure to achieve this two-State solution has meant decades of suffering for both peoples.

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## Hope flickers, again

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While the responsibility to solve the conflict lies with the sides, the Annapolis meeting must also be followed by an international effort to provide a supportive environment for the sides to reach an agreement. For example, the Paris Donor's Conference scheduled for December will provide an opportunity for international donor States to help the PA advance in the process. The international community has an important role to play by enhancing the functioning of the PA and improving economic conditions for the Palestinians at large. This is crucial to win the support of the population, which needs to see some of the fruits of peace-making even while negotiations are taking place.

Working for the realisation of a peaceful solution would be a daunting challenge even without the background of a worldwide escalation in Islamist extremism. For this reason, the Arab and Muslim worlds in particular have a special role to play in backing the moderates and isolating the extremists. When agreements between the parties are reached, even on smaller issues, the support of the moderate Arab States is crucial, especially in confronting those extremists determined to prevent any success. Similarly, as advancements are made, so should normalisation progress between the Arab world and Israel. With the support of the region's moderates, the Israeli-Palestinian dialogue should lead to enhanced ties and cooperation throughout West Asia.

While for Jews and Arabs alike, Annapolis represents the hope, Gaza represents the nightmarish alternative. Within **Hamas**-controlled Gaza, the Palestinian population is subjected to tyrannical religious oppression, Christian minorities are beaten and murdered and **women** in violation of the extremist dress code are harassed on the streets.

Additionally, since the **Hamas** takeover in June 2007, over 350 missiles and 500 mortar bombs have been fired at Israeli civilians from the Gaza Strip. Israeli efforts to create a new reality of peace with the moderate Palestinian leadership do not mean that Israel will cease to confront the extremists or forfeit the lives of its citizens.

The Annapolis meeting has the potential to restart the process, to change the face of West Asia. Israel hopes that all parties involved will seize this opportunity.

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**Load-Date:** November 27, 2007

## *Volunteers in horror crash*

Pretoria News (South Africa)

April 14, 2008 Monday

e1 Edition

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**Section:** NEWS; Pg. 10

**Length:** 696 words

### **Body**

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Quito - A truck carrying a load of sand slammed into a bus carrying tourists to an Ecuadorean coastal town, killing five young British women and injuring 15 other people. The driver fled the scene. The victims were in their teens or twenties and were taking part in a four-month language and volunteer programme that was to take them through the Andes mountains.

Kathmandu - Nepal's Maoists were heading for a surprise victory in the Himalayan nation's first election in nine years, latest tallies showed yesterday. The Maoists, who ended an insurgency two years ago and entered electoral politics, won 61 of 108 seats declared so far and were also leading by a similar proportion in constituencies where counting was continuing, election officials said.

Mogadishu - Zodiac commando boats arrive at the French luxury yacht Le Ponant, off Somalia's coast, on Saturday. Helicopter-borne French troops swooped in on Somali pirates after they released 30 hostages from the yacht captured a week ago. They seized six of the pirates and recovered sacks of money, apparently ransom paid by the yacht's owners to win the release of the crew.

Jerusalem - Israeli security services use families of Palestinian prisoners to apply "illegal psychological pressure" and force detainees to confess, with at least one prisoner attempting suicide as a result. A new 83-page report by the Public Committee Against Torture in Israel yesterday accused Israel of using "terrorist interrogation methods" condemned as torture or ill treatment under international law.

Rome - Italians voted yesterday in a general election that could return conservative billionaire Silvio Berlusconi (71) to power amid a widespread sense of national decline and fears that no candidate will be able to put the country back on track. Berlusconi was vying for his third stint as premier in 14 years. An unstable Italy has had more than 60 cabinets since World War 2.

Baghdad - The Iraqi government has dismissed about 1 300 soldiers and policemen who deserted or refused to fight during last month's offensive against Shi'ite militias and criminal gangs in Basra. In one incident, an entire infantry brigade mutinied. An Interior Ministry spokesperson yesterday said 921 police and soldiers were fired in Basra. They included 37 high-ranking police officers.

Canberra - A woman has been appointed for the first time to what is officially Australia's highest office - governor general, the British monarch's representative in the country. Former sex discrimination commissioner and academic Quentin Bryce (65) will take up the post in September. Said Prime Minister Kevin Rudd yesterday: "It's taken us 107 years. It's been a while."

## Volunteers in horror crash

London - Gordon Brown's personal popularity ratings have plunged further and faster than any other British prime minister since polling began in the 1930s, a poll revealed yesterday. The latest YouGov poll showed the Conservatives on 44% with Labour on 28%. The biggest blow was to Brown's personal ratings, which fell from plus 48 in August to minus 37, on a zero midpoint scale.

Sydney - A woman died yesterday after falling from a parked jumbo jet as she loaded catering equipment on board the aircraft at Brisbane International Airport in Queensland. She fell about 6m from the Boeing 747 and paramedics who administered first aid on the tarmac were unable to revive her, the national ABC Radio network reported.

Toronto - Canadian authorities have boarded a ship protesting against the annual seal hunt and arrested its captain and first officer. Fisheries Minister Loyola Hearn said the vessel was boarded to "help ensure the safe and orderly conduct of the seal hunt". The annual hunt off Canada's Atlantic coast has long been the target of groups protesting at the shooting or clubbing of seals to death.

Jerusalem - Former US president Jimmy Carter, broker of the first Israeli-Arab peace treaty, is getting a cool reception on his latest mission to the region: Israeli leaders are shunning him for comparing Israeli policies and apartheid, and for planning to meet with the head of the anti-Israel **Hamas** group. However, Carter has said he felt "quite at ease" about meeting **Hamas** militants.

**Load-Date:** April 13, 2008

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End of Document

## 18 years for Communist boss

The Star (South Africa)

April 11, 2008 Friday

e4 Edition

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**Section:** NEWS; Pg. 4

**Length:** 692 words

### **Body**

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Shanghai - Former Shanghai Communist Party boss Chen Liangyu was sentenced to 18 years in prison today, the most senior Chinese official to be convicted of graft in over a decade. Chen (61) was tried by a Tianjin court last month in a scandal that shook national politics when it emerged in mid-2006 that hundreds of millions of dollars from Shanghai's pension fund had been illegally siphoned off.

Perth - The Anglican church in Australia has announced the country's first female bishop. A diocesan council approved Kay Goldsworthy to become an assistant bishop in Western Australia state yesterday and announced the decision today. Her consecration is to take place on May 22. Under protocol, parishes that do not want a female bishop would be offered the services of a male one.

Washington - This image provided by Nasa shows sand dunes within the Hellespontus region of Mars. The dunes have a morphology indicating formative winds blowing from west to east (left to right), according to scientists. The image was taken on March 16 by the High Resolution Imaging Science Experiment (HiRISE) camera on Nasa's Mars Reconnaissance Orbiter.

Canberra - An Australian minister has criticised the Australian subsidiary of Singapore-based budget carrier Tiger Airways for allegedly having a policy of barring deaf people from flying alone. But airline spokesperson Matt Hobbs denied that the airline had such a policy and said he was investigating why air crews and call-centre staff in the Philippines were telling passengers otherwise.

Tokyo - Japan will not allow the squad of Chinese flame guards to intervene with the Beijing Olympic torch's progress when it arrives in a Japanese city this month. "We should not violate the principle that the Japanese police will firmly maintain security," national police head Shinya Izumi said today. The torch is set to arrive in Nagano, central Japan, on April 26.

Gaza City - Israeli tanks and bulldozers crossed into the Gaza Strip today after the Jewish state warned it would retaliate against Hamas for a deadly explosion of violence earlier this week. The vehicles drew heavy fire from Palestinian militants, Palestinian security sources said. Hours earlier two Hamas militants were killed in an Israeli airstrike in southern Gaza.

Sydney - Australian Prime Minister Kevin Rudd has taken a red pen to the country's laws, scratching out gender-specific language in favour of neutral words. In more than 500 amendments to 88 separate laws, the newly elected Labour Party leader has tried to even out the gender balance by replacing, for example, terms such as "chairman" and "workmen" to "chair" or "workers".

## 18 years for Communist boss

Kathmandu - Authorities today began the arduous task of tallying votes in Nepal's first election in nine years - a historic vote meant to secure lasting peace in a land split by communist insurgents and an autocratic king. Scattered shootings and clashes that killed two people on election day did not deter millions of Nepalis from casting ballots yesterday's vote.

Philadelphia - Democratic White House hopeful Hillary Clinton was to today unveil a plan to boost federal spending to help cities and states fight crime. The New York senator was to announce the plan in Philadelphia, a city with the highest homicide rate among the 10 biggest US cities and a key battleground in her race against Barack Obama for the Democratic presidential nomination.

New York - A nude photo of French first lady Carla Bruni-Sarkozy, covering her modesty with her hands, has been sold in New York for \$91 000 (over R700 000), more than 20 times its expected price. A buyer for a Chinese art collector bought the black-and-white image, taken by photographer Michel Comte in 1993 during her modelling days, Christie's auction house said.

Ranong - The survivors of this week's horrific people-smuggling accident which left 54 dead were brought to a Thai court on charges of illegal entry today. Fifty Myanmar adults are facing possible jail terms while 14 children will also be deported after the deadly trip across the Thai border in an airtight seafood container in an effort to escape economic collapse in their home country.

**Load-Date:** April 11, 2008

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End of Document

**'Democracy under fire on a daily basis'; INTERNATIONAL Israeli Ambassador Ron Prosor visited Birmingham and talked to Shahid Naqvi about life in one of the most troubled regions**

Birmingham Post

March 3, 2008, Monday

1ST Edition

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**Section:** NEWS; Pg. 7

**Length:** 582 words

**Byline:** Shahid Naqvi

## **Body**

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Ron Prosor is urbane with a friendly face and disarming smile.

When it comes to talking about the Middle East however, his language is emotive, often posturing and exhibits - depending on your point of view - an entrenched animosity for his enemies or strength of conviction for his country that can arouse feelings of despair for the troubled region.

"The state of Israel is there to stay," he declares. "Anyone who want to erase us off the map will have a problem."

He talks of a village in the south of Israel called Sterot: "A small village where 8,000 rockets have fallen. As we speak rockets are falling. People are waking up and they are not sure whether they have a red alert and will have to run in 30 seconds."

At one point, Mr Prosor pulls out a page of inflammatory quotes from Iran's leaders including one from Iranian President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad describing Israel as "a black and dirty microbe".

He believes military action against Iran should be considered as a last option.

What hope for peace amid such political stone-throwing one wonders? Far removed from the conflict, it's easy for the West to view it as behaviour not out of place in a school playground. So what kind of example does Mr Prosor think the region's political leaders are setting to its young?

"The education of our children is not to hate," he said. "It is not part of the schooling system. You can't really rise up in Israel's democracy if all you think is how to fight and kill. It is obvious to us that strategically we need peace.

"We have one-and-a-half hands being used to reach peace and the other half is to protect the citizens from daily terror.

"This is a democracy under fire on a daily basis. It is not theoretical. It happens."

Mr Prosor's visit to Birmingham was part of a charm offensive outside London aimed at explaining Israel's situation.

'Democracy under fire on a daily basis' INTERNATIONAL Israeli Ambassador Ron Prosor visited Birmingham and talked to Shahid Naqvi about life in one of the most ....

He says he is keen to engage in open debate with critics of Israeli policy. He is also eager to get across what he believes is the unique challenges faced by his country.

"I am presenting the case for how democracy survives under fire. How does it behave. How on one hand does it defend its citizens and on the other hand try not to go over-board."

Part of Mr Prosor's mission is to get the British public to try and put themselves in the shoes of his government.

"If you had something like 8,000 rockets in the UK falling in Calais or Dover how would you react? Believe me, the citizens of Dover won't keep eating Dover sole in restaurants. The government has a clear responsibility to defend its citizens."

According to reliable figures from Israeli Human Rights Organisation B'tselem, between 2000 and 2007 there have been 471 Israelis killed by Palestinian militants inside Israel. During the same period, the Israeli army has killed 4,419 Palestinians in Palestine, 875 of them children. Since April 2006, there have been two suicide bombings in Israel.

Mr Prosor explains his country's refusal to speak to the Gaza Strip's elected government **Hamas** is motivated by not wanting to compromise negotiations with non-militant forces.

Mr Prosor blames **Hamas** for radicalising the people in Gaza and subjugating **women**. He believes the American-led invasion of Iraq was justified and the rise of Islamic radicalism was something waiting to happen.

"It has changed immensely and it has changed because they believe all of us are infidels. They believe they have absolute authority. They feel they hold the real truth of the world and everyone else has to abide by it."

## Graphic

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Ambassador Ron Prosor

**Load-Date:** March 3, 2008



## *Israeli Arab shot students, say police*

Sydney Morning Herald (Australia)

March 8, 2008 Saturday

First Edition

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**Section:** NEWS AND FEATURES; International News; Pg. 19

**Length:** 636 words

**Byline:** Ed O'Loughlin in Jerusalem

### **Body**

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ISRAELI police believe that an Arab citizen of Israel or resident of East Jerusalem carried out the terrorist attack which killed eight students of a right-wing Jerusalem religious institution yesterday.

A gunman armed with a pistol and a Kalashnikov rifle shot dead eight male students, four of whom were aged 15 to 17, at the famous Mercaz Harav yeshiva before he was shot and killed.

While no claim of responsibility has been confirmed, Hezbollah's television station in Lebanon reported that a hitherto unknown group calling itself the "Galilee Freedom Battalions - the Martyrs of Imad Mughniyeh" said it carried out the attack.

The Galilee is a mainly Arab-populated region of northern Israel, while Imad Mughniyeh was a Hezbollah leader killed in a mysterious car bomb attack in Damascus last month.

Yesterday's attack was the biggest death toll in Israel since a suicide bomber killed 11 at a Tel Aviv falafel stand almost two years ago. It was the first major terrorist attack in Jerusalem since a suicide bomber killed seven bus passengers in February 2004.

Large numbers of Israeli police were patrolling Jerusalem last night in response to the attack. Both the Israeli and Palestinian leaderships said that it would not derail flagging peace talks.

The incident brings to at least 62 the number of civilians killed in the 10 days since Israel's assassination of five **Hamas** leaders, in response to a fatal rocket attack in the Israeli town of Sderot.

Most of those who died were Palestinians killed in the Gaza Strip last weekend, which according to the UN and other human rights groups killed 120 people, at least 52 of them civilians including 27 children.

There is speculation in the Israeli media that the Mercaz Harav yeshiva was targeted because of its role as the cradle and spiritual centre of Israel's far-right religious settler movement.

"This was not an accidental arrival at some city's commercial centre and the setting off [of] an explosive charge," wrote Ha'aretz defence correspondent Avi Issacharoff. He continued: "The perpetrator knew where he was heading and that many armed young men would be there."

## Israeli Arab shot students, say police

The mass daily Ma'ariv reported that "those who planned, who sent and who carried out the terror attack can say today that they succeeded in striking a harsh blow to the very place from where the occupation sprung".

The attack resembled in its execution the 1994 incident in which Baruch Goldstein, a physician and member of the religious settler movement, shot dead 29 Palestinian worshippers in a Hebron mosque before he was killed by survivors.

One student at the yeshiva claimed to have shot the attacker twice in the head with his personal weapon. Police say the attacker was killed by an off-duty army officer who rushed to the rescue when he heard shooting.

The incident has been widely condemned by foreign governments and by the United Nations secretary-general, Ban Ki Moon.

A US attempt to pass a security statement condemning the shootings, together with an attack on Israeli troops in Gaza, failed after temporary UN security council member Libya said the resolution should also include condemnation of Israel's killings of civilians in Gaza. Israel's foreign ministry said that the attack "expresses at its most deplorable the fundamentalist-extremist foundations, in the name of which Palestinian terrorism operates ... Israel expects the nations of the world to support it in its war against those who murder students, women and children."

The Palestinian Authority chairman, Mahmoud Abbas, also condemned the attack.

The attack was greeted with delight in Gaza City, where gunmen cheered and fired into the air. A spokesman for the Hamas government in Gaza said the group blessed the attack as a "natural reaction" to Israeli killings.

Middle East carnage - Page 21

Alan Ramsey - Page 39

## Graphic

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PHOTO: After the shooting ... a member of the Israeli emergency service Zaka next to a weapon and ammunition inside the religious school. Photo: Reuters

**Load-Date:** March 7, 2008

## *Picking apart the Al-Jazeera puzzle*

The Jerusalem Post

March 6, 2008 Thursday

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**Section:** FEATURES; Pg. 15

**Length:** 609 words

**Byline:** Elliot Jager

**Highlight:** Q&A with Dr. Mordechai Kedar, who served for 25 years in IDF Military Intelligence. He is currently a lecturer in Arabic at Bar-Ilan University.

### **Body**

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Q&A with Dr. Mordechai Kedar, who served for 25 years in IDF Military Intelligence.

What function does Al-Jazeera serve?

It's an Arab satellite station that operates freely here in Israel. Its slogan is: "The OpinionÉ and the Other Opinion." On the face of it, that's a radical shift from the mantra of the old state-controlled Arab media.

Al-Jazeera was the first to interview Jewish Israelis; the first to let us speak live on the air without editing. State-controlled Arab television always records and edits.

Does Al-Jazeera have a political agenda?

It's subtle, but if you watch as many hours of Al- Jazeera as I do - and I'm also interviewed as a straight- talking, non-official Israeli - you quickly discover that it is an Islamist mouthpiece channeling the message and philosophy of the Muslim Brotherhood. It grants Sheikh Yusuf al-Qaradawi untold hours of airtime, and his message is that of radical Islam.

But don't they have unveiled women presenters?

Yes. That's a bit of a paradox.

Where does Al-Jazeera broadcast from?

It started in 1996 with a multi-million grant from the Emir of Qatar and broadcasts from Qatar.

What other agenda does Al-Jazeera have beyond the Islamist message?

That of supporting all organizations and movements that are anti-establishment.

Isn't that a strange line for the fat-cats in Qatar to promote?

Not if they want the Arab masses to focus their frustrations on their own dictators and rulers - Mubarak and Abbas, for instance - and not on the Gulf sheikhs who are laughing all the way to the bank. So the station's message is

## Picking apart the Al-Jazeera puzzle

aimed at the man in the gutter. And the combination of radical Islam and championing the frustrated, downtrodden and oppressed brings Al-Jazeera immense ratings.

They're not concerned this message will come back to bite them?

The people in Qatar who matter are rich and not susceptible to Al-Jazeera's Islamist and anti-establishment message.

How does **Hamas** come out on Al-Jazeera?

Wonderfully. **Hamas** is a combination of both parts of Al-Jazeera's agenda: It's Islamist and it's anti-establishment.

How much of the Israeli viewpoint gets across to the masses as they watch Al-Jazeera?

A minuscule amount. If you add appearances by official and non-official Jewish Israelis - something you might see once a day, just to maintain the pose of giving the other side - the ratio adds up to almost nothing... minutes in a 24-hour news cycle.

Is it the same on Al-Jazeera English?

Totally different. The English station is more professional, more balanced - in Arab terms - though still not on the level of a CNN.

Does Al-Jazeera differ from Al-Arabiya?

Al-Arabiya is also a leading satellite station. It broadcasts from Dubai in the United Arab Emirates, but it's owned by Saudi Arabia. Relative to Al-Jazeera, it is less hostile to Israel.

What role does satellite TV play in Palestinian society?

If you walk into a cafe in Ramallah or in east Jerusalem, you'll see the TV on and tuned to Al-Jazeera. It is a ubiquitous presence. Just having it on in Arab society is a form of rebellion against the local authorities - Israeli, Egyptian, Syrian, Saudi. Incidentally, Saudi Arabia has never let an Al-Jazeera reporter set foot into the country. All its reporting about Saudi Arabia comes from foreign sources.

Does Israel broadcast satellite TV in Arabic?

Regrettably, no. This is the biggest failure of those who are responsible for getting our message out. Israel is in the vanguard of hi-tech and communications, but we have utterly failed to so much as raise our voice in broadcasting our standpoint. There is money for a Knesset Channel, but there is no budget for satellite news TV in Arabic! It's irrational.

**Load-Date:** October 4, 2011

## Conflict

The Sunday Times (London)

December 30, 2007

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**Section:** FEATURES; Sunday Times Magazine; Pg. 36

**Length:** 236 words

### **Body**

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(Photograph) - MOTHER COURAGE Above: a Palestinian woman, Najat al-Nadi, comforts her 17 year-old son, Raed, after he is detained in May by Israeli soldiers in the West Bank, accused of possessing pipe bombs and a mortar shell

FIGHTING TALK Below: ***Hamas*** fighters relax in the meeting hall of Mahmoud Abbas, the Palestinian president, after taking control of the presidential compound following fierce battles in the Gaza Strip in June

FOOD FOR THOUGHT Right: a woman photographs US marines staging a mock assault at the McDonald's-sponsored Air & Sea Show in Fort Lauderdale in May. The event is part of the National Salute to America's Heroes.

SHIELDS OF HONOUR ***Female*** members of the Basij, Iran's paramilitary force, in combat training in Tehran in August. The Basij, made up of millions of volunteers, is under the command of the Islamic Revolutionary Guards

BLOOD IN HER TRACKS Above: corpses litter the area near the armoured vehicle of the former Pakistani prime minister Benazir Bhutto, whose cavalcade was struck by suicide bombers in Karachi in October. She was returning to Pakistan after eight years of exile in Dubai and London. More than 130 people were killed and hundreds injured in the attack; Bhutto was unhurt

WAR GAMES Below: a four-year-old boy cries as he is subjected to a mock execution in Baghdad in July - a stark reminder that the ongoing violence in Iraq is influencing all aspects of civilian life

### **Graphic**

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Photo. Caption not available

**Load-Date:** January 5, 2008

## *Holy City covered in white*

The Star (South Africa)

January 30, 2008 Wednesday

e4 Edition

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**Section:** NEWS; Pg. 4

**Length:** 675 words

### **Body**

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Jerusalem - The Holy City today ground to a halt as the first snowfall of the year covered Jerusalem with several centimetres of wet, heavy slush. The streets of the city were deserted during the normally hectic morning rush hour, with few cars on the roads and isolated pedestrians making their way through the puddles of slush and snow on the sidewalks.

Rafah - **Hamas** today demanded a central role in controlling the Gaza Strip's breached border with Egypt in a challenge to Palestinian President Mahmoud Abbas, Egypt and Western powers. **Hamas**, which seized control of Gaza in June after routing Abbas's secular Fatah forces, has signalled that it will keep the border wall with Egypt open unless it gets its way.

Karachi - A leading al-Qaeda-linked militant was captured and injured in a shootout in Pakistan, a minister said today, reversing earlier official statements that the rebel was killed. Three militants and two policemen were killed in the gun battle yesterday when police backed by paramilitary troops raided a house in the southern port city of Karachi, police said.

Jakarta - A 32-year-old Indonesian man has died of bird flu, the health ministry said today, bringing the death toll to 101 in the nation worst hit by the deadly virus. The man, who died yesterday, was from the Jakarta satellite district of Tangerang, the ministry's bird flu information centre said in a statement. He was the seventh confirmed death from bird flu this year.

Yangon - Detained Myanmar opposition leader Aung San Suu Kyi has been given permission to meet leaders of her political party at a state guest house in Yangon today, party sources said. It was not known which National League for Democracy figures would be allowed to attend. Party number two Tin Oo was barred from attending a meeting with Suu Kyi in November.

Kuala Lumpur - Malaysia has banned 11 books for allegedly giving a false portrayal of Islam, such as by linking the religion to terrorism and the mistreatment of **women**, an official said today. The government ordered the books - most of them released by US publishers - to be blacklisted earlier this month "because they are not in line with the Malaysian version of Islam", the official said.

London - Britain's advertising watchdog today criticised Ryanair for an advertisement portraying a scantily clad schoolgirl seductively twirling her hair in an empty classroom to promote low-cost "hottest back to school fares". The Advertising Standards Authority said the headline, combined with the model's pose, "appeared to link teenage girls with sexually provocative behaviour."

## Holy City covered in white

Ottawa - Algeria-born accused al-Qaeda sleeper agent Mohamed Harkat was arrested while taking a shower at his home yesterday, after breaking the terms of his parole, his lawyer said. The Canadian Security Intelligence Service suspects Harkat of having trained in a terrorist camp in Afghanistan and of belonging to an al-Qaeda sleeper cell. Harkat has denied the allegations.

That presidential look

Paris - A visitor looks at a coat, scarf and hat that belonged to former French president Francois Mitterrand at an auction yesterday. His wardrobe, put up for sale by his widow Danielle, raised about e150 000 (R1,5-million) for her human rights charity. The famous black felt hat went for e7 800.

Nazi guard not off hook yet

Vienna - Austrian prosecutors are examining new allegations against a **female** Nazi concentration camp guard who evaded prosecution decades ago for lack of evidence, officials said yesterday. The new material alleges that Erna Wallisch fatally beat a man at the Majdanek concentration camp in Poland, said Gerhard Jarosch, a spokesperson for the Vienna public prosecutor's office.

London - More than 40 years after it barred the iconic British band from playing there, Israel said it wants the surviving members of the Beatles to participate in a concert celebrating the country's 60th birthday. However, the Israeli embassy in London denied a report that the Jewish state had apologised for its original refusal to let the Beatles play there.

**Load-Date:** January 30, 2008

## **Raids raise Mideast tension**

The Star (South Africa)

February 06, 2008 Wednesday

e2 Edition

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**Section:** NEWS; Pg. 4

**Length:** 681 words

### **Body**

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Gaza City - Israel yesterday killed nine **Hamas** militants, including seven with a missile that slammed into the courtyard of a police station, as militants claimed responsibility for the first suicide attack in Israel in over a year. **Hamas**, in further escalation, fired a barrage of rockets at Israeli border communities, wounding a woman, damaging factories and knocking out power in Sderot.

Ismailia - Egyptian police yesterday rounded up about 2 000 Palestinians in Sinai a day after clashes between masked Palestinian gunmen and Egyptian forces killed one person and wounded 59. Police said all had permits to reside abroad but wanted entry visas to Egypt. The angry Palestinians had broken windows and burnt furniture and papers in the offices in which they were being held.

London - Britain's Prince Andrew yesterday launched a sharp attack on President George Bush for failing to listen to Britain during the conflict in Iraq. He told the International Herald Tribune in an interview, 10 days before he is to visit the US to support British business, that the aftermath of the Iraq war had left Britons with a "healthy scepticism" about what was said in Washington.

London - German Chancellor Angela Merkel yesterday joined the ranks of prominent global leaders at Madame Tussauds in London, where her wax figure stands metres from that of President George Bush. The 53-year-old chancellor is the first **female** politician to be unveiled at the London attraction since 1998, and only the fifth since former British premier Margaret Thatcher in 1975.

Nicosia - A 2-year-old British girl is in a serious but stable condition in a Cyprus hospital after a bartender served her dishwasher detergent mixed with orange juice at a luxury hotel in the Cypriot capital, Nicosia. Annabel Rhodes suffered burns to her mouth and oesophagus after drinking the corrosive acid. Her 55-year-old father, who also tried the drink, received first aid treatment.

Mogadishu -A grenade tossed into a crowded house yesterday killed at least 15 people and wounded 50 others in Somalia's Puntland region. Most of those killed or wounded in the attack in the north-eastern region were Ethiopians, believed to be on their way to find work in the Arabian Peninsula, which lies across the Gulf of Aden, said Muse Geele Yusuf, a senior official in the region.

Manila - The Philippines will phase out incandescent bulbs by 2010 in favour of more energy-efficient fluorescent globes to help cut greenhouse gas emissions and household costs., The Asian Development Bank yesterday said it was considering a \$30-million loan to the Philippines to fund energy-efficient programmes. It also pledged to support other Asian countries making a switch.



## Raids raise Mideast tension

Kabul - Afghanistan, the world's biggest opium producer, is set for another bumper crop this year, providing a windfall for the Taliban, who tax farmers to finance the fight against government and foreign forces. Yesterday, the UN predicted a crop similar to, or slightly lower than, last year's record harvest, when Afghanistan had more lands growing drugs than Colombia, Bolivia and Peru combined.

Madrid - Masked people take part in the Antroxu parade in Gijon, northern Spain, yesterday. Antroxu, meaning carnival, is a huge event in the province of Asturias, with week-long celebrations throughout the region.

Ahmedabad - Six male professors have been arrested for gang-raping a young **female** student 14 times and molesting several other **women** at a state-run college in western India. They were arrested after the 18-year-old trainee teacher fainted in a college assembly on Monday, before breaking down in front of the college doctor and saying she'd been repeatedly raped.

Vatican - Pope Benedict has ordered changes to a Latin prayer for Jews at Good Friday services by traditionalist Catholics, deleting a reference to their "blindness" over Christ, the Vatican said yesterday. Apart from the deletion of the word "blindness," the new prayer also removes a phrase that asked God to "remove the veil from their hearts". But the new prayer hopes that Jews will recognise Christ.

**Load-Date:** February 6, 2008

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End of Document

## **Bush Lauds Egypt Leader, Avoiding Record on Dissent**

The New York Times  
January 17, 2008 Thursday  
Late Edition - Final

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**Section:** Section A; Column 0; Foreign Desk; Pg. 16

**Length:** 691 words

**Byline:** By STEVEN LEE MYERS

**Dateline:** SHARM EL SHEIK, Egypt

### **Body**

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President Bush lavished praise on President Hosni Mubarak of Egypt on Wednesday, emphasizing the country's role in regional security and the Israeli-Palestinian peace process while publicly avoiding mention of the government's actions in jailing or exiling opposition leaders and its severe restrictions on opposition political activities.

Ending an eight-day trip through the Middle East in which he highlighted democratic change as the foundation for peace and security throughout the region, Mr. Bush strikingly avoided direct criticism of Mr. Mubarak, an autocratic leader in power since late 1981. In the past, Mr. Bush criticized Egypt for arresting political dissidents.

"I appreciate very much the long and proud tradition that you've had for a vibrant civil society," said Mr. Bush, whose appearance with Mr. Mubarak was unannounced and, according to the White House, had been uncertain until the last minute.

Mr. Bush's remarks reflected some of the contradictions evident in the issues he addressed on his trip.

He spoke passionately at times about the birth of liberty and justice in countries that restrict them and the role of women in societies that still largely sequester them.

And yet he avoided public disputes with monarchical leaders widely accused of limiting freedoms as he sought Arab support for the peace talks between the Israelis and Palestinians, the war in Iraq, diplomatic efforts to isolate Iran and easing the strain on the American economy caused by high oil prices.

On Sunday, in the United Arab Emirates, Mr. Bush delivered what his aides described as the keynote address of the trip when he spoke of setbacks in democratic reforms in remarks that his aides said were aimed at Egypt, among other nations.

"You cannot build trust when you hold an election where opposition candidates find themselves harassed or in prison," he said. "You cannot expect people to believe in the promise of a better future when they are jailed for peacefully petitioning their government. And you cannot stand up a modern and confident nation when you do not allow people to voice their legitimate criticisms."

## Bush Lauds Egypt Leader, Avoiding Record on Dissent

Mr. Bush has previously criticized Egypt for arresting Mr. Mubarak's main opponent in the presidential elections in 2005, Ayman Nour, who Mr. Bush last year said was "unjustly imprisoned." Mr. Bush has also met with another prominent opposition leader, Saad Eddin Ibrahim, who has since fled Egypt, fearing arrest.

Mr. Bush mentioned neither man directly and included only an oblique reference to "strong civic and religious leaders who love their country and are determined to build a democratic future."

"I appreciate the example that your nation is setting," he said, facing the Egyptian president.

Mr. Mubarak expressed strong support for Mr. Bush's efforts to broker a peace treaty in Israel, something that has become a focus of last year of the Bush administration. "We're ready, hand-in-hand with the United States of America" to support the process Mr. Bush has advocated, he said, "for the sake of comprehensive and just peace."

Neither mentioned a source of tension between Israel and Egypt, its control of its border with Gaza. Israel has accused Egypt of laxity or complicity in smuggling weapons through tunnels into Gaza, which is under the control of Hamas, the Islamic group.

"Egypt has to do more," Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice told The Jerusalem Post last week. "Those tunnels need to be dealt with," she said. "We're prepared, obviously, to give" assistance, "but the will to do it is very important here."

An administration official said that Gaza figured prominently on Mr. Bush's agenda for the talks in Egypt on Wednesday, but it was not clear how hard he pressed the issue of Egypt's willingness to help isolate Hamas in Gaza. Mr. Bush's visit here was the shortest of his trip, which included stops in Israel, Kuwait, Bahrain, United Arab Emirates and Saudi Arabia. He stayed only three hours, reflecting Egypt's diminished significance to the administration. Mr. Mubarak noted the brevity, saying in English, "You need much more days."

<http://www.nytimes.com>

**Load-Date:** January 17, 2008

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End of Document

## *Israel upset over reports PA plans to honor terrorists*

The Jerusalem Post  
April 17, 2008 Thursday

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**Section:** NEWS; Pg. 5

**Length:** 249 words

**Byline:** Jerusalem Post staff

### **Body**

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If reports that Palestinian Authority President Mahmoud Abbas plans to present two *female* terrorists with a medal of honor are found to be true, it would be a grave development, and Israel will need to weigh the consequences, senior government officials said Wednesday.

Israel Radio reported earlier that the Quds Mark of Honor, the PLO's highest medal, would be given to two *female* terrorists who helped kill Israelis: Ahlam Tamimi, a *Hamas* affiliate serving a life sentence for driving the suicide bomber who blew himself up in Jerusalem's Sbarro restaurant; and Amra Muna, who seduced Ophir Rahum over the Internet and then lured him to Ramallah, where he was murdered.

The PA president has the final say in choosing who receives the medal.

PA Minister for Prisoner Affairs Ashraf al-Ajrami told Israel Radio that his ministry had given Abbas a comprehensive list of prisoners, and Abbas's office had chosen the nominees from this list.

Ajrami refused to confirm that the medal would be given to Tamimi and Muna, saying he didn't want to "ruin the surprise" for the families attending the Thursday ceremony.

Abbas was en route to Russia, and his staff refused to comment on the report.

Likud MK Gideon Sa'ar said the report was "troubling and serious," but added that if the report were true, it would continue a recent history of doublespeak from Abbas, who, Sa'ar said, presented different Palestinian intentions and narratives when speaking to Arab crowds than when addressing Western diplomats.

**Load-Date:** October 4, 2011

## *World - Israel 'allows' Fatah weapons shipment*

Morning Star

September 6, 2008 Saturday

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**Length:** 284 words

### **Body**

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Israeli officials reported yesterday that Tel Aviv has allowed Palestinian security forces to receive a shipment of 1,000 Kalashnikov rifles and tens of thousands of bullets in a bid to bolster the West Bank administration.

The weapons shipment reached the Palestinians through Jordan about a week ago, the Israeli official said, adding that Israeli Defence Minister Ehud Barak had authorised the transfer of arms after a formal request submitted by the Palestinian Authority.

The authority said that the weaponry would be used in the campaign that Prime Minister Salaam Fayad is currently waging against **Hamas** guerillas in the West Bank.

Israel has approved similar shipments in the past and is allowing Mr Abbas's security forces to assume a larger role in some parts of the West Bank.

But Israel's military maintains overall control of the West Bank and of its border crossings with Jordan, including the Allenby Bridge terminal, where the weapons crossed into the territory.

In current peace talks between Israel and Mr Abbas's government, Israel is insisting that a future Palestinian state be demilitarised.

The Palestinians are opposed and the issue is emerging as one of a number of sticking points in the negotiations, according to Palestinian officials close to the talks.

Also yesterday, around 90,000 Muslims congregated at the al-Aqsa mosque compound in Jerusalem for the first communal prayers of the holy month of Ramadan.

Israeli police restricted the entry of Palestinians, banning men under 45 and requiring many **women** to produce valid entry permits.

At one checkpoint north of Jerusalem, Palestinians threw stones at troops, who responded with tear gas and stun grenades. No injuries were reported.

**Load-Date:** September 8, 2008

## *Glimpse of Gaza*

The Calgary Herald (Alberta)

August 26, 2008 Tuesday

Final Edition

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**Section:** Q: QUERIES - QUIBBLES - QUIRKS; Pg. A13; Inbox: Your Space - Your Time

**Length:** 234 words

**Byline:** Richard Pearman, Calgary Herald

### **Body**

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Re: "Activists target Israeli sea blockade of Gaza," Aug. 23.

If Lauren Booth and her friends reach the Gaza strip, they might like to see how the Palestinians have continued operating the successful farms the Jews so kindly left for them. Perhaps they could talk to the children about their trading cards and how they plan to emulate their late heroes' method of spending eternity with 72 virgins.

They might like to talk to Hamas leaders about how they plan to make peace with Israel and how sending all those "gifts" across the border will help. I'm sure a left-wing woman like Booth would like to talk to the Palestinians about how Islam emancipates women and ask them how they feel about a grown man marrying a six-year-old girl.

If they fail to reach Gaza, or if and when they get out, they could go to Sderot which is near the Gaza strip and receives many of the Palestinian "gifts" sent from it.

Maybe they could go to the Holocaust museum and see how well the Jews were treated when they didn't have a homeland. They could go to the West Bank city of Nablus and see how well the holy site of Joseph's tomb has been looked after by the Palestinians and how easy it is for non-Muslims to visit it. Then, they might like to hold a Christian or Jewish religious service on the top of Temple Mount so the world can see the love and respect this will doubtless elicit from the Muslims.

Richard Pearman,

Calgary

### **Graphic**

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Photo: Lauren Booth ;

**Load-Date:** August 26, 2008

## Glimpse of Gaza

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End of Document

## *Peace activists 'hypocritical'*

Nelson Daily News (British Columbia)

November 7, 2007 Wednesday

Final Edition

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**Section:** EDITORIAL; Pg. 4

**Length:** 643 words

**Byline:** Roger Pratt, Nelson Daily News

### **Body**

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To the Editor:

Re: War and Peace

Once again we were subjected to a so-called "Peace Rally" last month. Once again, anti-Americanism was the theme, and the rights of the people of Afghanistan were treated with contempt.

Canadian soldiers are risking their lives to help protect the Afghan people from terrorists like the Taliban, are assisting in re-building the country, and in training Afghan soldiers and police. It is hoped that the Afghan police and army can take over security duties in the near future. All experts who have studied the situation say that the Afghans are not yet ready to take over. A large majority of Afghans, including the government, want the Canadian soldiers to stay.

So it begs the question: "Why do these so-called 'Peace Activists' want the Canadians out right now, when they know the Taliban will return to abuse women and destroy the country?" It is obvious to me that the "Peace Coalition" wants the Taliban to succeed, and to once again set up terrorist training camps. Why? That's the question I am asking.

We see the daily killings going on in Darfur; by some calculations up to 400,000 people have been murdered. The only action the "Peace Coalition" has taken was a minor demonstration that was organized by actor George Clooney, the only protest in about four years of mass murder.

Most of us know about the appalling actions by the government of Zimbabwe against its own people. There is starvation, theft of land, destruction of homes, shortages of fuel, the beatings of protesters, political prisoners, inflation of over 6,000 per cent, and over 80 per cent unemployment. There is no protest over this because the "Peace Coalition" cannot blame it on Israel or the United States, and because the glorious leader, Robert Mugabe is "building socialism."

In Israel there are daily rocket attacks against Israeli civilians, and attempted suicide bombings. The terrorist groups Hamas, Hezbollah, and the government of Iran have called for the extermination of Israel and the ethnic cleansing and murder of over five million Jews. In addition, the government of Iran has called for the extermination of every Jew on the planet. The "Peace Coalition" does not protest, in fact, has never protested. This begs another question: "Does the 'Peace Coalition' support the extermination of every Jew in Israel or every Jew on the planet?" This may



## Peace activists 'hypocritical'

seem like a stupid question because they would answer "no." But at the "Peace Rally" they said "hands off Iran" regarding Iran's nuclear program. Let Iran do anything it wants.

Suppose someone proposed building a nuclear power plant in the Kootenays. After all, one has been proposed for northern Alberta, and nuclear plants do not generate carbon dioxide. Would the "Peace Coalition" remain silent and let the construction begin, or would they speak out and protest? My guess is that they would protest, so why do they not protest the nuclear plant in Iran, particularly as it is clear that Iran intends to construct nuclear bombs, and intends to wipe out Israel.

The Turkish Prime Minister, regarding Kurdish terrorism, stated recently: "Those who overlook terrorism are in co-operation with terrorists." This statement clearly applies to the "Peace Coalition."

On a similar theme, when Stephen Lewis visited the area, he stated that peace was not merely an absence of physical violence. He said that if you do not get gender equality, you do not get peace. The Taliban, Al Qaeda, **Hamas**, Hezbollah, and the government of Iran do not believe in gender equality. They believe in forced marriages, stoning **women** to death, honour killings, and various other forms of oppression. The "Peace Coalition" does not protest these terrorist groups. The so-called "Peace Coalition" is clearly a hypocritical, anti-capitalist, pro-war movement that has nothing to do with peace.

Roger Pratt

Nelson, B.C.

**Load-Date:** November 8, 2007

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## *World - Spain ruling gives hope to Palestinians*

Morning Star

July 24, 2008 Thursday

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**Length:** 274 words

### **Body**

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The Palestinian Committee for Human Rights (PCHR) demanded justice on Tuesday after a Spanish court ordered the arrest of top Israeli military officials for authorising the dropping of a one-ton bomb on a Gaza residential neighbourhood which killed 15 people.

On July 22 2002 an Israeli warplane dropped a one-ton bomb on the Gaza neighbourhood of al-Daraj, killing 15 Palestinians, including **Hamas** activist Salah Shehadeh, his wife, eight children and two other **women**.

More than 150 others were wounded in the attack.

The strike triggered an outpouring of international condemnation.

However, Israel defended the bombing, asserting that Mr Shehadeh had been poised to deploy a suicide lorry bomber to attack a Jewish celebration.

But the PCHR insists that the one-ton bomb was too powerful to be dropped on a residential neighbourhood.

The National Court in Spain has accepted a Palestinian court suit.

It ordered the arrest of senior Israeli army chiefs, including former Israeli defence minister Benjamin Ben-Eliezer, his former military adviser Michael Herzog, former chief of staff Moshe Ya'alon and former air force commander General Dan Halutz.

Gen Halutz added to the international outrage at the time when he declared that he was "militarily and morally" satisfied with the operation and that all he felt when dropping a bomb was "a small bump in the side of the plane."

The arrest orders are to be executed immediately upon the officials' setting foot on Spanish soil.

A PCHR spokesman called for "justice and moral compensation for the victims."

He said that "the perpetrators of such a hideous crime must face the bitter consequence of their act."

**Load-Date:** July 24, 2008

## *Palestinian authorities to start Gaza power cuts*

Cape Times (South Africa)

January 07, 2008 Monday

e2 Edition

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**Section:** NEWS; Pg. 2

**Length:** 248 words

### **Body**

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Authorities in the ***Hamas***-ruled Gaza Strip were due yesterday to start cutting power for up to eight hours a day after Israel began slashing fuel shipments in November.

Obama leading Clinton in New Hampshire

Barack Obama has overtaken Hillary Clinton ahead of the New Hampshire primary election to be held in just two days' time, according to a new poll released yesterday.

Plan to call for UN probe into Bhutto assassination

The party of slain Pakistan opposition leader Benazir Bhutto will call on the UN for an inquiry into her assassination if it forms a government after elections next month.

Iran accuses US of interference ahead of Bush visit

Iran yesterday accused the US of interfering in the Middle East after President George Bush said he would press allies to help keep Iran's "aggressive ambitions" in check during a regional trip this week.

Islamic extremism in UK has created 'no-go areas'

Islamic extremism has turned some areas of Britain into "no-go areas" for non-Muslims, a Pakistan-born Church of England bishop said, drawing ire from the Muslim community which dismissed his comments as scaremongering.

French president may marry former model

French President Nicolas Sarkozy could marry Italian singer and former model Carla Bruni early next month, a French newspaper reported, citing unnamed sources.

**Women** set to become judges in UAE

**Women** in the United Arab Emirates will soon be allowed to become judges, breaking a male monopoly over the profession in the conservative monarchy.

**Load-Date:** January 7, 2008

## Palestinian authorities to start Gaza power cuts

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## *Palestinian authorities to start Gaza power cuts*

Cape Times (South Africa)

January 07, 2008 Monday

e1 Edition

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**Section:** NEWS; Pg. 2

**Length:** 248 words

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**Women** set to become judges in UAE

**Women** in the United Arab Emirates will soon be allowed to become judges, breaking a male monopoly over the profession in the conservative monarchy.

**Load-Date:** January 6, 2008

## Palestinian authorities to start Gaza power cuts

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## **Terrorist females used for single targets**

Daily Mirror (Sri Lanka)

August 11, 2008 Monday 3:15 PM EST

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**Length:** 731 words

**Byline:** Daily News Sri Lanka

**Dateline:** Colombo

### **Body**

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Colombo, Aug. 11 -- US: A New York Times op-ed piece based on a research on suicide terrorism said, like in the Rajiv Gandhi assassination, **female** suicide bombers are often used for single target suicide attacks in the world.

The University of Chicago based researcher Lindsey O'Rourke writing in the New York Times said: "Perhaps the most famous of these was the 1991 assassination of India 's Prime Minister, Rajiv Gandhi, by Thenmuli Rajaratnam, a Tiger."

Pointing out more **women** than men are used for such single target assassinations the writer said,

"Although **women** make up roughly 15 per cent of the suicide bombers within the groups that employ **females**, they were responsible for an overwhelming 65 per cent of assassinations; one in every five **women** who committed a suicide attack did so with the purpose of assassinating a specific individual, compared with one in every 25 for the male attackers."

Answering another reason why **women** are being used the researcher said: "Paradoxically, the strategic appeal of **female** attacks stems from the rules about **women**'s behavior in the societies where these attacks take place.

Given their second-class citizenship in many of these countries, **women** generate less suspicion and are better able to conceal explosives. Moreover, since **female** attacks are considered especially shocking, they are more likely to generate significant news media attention for both domestic and foreign audiences."

The researcher said, to prevent this, better methods of monitoring **women** for suicide attacks should be found out.

The researcher also said the reasons that motivate both male and **female** suicide bombers are similar and there are no uniquely feminine reasons that motivate them to do it.

The research based editorial further said, "I have spent the last few years surveying all known **female** suicide attacks throughout the world since 1981 -- incidents in Afghanistan, Israel, Iraq, India, Lebanon, Pakistan, Russia, Somalia, Sri Lanka, Turkey and Uzbekistan. In order to determine these **women**'s motives, I compared the data with a database of all known suicide attacks over that period compiled by the Chicago Project on Suicide Terrorism.

This research led to a clear conclusion: the main motives and circumstances that drive **female** suicide attackers are quite similar to those that drive men."

## Terrorist females used for single targets

O'Rourke added: "To begin with, there is simply no one demographic profile for female attackers. From the unmarried Communists who first adopted suicide terrorism to expel Israeli troops from Lebanon in the 1980s, to the so-called Black Widows of Chechnya who commit suicide attacks after the combat deaths of their husbands, to the longtime adherents of the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam separatist movement in Sri Lanka, the biographies of female suicide attackers reveal a wide variety of personal experiences and ideologies."

The researcher also dispelled the belief that many female suicide bombers are Muslim fundamentalists and said many instead grew up in traditional Christian and Hindu families : "Blaming Islamic fundamentalism is also wrongheaded.

More than 85 per cent of female suicide terrorists since 1981 committed their attacks on behalf of secular organisations; many grew up in Christian and Hindu families.

Further, Islamist groups commonly discourage and only grudgingly accept female suicide attackers. At the start of the second intifada in 2000, Sheik Ahmed Yassin, the founder of Hamas, claimed:

"A woman martyr is problematic for Muslim society. A man who recruits a woman is breaking Islamic law." Hamas actually rejected Darin Abu Eisheh, the second Palestinian female attacker, who carried out her 2002 bombing on behalf of the secular Aqsa Martyrs Brigade."

The researcher said religious groups only used the female as suicide attacker only by following the success of the secular groups:

"All secular organisations that employ suicide bombings have used female attackers early and often. For instance, 76 per cent of attackers from the Kurdistan Workers' Party in Turkey have been women, as have 66 per cent of those from Chechen separatist groups, 45 per cent of the Syrian Socialist National Party's and a quarter of those from the Tigers.

Religious groups only came to realize the strategic value of female bombers after seeing secular groups' success."

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**Load-Date:** August 12, 2008



## Why terror thrives

The Jerusalem Post  
July 29, 2008 Tuesday

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**Section:** OPINION; Pg. 13

**Length:** 755 words

**Highlight:** Editorial

### Body

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Someone set out to kill a lot of people on Sunday night in Istanbul, Turkey - and did. Two bombs were exploded, 10 minutes apart, along a pedestrian mall in a residential neighborhood. The first explosion attracted a crowd; the second, which could be heard a mile away, was intended to kill those drawn to the site of the first attack. Some 17 people lost their lives and over 150 were wounded. Turkish president Abdullah Gul said the attack showed "the ruthlessness of terrorism." Indeed it did.

Terrorism, meaning the systematic use of force against civilians to demoralize, intimidate or subjugate countries or peoples, has been a scourge of humanity from time immemorial. The assault against an El Al plane at Munich Airport on February 10, 1970 was not the first instance of a civilian airliner being targeted. That appalling distinction goes to a Puerto Rican communist who hijacked a US airliner to Havana in 1961. Cuba gave him asylum.

It was the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine, however, that trailblazed attacks on airliners with its September 7, 1970 hijacking of three planes "to call special attention to the Palestinian problem." Sure enough, the Palestinian cause has since become synonymous with anti-civilian warfare, from the Munich Olympics' massacre in September 1972 to the Arab fratricide inside Gaza this weekend. And the slaughter of innocents is now part of the Islamists' struggle against "infidels." What the Palestinians began in the early 1970s is now paying "dividends."

This past weekend, for instance, Muslim attackers killed 49 Hindu civilians in western India, in 17 separate attacks. The modus operandi, as in Turkey, was a small explosion followed by more bombs set off to kill rescue service personnel and bystanders.

Yesterday, at least 25 Shi'ite pilgrims were killed and 52 wounded when female suicide bombers (presumably Sunni Arabs) attacked a religious procession in Baghdad.

Terrorism is now so ubiquitous as to be unremarkable. And always, obscenely, the onslaughts are carried out "in the name of Allah."

TRAGICALLY, the international community has only itself to blame for making terrorism permissible as a tool of war - depending on who is blown up, and who is doing the blowing up.

This distinction was first articulated by the world's most coddled terrorist, Yasser Arafat, on November 13, 1974, when the PLO chief made his debut appearance at the UN General Assembly: "The difference between the revolutionary and the terrorist lies in the reason for which each fights," he asserted. "Whoever stands by a just cause and fights for liberation from invaders and colonialists cannot be called terrorist... The Palestinian people had

## Why terror thrives

to resort to armed struggle when they lost faith in the international community...." The family of nations responded with a standing ovation.

Although Arafat would make a number of tactical flip-flops on the use of violence against innocent civilians, he ultimately rejected gains he could have made at the negotiating table - at Camp David in 2000, for instance - in favor of unleashing the second intifada.

One can only fantasize about how much safer the world would be today had the UN, instead of legitimizing Arafat's terrorism, charged him with war crimes. Would disgruntled Muslims have established al-Qaida's global network - or Abu Sayyaf in the Philippines, Al Shabaab in Somalia, or the Army of Muhammad in India - had the international community sent a different signal all those years ago? But not only did Arafat get a green light from the international community, the world has since helped nourish self-defeating Palestinian tendencies toward violence, intransigence and radicalism.

Seldom have the Palestinians been told to choose between violence and political accommodation. When the Quartet gave Hamas precisely that choice, the Palestinians stood their ground. Far from penalizing them, the world went wobbly - the most recent example of this being a UK parliamentary committee, headed by Labor MP Ann Clwyd, which wants to "dialogue" with Hamas and lift sanctions against Gaza's Islamo-fascist regime.

VIOLENCE may be endemic to mankind, yet the community of nations nevertheless managed to outlaw poison gas and criminalize genocide. Is it beyond people's capacity to, belatedly, define deliberate attacks against civilians as a crime against humanity? Wouldn't the world be a better place if terrorists found no sanctuary, no financial backing and no diplomatic cover - because, simply, no "reason" justified their actions?

**Load-Date:** October 4, 2011

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## *Boring but important*

MX Brisbane (Queensland, Australia)

May 21, 2008 Wednesday

1 - BRIS Edition

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**Section:** MX; Pg. 12

**Length:** 293 words

### **Body**

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#### UK'S LANDMARK ABORTION VOTE

BRITISH MPs are preparing to vote on lowering the time limit for women to terminate a pregnancy, in what would be the first major change to abortion laws there in almost 20 years.

Earlier, they voted to support giving lesbians easier access to IVF, rejecting an amendment that would have forced doctors to consider a child's need for a father.

#### 'HISTORIC OPPORTUNITY' IN GAZA

EGYPT announced today that Israel has agreed in principle to a truce in and around Gaza and quoted calls by a top official for Palestinian militants to seize a "historic opportunity".

The announcement came after a day of renewed bloodshed in the territory controlled by the Islamist Hamas movement since last June, with four people being killed in Israeli air raids, one of them a 13-year-old boy.

"Israeli leaders (have informed us) of their support for and understanding of the Egyptian proposals for a truce," Egypt's official MENA news agency quoted a senior official as saying.

#### GLAUCOMA COSTS ON THE RISE

THE progressive eye disease glaucoma costs Australia almost \$2 billion a year, and the bill is expected to double in the next two decades, a new report shows.

The study by Access Economics estimates that 50 per cent of Australians with the condition are undiagnosed and unaware their peripheral vision is slowly disappearing.

#### INDIA, PAKISTAN RESUME TALKS

TOP Indian and Pakistani officials are holding talks in Islamabad to review the two countries' peace process.

The meeting is the first since a new civilian government took over in Pakistan. Talks were postponed after political instability there last year.

They come a day after India said one of its soldiers had been killed in firing across the de facto border. Pakistan has denied any involvement.

Boring but important

**Load-Date:** June 2, 2008

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End of Document

## **Bulldozer driver shot at wheel after deadly rampage through city streets**

The Times (London)

July 3, 2008 Thursday

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# THE TIMES

**Section:** OVERSEAS NEWS; Pg.29

**Length:** 736 words

**Byline:** Sheera Frenkel, Jerusalem

## **Body**

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\* Three women killed as building worker hits bus and crushes cars

A Palestinian construction worker in a digger went on a rampage in central Jerusalem yesterday, killing at least three people and injuring 45.

Hossam Dwayyat, a 31-year-old Arab resident of east Jerusalem, wrought havoc on one of the city's main thoroughfares, driving into oncoming traffic and leaving a trail of mangled vehicles in his wake.

He was caught on film as onlookers saw him take the digger from his construction site and crash through cars queueing on Jaffa Street. He overturned one bus and struck another before being shot dead by security officers.

"I saw him coming towards me and I froze," said Chava Shimoni, a 24-year-old student who was making her way to lunch. "I could see his eyes and he looked so focused. A man shoved me out of the way - it was a miracle that I survived." Ms Shimoni was one of dozens of people who rushed to the victims of the attack, helping screaming passengers out of the overturned bus and passing water bottles to those in shock.

All three of those killed were women. Their bodies were covered in plastic sheets as they lay trapped in the debris of their vehicles. One was reported to have saved her baby girl's life by throwing her out of the window seconds before the bulldozer hit.

Dwayyat, who had a criminal record, was working legally on a building site near the central bus station when he turned his digger into oncoming traffic on Jaffa Street.

He wrecked half a dozen cars and hit a bus before aiming his vehicle at another bus full of commuters. He used the digger's massive scoop to overturn the bus and rammed its side.

A number of armed men, including police officers, off-duty soldiers and civilians, momentarily stopped him by opening fire. At least three then jumped on to the digger as Dwayyat slumped over the steering wheel, apparently incapacitated. But he came to and the bulldozer lurched forward before Moshe Plesser, an off-duty soldier who had climbed to the side of the vehicle, shot him at close range.

## Bulldozer driver shot at wheel after deadly rampage through city streets

"He yelled 'Allahu akhbar!' and hit the gas," Mr Plesser said. "I did what is expected of any soldier or civilian."

Eli Mizrahi, an officer in a special anti-terrorist unit, then fired several more shots. "I ran up the stairs (of the vehicle) and, when he was still driving like crazy and trying to harm civilians, I fired at him twice more and, that's it, he was liquidated," Mr Mizrahi said. Dwayyat's body could be seen lying outside the door of the digger with blood at his feet.

Three Palestinian militant groups - the al-Aqsa Martyrs' Brigade, the Galilee Freedom Battalion and the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine - claimed responsibility for the attack, although Israeli police said initial evidence suggested that Dwayyat was a "terrorist acting on his own". Hamas, which has a fragile ceasefire with Israel, did not take responsibility, but praised the attack as a "natural reaction" to Israeli aggression.

It is the first major attack on Jerusalem since March, when Alaa Abu Dhein, a 25-year-old resident of east Jerusalem, attacked the Mercaz Harav seminary. Police said that the attacks could mark a trend in Arab residents from the city's east using their ID cards and freedom of travel to carry out attacks in Jewish neighbourhoods.

An Israeli Foreign Ministry official said that recent peace moves could be damaged. "We are trying to convince the people that we need a ceasefire with Hamas in Gaza, and that we need to strengthen Fatah in the West Bank ... Each attack furthers the public perception that no peace can be established with the Arabs," he said.

David Miliband, the Foreign Secretary, called the attack horrific. "Our first thought is for the victims and the relatives of the victims," he said. "Our second thought is obviously for the process of building a Middle East peace that's enduring."

Dwayyat's family, including his wife and two children, were questioned by police. Tayseer Dwayyat, his father, said: "My son never spoke of plans to carry out such an attack. If he had I would have tried to prevent it."

Ehud Olmert, the Israeli Prime Minister, has begun efforts to raze Dwayyat's home and stop social security benefits to his family. The Israeli parliament also passed a first reading of a Bill to revoke the citizenship of anyone convicted of terrorist activity.

**Load-Date:** July 3, 2008

## **Obama: Race and reason II**

Pittsburgh Tribune Review

May 24, 2008 Saturday

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**Length:** 272 words

### **Body**

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Sen. Obama's political and diplomatic naivete recently were revealed through his statement of a willingness to talk with America's enemies.

Troubling on many levels, his comments no doubt perked up the collective ears of Iran, Syria, al-Qaida and **Hamas**.

First, one does not -- repeat, does not -- officially "talk" with terrorists under any circumstances. Doing so legitimizes their cause, strengthening them and weakening us. Iran and Syria are terror-sponsoring states. They are no better than the al-Qaida leaders ordering airplanes into skyscrapers or children into suicide vests while they cower in the safety of dank mountain caves.

America negotiates through strength, the combined strength of our rule of law, our economy and our military presence on land and sea, in the air, space and cyberspace.

The real kicker? Mr. Obama wants to bring American troops home from the Middle East. Without U.S. troops in the region, what leverage or advantage does one expect to hold over the enemy? Can any pledge by terrorists be trusted? If the American military is at home, the enemy has already won.

Why should they continue to negotiate? Why honor their hollow pledges?

Mr. Obama would be wise to temper his geopolitical idealism with a heavy dose of global realism. Should he fail to do so, as president he could well "negotiate" America into a weakened state of long-term isolationism, possibly leading the Middle East region into an all-out religious war.

The only winner in such an instance will be the enemy -- the enemy of democracy, of equality for **women**, of religious freedom and of free-market economies.

Jeff Thieret

Harmony

**Load-Date:** May 24, 2008

## *A bad wrap*

Sunday Times (South Africa)

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LifeStyle Edition

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### **Body**

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A bad wrap

Once a symbol of the Intifada, the keffiyeh has been hijacked by local fashionistas, writes

Rock your Palestinian scarf, mix it with Prada shades and fried hair extensions

IT USED be the code phrase for 'danger' in South African streets: "The Reds/Commies are coming." And in no time the "Reds" were substituted with "the blacks are coming" - meaning the liberation movement was making strides, crossing the border at will.

Now, I am proud to announce to you, my fellow Woolies-shopping, coffee-loving, tax-paying suburbanites - you who have expressed so much horror at the recent xenophobic attacks - that there's a new kind of danger on our doorstep ... albeit of a fashionable nature.

The Palestinians are coming!

Well, not quite: part of their revolutionary apparel, the keffiyeh, is coming. Actually, the keffiyeh is already here, and it is not a sly campaign on behalf of Bin Laden, orchestrated by fashion radicals, no.

It is dangerous - that is, if you consider hip-hopper Kanye West (more on him later) as dangerous as your son playing with water pistols.

Down here in Mzansi I have observed with utter amusement and shock - particularly in the last three months - how the keffiyeh, this most trenchant of Islamic and Arab revolutionary symbols, has become not only a secular fashion accessory but, especially on Jozi's streets and in night clubs, an object of utter cool, worn by the young and ritzy.

In this usually excitable and impressionable country, the keffiyeh revolution has taken an interesting turn. It is everywhere: at house-music clubs, residual poetry and dub-slam readings and Sandton City's loudest cafés peopled by loud, black, rich kids and their ever-louder sports cars in tow. Just about everywhere else, we are all, as the saying goes, Palestinian.

Just in case you have been living under a rock - and not, say, Peshawar in Pakistan, where the keffiyeh is not a vogue statement but an article of faith - you are probably scratching your head: what is a keffiyeh?



## A bad wrap

Associated with Arab populations or Islam for centuries, the keffiyeh is a traditional Palestinian cotton headdress with an intricate check pattern, traditionally worn by Palestinian men, mostly in hill-country and villages. City folk prefer the fez, while women in both urban spaces and villages can choose between the burqa and a veil, through which their faces may or may not be visible.

Owing to the Fatah party's late romantic liberation figure, Yasser Arafat, the keffiyeh first emerged as an international presence in the mid-'80s.

This was a period in which the Intifada galvanised ordinary Palestinians across the Middle East, as well as the broader international revolutionary movement into a powerful, world battle for identity, liberation and independence.

Arguably nothing delivered the message faster and with such ferocious urgency as the keffiyeh, often wrapped around the forehead by Palestinian and Lebanese men.

Today - to rock your Palestinian scarf and mix it with those retro Prada shades and deep-fried hair extensions like your name is Beyoncé - you don't have to know anything of the Palestine Liberation Organisation, or even be certain that 'Gaza Strip' is not a name for a burlesque striptease act.

But just like any prêt-à-porter, however, beware of the fake Palestinian scarf. The least you can do - not for the Palestinian cause but your own standing in the street-chic scene - is to get the original.

Get the texturally harder scarf at any Oriental or Islamic commercial centre - and not the silky number sold in fancy high-street boutiques. In this way, you may still not be down with Hamas, but - better still - you will at least be one step closer to telling the difference between Hamas and the, well, ubiquitous gas-guzzling SUV: the Hummer.

So what about Mister West, then?

We cannot blame him for secularising or messing with the keffiyeh's symbolism. In his life and wardrobe, it's really just one of those disposable items: Yesterday it was Vuitton, the day before baby-doll Wayfarers, today the keffiyeh.

Why moan?

Just the other it was Che Guevara, his black beret, heart-piercing eyes and Jesus Christ beard on fashionable T-shirts; Biko followed and today it's the keffiyeh.

What's next in the sexed-up, revolutionary fashion market?

Don't be surprised if the sari is next. I can't wait for the signature jingle to be sung by the real Spice Girls, or, a much more enterprising turn-of-phrase: "Gandhi is coming!"

MATERIAL GIRL: The keffiyeh is taking SA street style by storm

CAPTION KICKER: Mos Def

Picture: MOEKETSI MOTICOE

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## *Bush contrasts Arab, Israeli paths*

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### **Body**

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President Bush's just-completed trip to the Middle East might be summed up as a tale of two speeches.

On May 15, Mr. Bush talked about the historic ties between the US and Israel in a speech to the Israeli Knesset - and got warm applause in return.

On May 18, he talked about Arab political repression in an address to regional policymakers and business leaders at Sharm el-Sheik, Egypt - and received, at best, a cool reception.

Authoritarian Arab governments are not fond of being lectured to about democracy and women's rights, since it threatens their power, notes Gerald Hyman, president of the Hills Program on Governance at the Center for Strategic and International Studies. In their eyes, the US is in fact hesitant about full democracy in the region, since it might hand more power to Hamas and other groups hostile to the US and Israel.

Plus, every day they look at the example of their neighbor Iraq, where democracy does not seem to have brought political stability.

"There are just a whole bunch of things piled on top of one another that makes this subject from this president unpopular in the Arab world," says Mr. Hyman.

In some ways Bush's five-day trip to the region had the air of a valedictory appearance. The Middle East peace process is stuck in neutral, if not reverse, and both Israelis and Palestinians appear to be waiting to see what changes in US policy the next president might bring.

Israel has long considered Bush among the most pro-Israeli of recent US chief executives, so his enthusiastic reception there was not exactly a surprise. The biggest controversy to arise from his Israeli speech was not geostrategic, but domestic. Bush suggested that talking with dictators on its face was appeasement - a point that Sen. Barack Obama felt was a jab aimed at him, and with which he disagreed vigorously.

Bush's polite but unenthusiastic greeting from Arab nations was predictable, as well. Saudi Arabia, in general, rebuffed his pleas for help with soaring oil prices, though it did agree to a token increase in oil production. Palestinian President Mahmoud Abbas sounded disappointed with the tone of Bush's Knesset appearance.

## Bush contrasts Arab, Israeli paths

"In principle, the Bush speech at the Knesset angered us, and we were not happy with it," Mr. Abbas said Monday. "This is our position.... I frankly, clearly, and transparently asked him that the American position should be balanced."

In his May 18 speech to the World Economic Forum on the Middle East, Bush mixed praise for the Arab world with a string of complaints about the public practices and admonishments to do better in the future.

"Too often in the Middle East, politics has consisted of one leader in power and the other in jail," said Bush.

That description might fit the situation of Egypt, the host of the conference. Ayman Nour, the main secular opposition candidate in Egypt's 2005 elections, was jailed on fraud charges after the vote. Bush said that he raised the case of Mr. Nour with President Hosni Mubarak in a private meeting on May 17.

"I call on all nations in this region to release their prisoners of conscience, open up their political debate, and trust their people to chart their future," said Bush in his May 18 speech.

Bush also urged Arab leaders to open up more opportunities for women and to stand together against Iran's attempts to become a regional superpower.

Arab governments see a lack of engagement in the Israeli-Palestinian peace process as a sign that the US only wants democracy on its own terms.

In addition, many of the nations in the region have sizable Shiite minorities and fear that a wider voting franchise could fuel already considerable Sunni-Shiite tensions.

With such militant groups as Hamas in Gaza and Hezbollah in Lebanon surging in power, much of the Middle East is now further from political and economic reform than it was in the early years of the George Bush presidency, note administration critics.

Over the last year the march of democracy has stalled in the Middle East, noted Freedom House in its recent annual report.

\* Material from the Associated Press was used in this report.

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