

Date and Time: Thursday, May 2, 2024 6:19:00PM EEST

Job Number: 223359175

Documents (100)

1. [*Israeli troops clamp down on Jenin*](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language - Expanded Results

Narrowed by:

Content Type
News

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

2. [*Fury, not pride, fills a martyr's father - GLOBAL CITIZEN*](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language - Expanded Results

Narrowed by:

Content Type
News

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

3. [*Anti-Semitic lies and hate threaten us all*](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language - Expanded Results

Narrowed by:

Content Type
News

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

4. [*Army tightens grip on West Bank cities*](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language - Expanded Results

Narrowed by:

Content Type
News

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

5. [*NEWS SUMMARY*](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language - Expanded Results

Narrowed by:

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News

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

6. [For hire: the boy human shields in Gaza's most desperate town: Palestinian children tout for risky work at border as Israel 's tightening grip creates poverty and hunger](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language - Expanded Results

Narrowed by:

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News

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

7. [CHERIE'S BOMB BLUNDER](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language - Expanded Results

Narrowed by:

Content Type
News

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

8. [Palestinians need Hanan Ashrawi](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language - Expanded Results

Narrowed by:

Content Type
News

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

9. ['Atrocities' provide a new lesson in hate](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language - Expanded Results

Narrowed by:

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News

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

10. [Arafat links election to Israeli exit](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language - Expanded Results

Narrowed by:

Content Type
News

Narrowed by

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

11. [*It was a school run on a sunny day, but a tank shell found them in the wrong place at the wrong time*](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language - Expanded Results

Narrowed by:

Content Type
News

Narrowed by

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

12. [*Israel, U.S. not fighting the same war*](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language - Expanded Results

Narrowed by:

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News

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

13. [*Outsider's tragic carpet ride*](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language - Expanded Results

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

14. [*A NATION CHALLENGED: AMERICAN MUSLIMS Raids, Detentions and Lists Lead Muslims to Cry Persecution*](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language - Expanded Results

Narrowed by:

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News

Narrowed by

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

15. [*A wasteland stinking of corpses and cordite that was Jenin's refugee camp*](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language - Expanded Results

Narrowed by:

Content Type
News

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

16. [Carnage of Black Friday](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language - Expanded Results

Narrowed by:

Content Type
News

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

17. [THE PARAMEDIC WHO BECAME ANOTHER 'MARTYR' FOR PALESTINE ; MIDDLE EAST WOMAN BOMBER NAMED AS A OUTGOING, WESTERNISED DIVORCEE, DRIVEN 'CRAZY' BY EXPERIENCES DURING THE INTIFADA](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language - Expanded Results

Narrowed by:

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News

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

18. [GOING TO EXTREMES; TERRORISTS EXPLOIT AMERICAN LIBERTIES](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language - Expanded Results

Narrowed by:

Content Type
News

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

19. [ANOTHER DAY, ANOTHER OUTRAGE; MONDAY: CHECHNYA SUICIDE ATTACKERS DETONATED TRUCK FILLED WITH](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language - Expanded Results

Narrowed by:

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News

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

20. [Jerusalem woman bomber strikes in busy street](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language - Expanded Results

Narrowed by:

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News

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

21. [*Arafat's presence is preventing peace*](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language - Expanded Results

Narrowed by:

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News

Narrowed by

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

22. [*America is a walking irony - it just doesn't realize it*](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language - Expanded Results

Narrowed by:

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News

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

23. [*Anti- Israel Voices Muted as Millions Rally*](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language - Expanded Results

Narrowed by:

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News

Narrowed by

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

24. [*PUBLIC LIVES A Skeptic About Wars Intended to Stamp Out Evil*](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language - Expanded Results

Narrowed by:

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News

Narrowed by

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

25. [*Suicide bombers kill 22 in Tel Aviv: Sharon blames Arafat, orders missile strikes in Gaza City*](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language - Expanded Results

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Narrowed by

News

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

26. [BUSH FIGHTS FOR ANOTHER CLEAN SHOT IN HIS WAR](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language - Expanded Results

Narrowed by:

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News

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

27. [MIDEAST TURMOIL: PALESTINIANS In Camps, Arabs Cling To Dream of Long Ago](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language - Expanded Results

Narrowed by:

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News

Narrowed by
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28. [Israelis comb rocky hills for ambushers of bus](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language - Expanded Results

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News

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

29. [And justice for all: Israel 's efforts to avoid civilian casualties are being ignored by the rest of the world, argues the Jerusalem Post](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language - Expanded Results

Narrowed by:

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

30. [Despair, determination fill Israelis](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language - Expanded Results

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News

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

31. [LIFE AFTER ARAFAT Just a matter of time for new breed of leaders waiting in wings](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language - Expanded Results

Narrowed by:

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News

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

32. [UN envoy blames Israel for 'dire' situation; Islamic Jihad claims responsibility for suicide bombing at Gaza Strip checkpoint](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language - Expanded Results

Narrowed by:

Content Type
News

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

33. [THE PALESTINIANS MUST SEIZE BACK THEIR PRIDE](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language - Expanded Results

Narrowed by:

Content Type
News

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

34. [THE LIES LEADERS TELL WHEN THEY WANT TO GO TO WAR](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language - Expanded Results

Narrowed by:

Content Type
News

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

35. [Israel won't back down from armed campaign](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language - Expanded Results

Narrowed by:

Content Type
News

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

36. [MIDDLE EAST CRISIS: SCHOOLGIRL SUICIDE BOMBER KILLS TWO IN SUPERMARKET](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language - Expanded Results

Narrowed by:

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

37. [Letters from readers](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language - Expanded Results

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

38. [MIDEAST TURMOIL: GUERRILLAS Fighters in Gaza Set Traps And Wait for Israeli Prey](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language - Expanded Results

Narrowed by:

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

39. [U.S. role still critical to Middle East peace; The Bush administration's new urgency ought to be welcomed.](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language - Expanded Results

Narrowed by:

Content Type
News

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

40. [Israeli aggression breeds 'terrorism'](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language - Expanded Results

Narrowed by:

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News

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

41. [Stalking Terror](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language - Expanded Results

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News

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

42. [*FILM REVIEW For Children, Peace Seems Easy if They Get to Connect*](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language - Expanded Results

Narrowed by:

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News

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

43. [*Killers revel in kudos of a US terrorism designation: Relentless atrocities attain dubious form of distinction for al-Aqsa Martyrs' Brigades*](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language - Expanded Results

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Content Type
News

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

44. [*Israelis pull out of 2 towns; Tanks, soldiers continue to push farther into Palestinian territory*](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language - Expanded Results

Narrowed by:

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News

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

45. [*LETTERS TO THE EDITOR*](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language - Expanded Results

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News

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

46. [*Bush made it plain: If you threaten Americans, you'll pay for it; Do most of us really understand the full import of his forceful words?*](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language - Expanded Results

Narrowed by:

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

47. [Israel bomber a woman: Blast kills two, injures more than 100 in Jerusalem shopping district](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language - Expanded Results

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

48. [Higher Education: What makes a martyr?: Why do people become suicide bombers? Religion? To find an identity? Chris Arnot talks to the professor of economics at Warwick who has a new theory](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language - Expanded Results

Narrowed by:

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

49. [Suicide bomb 'just the beginning': Iraq](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language - Expanded Results

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News

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

50. [Israeli cabinet split by demolition of Palestinian houses](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language - Expanded Results

Narrowed by:

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News

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

51. [Your turn](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language - Expanded Results

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News

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

52. [*Jenin mourns in its own Ground Zero*](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language - Expanded Results

Narrowed by:

Content Type
News

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

53. [*USF's Police Chief Has Changed With Times, Crimes*](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language - Expanded Results

Narrowed by:

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News

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

54. [*NEWS SUMMARY*](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language - Expanded Results

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

55. [*UNDERSTANDING YOUR WORLD: PUT FOCUS ON AVERTING, NOT FIGHTING WAR*](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language - Expanded Results

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

56. [*Talks on Israeli withdrawal fail*](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language - Expanded Results

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

57. [Parents defusing children: Palestinians seek help to keep kids from suicide bombings](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language - Expanded Results

Narrowed by:

Content Type
News

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

58. [No stand-down, Sharon vows: On the eve of U.S. Secretary of State Colin Powell's arrival in Israel , Prime Minister Ariel Sharon tells his troops there will be no withdrawal until the "mission is accomplished."](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language - Expanded Results

Narrowed by:

Content Type
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Narrowed by
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59. [MIDDLE EAST: GAZA BRACES FOR SHARON TO SEND IN TANKS IN NEXT PHASE OF WAR: PALESTINIANS BUILD SAND BARRICADES AS ISRAEL AGAIN DEFIES BUSH WEST BANK XXXX YYYY XXXX YYYY XXXX YYYY XXXX YYYY XXXX YYYY XXXX YYYY XXXX YYYY](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language - Expanded Results

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Narrowed by
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60. [City where children worship bombers: Eight Palestinian cities are under siege but the toughest battles are being fought in Nablus, writes Philip Sherwell of the London Daily Telegraph, who is in the city.](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language - Expanded Results

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

61. [No stand-down, Sharon vows: On the eve of U.S. Secretary of State Colin Powell's arrival in Israel , Prime Minister Ariel Sharon tells his troops there will be no withdrawal until the "mission is accomplished."](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language - Expanded Results

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

62. [*Iraq pressures Israel , cuts oil*](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language - Expanded Results

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

63. [*Film explores hearts, minds of Mideast children*](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language - Expanded Results

Narrowed by:

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

64. [*MIDDLE EAST: GAZA BRACES FOR SHARON TO SEND IN TANKS IN NEXT PHASE OF WAR: PALESTINIANS BUILD SAND BARRICADES AS ISRAEL AGAIN DEFIES BUSH WEST BANK XXXX YYYY XXXX YYYY XXXX YYYY XXXX YYYY XXXX YYYY XXXX YYYY*](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language - Expanded Results

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

65. [*Carrot approach isn't working, it's time to bring in the stick*](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language - Expanded Results

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

66. [*LETTERS TO THE EDITOR*](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language - Expanded Results

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

67. ['ASYMMETRICAL WARFARE': SADDAM USING VIETNAM-STYLE TACTICS PLAYING TO WORLD OPINION](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language - Expanded Results

Narrowed by:

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

68. [The school run on a sunny day, but a tank shell found them in the wrong place at the wrong time](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language - Expanded Results

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

69. [LETTERS TO THE EDITOR](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language - Expanded Results

Narrowed by:

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

70. [Israel 's especially cruel sanction](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language - Expanded Results

Narrowed by:

Content Type
News

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

71. [This time, bomber is woman](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language - Expanded Results

Narrowed by:

Content Type
News

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

72. ['ASYMMETRICAL WARFARE'; SADDAM USING VIETNAM-STYLE TACTICS; PLAYING TO WORLD
OPINION](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language - Expanded Results

Narrowed by:

Content Type
News

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

73. [Middle East crisis: Gaza attack: The only question was when revenge would come. At dawn, it came to
Jabaliya : Three young boys among the dead after Israeli tanks enter Palestinian refugee camp](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language - Expanded Results

Narrowed by:

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Narrowed by
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May 31, 2003

74. [Why A.N.S.W.E.R. won't get a dime from Monday's anti-war rally here](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language - Expanded Results

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News

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

75. [LETTERS TO THE EDITOR](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language - Expanded Results

Narrowed by:

Content Type
News

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

76. [NEWS SUMMARY](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language - Expanded Results

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

77. [Picked off as they staggered from a bus: Seven Israeli settlers killed in planned raid - the first fatal attack by militants since reoccupation of West Bank](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language - Expanded Results

Narrowed by:

Content Type
News

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

78. [Your turn](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language - Expanded Results

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Content Type
News

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

79. [Going to Camp: In Chapter 8, budding terrorist Ressam learns the ABCs of mass murder](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language - Expanded Results

Narrowed by:

Content Type
News

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

80. [Letters from readers](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language - Expanded Results

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Content Type
News

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

81. [Middle East crisis: As curfew bites, a handful of men bring hope to the trapped: Hebron Fire brigade on missions of mercy in one of seven cities turned prison](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language - Expanded Results

Narrowed by:

Content Type
News

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

82. [*Arafat and the other side of the Mideast equation*](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language - Expanded Results

Narrowed by:

Content Type
News

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

83. [*Now peace it together*](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language - Expanded Results

Narrowed by:

Content Type
News

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

84. [*Why those on the Left condone murder; After Premier's wife retracts remarks over Palestinian*](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language - Expanded Results

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

85. [*Fearful Iraq parades for Saddam's birthday*](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language - Expanded Results

Narrowed by:

Content Type
News

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

86. [*NEWS SUMMARY*](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language - Expanded Results

Narrowed by:

Content Type
News

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

87. [World fears global fallout](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language - Expanded Results

Narrowed by:

Content Type
News

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

88. [ISRAEL WILL PUSH AHEAD IN BETHLEHEM, RAMALLAH](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language - Expanded Results

Narrowed by:

Content Type
News

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

89. [ISRAEL WILL PUSH AHEAD IN BETHLEHEM, RAMALLAH](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language - Expanded Results

Narrowed by:

Content Type
News

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

90. [Marching as to War](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language - Expanded Results

Narrowed by:

Content Type
News

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

91. [MIDEAST TURMOIL: GUERRILLAS Palestinian Militant Group Says It Will Limit Bombings](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language - Expanded Results

Narrowed by:

Content Type
News

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

92. [*Peace hopes in tatters as Powell heads home: U.S. mission comes up far short of halting bloodshed in Middle East*](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language - Expanded Results

Narrowed by:

Content Type
News

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

93. [*Iraq prepares for war: Happy birthday Mr President. Great party, but the people are living in fear*](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language - Expanded Results

Narrowed by:

Content Type
News

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

94. [*Israeli troops leave after Bush's demand*](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language - Expanded Results

Narrowed by:

Content Type
News

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

95. [*WHAT HOPE FOR PEACE?: As Palestinians kill three collaborators*](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language - Expanded Results

Narrowed by:

Content Type
News

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

96. [*Uncovering Israel 's intentions*](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language - Expanded Results

Narrowed by:

Content Type
News

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

97. [MIDDLE EAST: WATCHING FROM ON HIGH AS ISRAELI GUNS KEEP FIRING; MIDDLE EAST THE BOMBARDMENT OF RAMALLAH AND YASSER ARAFAT'S HEADQUARTERS CONTINUES, DESPITE CONCERN FROM WORLD LEADERS](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language - Expanded Results

Narrowed by:

Content Type
News

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

98. [GROWING UP IN A WAR ZONE The documentary 'Promises' offers a children's-eye view of the Palestinian -Isra eli conflict](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language - Expanded Results

Narrowed by:

Content Type
News

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

99. [Suicide bomb kills 19 Israelis in hotel: Middle East in crisis as carnage in Netanya and infighting at Beirut summit send peace hopes diving: 19 dead and 140 injured by suicide bomb at Israeli hotel](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language - Expanded Results

Narrowed by:

Content Type
News

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

100. [WEST BANK ATTACKS WIDEN; ISRAELI TANKS ENTER NABLUS, OTHER CITIES](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: Hamas

Search Type: Natural Language - Expanded Results

Narrowed by:

Content Type
News

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

Israeli troops clamp down on Jenin

Deseret News (Salt Lake City)

October 27, 2002, Sunday

Copyright 2002 The Deseret News Publishing Co.

Section: WIRE;

Length: 815 words

Byline: By Laurie Copans Associated Press writer

Body

JERUSALEM -- Israeli troops arrested dozens of Palestinians Saturday during a search of the West Bank town of Jenin for militants involved in a suicide bombing, and a U.S. envoy left the region with neither side optimistic about the latest peace proposal.

A 13-year-old Palestinian boy was killed in the Rafah refugee camp in the Gaza Strip when soldiers shot at Palestinians throwing stones and firebombs, local residents said. The army said there were heavy exchanges of fire in the area and the boy may have been hit by Palestinian fire.

In an army operation in Jenin that began Friday, soldiers imposed a curfew on the 50,000 residents of the town and its refugee camp and began searching from house to house after dark Saturday.

Dozens of Palestinians were arrested in the searches, including residents with no connections to militant groups, witnesses said. The army said soldiers arrested 30 suspects including a bomber on the way to an attack and two relatives of one of the two teenage suicide bombers who carried out an attack on a bus last Monday that killed 14 people.

In Rafah, a hot spot in the two years of fighting, soldiers shot and injured three Palestinians Saturday when a crowd began throwing firebombs and stones at bulldozers fortifying an army outpost there along the border with Egypt, witnesses and doctors said. One of the injured Palestinians, a 13-year-old boy, died of his wounds hours later, doctors said.

The army said soldiers shot in response to Palestinian fire.

Two more Palestinians were injured after dark in Rafah, when troops shot at about 15 tanks and two bulldozers moved into the camp and began demolishing structures not far from the border, residents said.

Meanwhile, Assistant Secretary of State William Burns wrapped up a visit during which he presented the Israelis and Palestinians with the peace plan that calls for a provisional Palestinian state by the end of 2003 and full independence by 2005.

But Israel complained the proposal did not fully address its security concerns, while Palestinians said the plan's omission of presidential elections was an effort to sideline Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat.

Arafat has said he is still studying the plan and Israeli Prime Minister Ariel Sharon is slated to give a response within a week.

Israeli troops clamp down on Jenin

Burns will take the comments back to the Quartet -- the United States, United Nations, European Union, and Russia -- which is to adopt the final plan by December.

The U.S. snub of Arafat was clear in Burns' visit -- the envoy met with a Palestinian legislator at her home just a few yards from Arafat's office in the West Bank town of Ramallah. The United States has criticized Arafat for not taking a firmer hand against anti-Israeli militants and has also pressed for political and economic reform in the Palestinian Authority.

In explaining Israel's operation in Jenin, Israeli Defense Minister Binyamin Ben-Eliezer called the town a "capital of terror" and said troops would "clean up" the town. Arafat called the incursion a "crime."

Near Jenin on Saturday, troops arrested an activist of the militant group Hamas, Mahmud Abadi, who was on his way to carry out a suicide bombing in Israel, the army said.

The Israeli operation in Jenin will continue for a week, or longer, Israeli television reported Saturday. Israeli troops have been in most West Bank towns since June, an operation that began after a series of suicide bombings.

Israeli troops pulled back to the outskirts of Jenin on Oct. 18, but the suicide attack came three days later, and Israel said the bombers were from the Jenin area.

In addition to those in Jenin, about 15 Palestinians were arrested in the West Bank over the weekend, the army said.

Overnight in the West Bank town of Nablus, members of the Al Aqsa Martyrs Brigade, a militia linked to Arafat's Fatah movement, dragged two sisters from their home and shot them both in their legs, claiming they collaborated with Israel's intelligence services.

One of the women, Haifa Rihan, a 39-year-old divorced mother of six, died afterward, an Al Aqsa member said on condition of anonymity.

Meanwhile, a senior Labor Party official said Saturday that Ben-Eliezer, the party's leader, was threatening to pull out of the government if Sharon does not agree to cut proposed funding to Jewish settlers.

Ben-Eliezer and Sharon were slated to meet Sunday to discuss Ben-Eliezer's demand that the prime minister cut from the proposed 2003 budget \$149 million designated for Jewish settlements and allocate them to poor Israelis instead.

The withdrawal of the Labor party from Sharon's coalition could bring down the government.

"There is one group that is only getting more funding and that is the settlers and we won't accept this," said the party official, Transportation Minister Ephraim Sneh. "If this will be the budget in the end, we will vote against it, with all the implications that this would have."

Load-Date: October 27, 2002

Fury, not pride, fills a martyr's father - GLOBAL CITIZEN

The Australian

October 28, 2002, Monday

Copyright 2002 Nationwide News Pty Limited

Section: WORLD; Pg. 14

Length: 873 words

Byline: Mel Frykberg

Body

The US-educated father of a Palestinian suicide bomber is an angry man, as Mel Frykberg in Jerusalem discovers

ABED Abudeir sat frozen to the seat of the taxi in which he was returning to Jerusalem from a business trip to Amman, Jordan. He felt the blood drain from his face and his hands begin to shake with shock.

Incredulity beset the blind lawyer, 63, as the taxi radio announced that Issa Abudeir, 16, his youngest child, had just blown himself up in Rishon Lezion, a town 10km southwest of Tel Aviv.

It was 9pm, on May 22, when Issa, his hair peroxided blond in an attempt to blend in with the Israeli crowd, detonated the suicide belt around his waist in a crowded pedestrian mall, killing two Israelis and wounding 40. The casualty rate would have been higher but a **female** Palestinian suicide bomber who was meant to blow herself up in conjunction with Issa to maximise casualties got cold feet at the last minute and backed out.

MATP

"I made a promise to myself that if I find out who is responsible for sending my Issa, I will take his eyes out," Abudeir said of his feelings when he heard the news. "My heart went with Issa, he was my baby. I am now partially insane due to my grief."

Abudeir, who has been blind since childhood, studied law in the Syrian capital, Damascus. His parents then paid for him to study in the US where, using a tape recorder for lectures and by sitting exams orally, he gained a Masters degree in law from Wisconsin University. He now runs his own general law practice in Bethlehem.

He remembers Issa as a bright and gregarious youngster. "He loved life and was a friendly lad. He was a champion chess player and an avid footballer and swimmer," he said.

According to Issa's family, the boy displayed no signs of the choice he'd made when he left home in the town of Doha near Bethlehem in the West Bank on his suicide mission. He was relaxed and cordial and even cracked a few jokes, according to his brother Khaled, 25.

"We are totally opposed to bloodshed and violence in this family," Abudeir said. "If I had even the slightest inkling that Issa was politically involved or intended to blow himself up, I would have taken him to Amman with me."

Abudeir is angry with those who sent his son to his death, he's angry with Yasser Arafat and his Palestinian Authority, but he also shares Palestinians' anger at their sense of helplessness in the face of what they see as a brutal and unjust Israeli occupation.

Fury, not pride, fills a martyr's father - GLOBAL CITIZEN

At the same time, an emerging soul-searching among Palestinians about the political effectiveness and morality of suicide bombings has seen leading intellectuals take out advertisements in the Arabic press condemning the attacks and urging the perpetrators to stop them.

It was only after much coaxing that Abudeir agreed to talk about Issa and he was fearful throughout our interview.

Whether fear prompted Abudeir to deny knowing who had sent his son on a suicide mission or whether he genuinely had no idea was uncertain.

Palestinians are afraid of retribution from the groups behind the suicide attacks -- **Hamas**, Islamic Jihad and the Al Aqsa Martyr's Brigade, an offshoot of Arafat's Fatah faction of the PLO -- should they voice criticism.

Internal criticism in the Palestinian media is quashed and Palestinian journalists who have published articles critical of Arafat and the Palestinian Authority have been jailed.

Abudeir was also fearful of further Israeli reprisals after they demolished his house as punishment for Issa's suicide mission. The family was given less than 30 minutes' warning to evacuate the house with their possessions before it was blown up.

Abudeir's anger at Arafat and the Palestinian leadership, who he claims also bear responsibility for the suicide bombings, is palpable.

"Arafat is corrupt," he said. "Before we even talk to the Israelis we have to replace the Palestinian National Authority. It is a leadership imposed on us by the Israelis.

"During the Oslo Accords, this corrupt and weak Palestinian leadership under Arafat accepted less than a fair deal for the Palestinians and Palestinian security services swap intelligence and co-operate with Israeli intelligence. They are nothing more than a quasi militia of the Israeli Defence Force."

Although Abudeir refuses to condemn the militant Islamic groups behind the bombings by name, he accuses them of using suicide bombers as not only a means of making themselves politically relevant but also for financial gain. Arab countries such as Iraq and Saudi Arabia have paid out hundreds of thousands of dollars to the families of suicide bombers.

Then come the contradictions and the conspiracy theories. Abudeir speculates that the militant Islamic groups are inventions of the Israelis and under their control. He says the Israelis were also behind the attacks on New York's Twin Towers.

After venting his spleen at those responsible for organising the suicide bombings, the final and strong est ambivalence is the mixture of resentment and grudging admiration Abudeir and many Palestinians harbour towards their enemy.

"The Israelis are armed with democracy, knowledge and order," he said. "We need these weapons. Blowing up 100 buses and restaurants will neither destroy Israel nor bring us victory."

Load-Date: October 27, 2002

Anti-Semitic lies and hate threaten us all

The Times (London)

June 28, 2002, Friday

Copyright 2002 Times Newspapers Limited

Section: Features; Times2; 8

Length: 3961 words

Byline: Harold Evans

Body

Rampant anti-Semitism in the Muslim world, from schools to press, TV and internet, not only makes Middle East peace impossible, says Harold Evans -but makes us all targets now

Just before he was given the boot by President Bush, Yassir Arafat made an extraordinary offer -extraordinary because it was not one of the specific demands Bush was about to make, extraordinary because Arafat acknowledged a hidden horror: the indoctrination of the delusional young people who carry out suicide bombings. In a six-page private memorandum he sent to President Bush and Arab capitals outlining his 100-day plan for reform, Arafat said he would "renounce fanaticism in the educational curricula and spread the spirit of democracy and enlightenment and openness".

There is a lot under the stone Arafat has lifted. Fanaticism has been bred into the suicide murderers and millions of young people throughout the Arab nations with scant attention by media, governments, academia and churches in the civilised world. The Palestinian schools, financed by Europe, are open sewers in terms of the hatred they seed - hatred not just of Israel, but of all Jews and all their friends. Dr Ahmad Abu Halabiya, former acting rector of the Islamic University in Gaza, speaks the message: "Wherever you are, kill the Jews, the Americans who are like them and those who stand by them."

Arab leaders come to Washington and London and Geneva with formulas for peace, while at home they feed their populations with similar incitements. It means that even if by some miracle there is agreement on the shape of a Palestinian state, there will be no peace in the Middle East for a generation. The Israelis may forget or forgive the suicide assassins; the Palestinians may put behind them the humiliations of occupation. But the political conflict over Palestine is only one aspect of the fanaticism that has been fomented. It adds up to the dehumanisation of all Jews and it has been manufactured and propagated throughout the Middle East and south Asia on a scale and intensity that is utterly unprecedented. This is something relatively new in the Islamic world. There was more tolerance for Jews in the Islamic empire than ever there was in Christian Europe.

I was aware, as we all are, that the Palestinians hate the state of Israel. What has surprised me is the virulence of this new anti-Semitism throughout all the Muslim countries. It is frenzied, vociferous, paranoid, vicious and prolific, and is only incidentally connected to the Palestinian conflict. Hope, the familiar bromide, seems to have little to do with it. The moment of high hope following Camp David saw a surge, not a diminution, in the tide. It is a singular phenomenon; there is nothing comparable to it in relation to Arabs or Muslims.

Everyone talking about Palestine or terrorism is talking in a vacuum, for nothing can be understood without a proper appreciation of the way minds have been poisoned. A single skinhead assault on a synagogue in Europe is

Anti-Semitic lies and hate threaten us all

news, but not the unrelenting daily assault on Jews waged from Morocco to Cairo to Damascus, from Baghdad to Teheran, the Gaza Strip to Karachi.

The paradox is that the world is connected as never before in terms of the flow of current, but many of the wires are lethally bare. The religious fanaticism that has spawned and condoned terrorism and drives the new anti-Semitism is insensible to reason. Jonathan Swift recognised our dilemma more than 200 years ago: "You cannot reason a person out of something he did not reason himself into."

What we are up against is best illustrated by what the Jews did to the World Trade Centre. Everyone in the Muslim world knows that September 11 was a Jewish plot to pave the way for a joint Israeli-US military operation against not just Osama bin Laden and the Taliban but also Islamic militants in Palestine. On the day of the bombing, 4,000 Jews were absent from the World Trade Centre; they had been tipped off.

I thought this canard had long ago vanished up its own orifice, but it was being retailed with all sincerity by a Pakistani taxi driver last week in New York of all places -which proves nothing except that he is an accurate representation of a now unshakeable Muslim conviction. Millions and millions and millions believe this rubbish, as a Gallup Poll has found after questioning people in nine predominantly Islamic countries -Pakistan, Iran, Indonesia, Turkey, Lebanon, Morocco, Kuwait, Jordan and Saudi Arabia -representing about half the world's Muslim population.

Some 67 per cent found the attacks morally unjustified, which is something why not 100 per cent? -but they were also asked if they believed reports that groups of Arabs carried out the bombings. Only in West-aligned Turkey was the answer Yes, but it was close; 46 per cent to 43 per cent. In all the other eight Islamic countries, the populations rejected the idea that Arabs or al-Qaeda were responsible. Repeat, that is a poll just a couple of months ago, after millions of words from reporters and exultant videos from the Osama bin Laden show. The majorities are overwhelming in Pakistan, Kuwait, Iran and Indonesia -in Pakistan only 4 per cent accept that the killers were Arabs. Thomas Friedman, of The New York Times, reported last month from Indonesia, the world's largest Muslim state, that nobody has any doubt about the Mossad conspiracy.

Who could be naive/crazy/malign/misguided enough to disseminate such fabrications? The effluent is from official sources, newspapers and television in Arab states, from schools and government-funded mosques, from Arab columnists and editorial writers, cartoonists, clerics and intellectuals, from websites that trail into an infinity of iniquity. The appearance of modernity in the Arab media is illusory. More important than the presence of the hardware is the absence of the software, the notion of a ruggedly independent self-critical free press. CNN will film American bomb damage in Afghanistan; al-Jazeera and the Middle East stations would never dream of talking to the orphans and widows whose loved ones were blown apart by a suicide bomber. An Arab critic of America and the coalition is always given the last word. How could people be so susceptible to misinformation? Well, conspiracy theories simplify a complex world. The absence of evidence is itself proof of plot: missing records at Pearl Harbor, missing bullets in Dallas, missing bodies in Jenin. Preconceptions are outfitted in fantasy. Contradiction by authority is mere affirmation of the vastness of the plot: so he's in it, too. Conspiracy and rumour bloom, especially where the flow of news and opinion is restricted and illiteracy is high.

But there is another explanation for the potency of lies today. It is the aura of authenticity provided by technology, by the internet. John Daniszewski, of the Los Angeles Times, asked an editor of The Nation in Islamabad, Ayesha Haroon, why they blamed Israel. "It is quite possible that there was deliberate malice in printing it," she admitted. "I also think it has to do with the internet. When you see something on a computer, you tend to believe it is true." Here in our new magic is a source of much misery. An Indonesian visiting the Islamic stronghold of Yogyakarta, according to Friedman, was alarmed by the tide running for jihad against Christians and Jews. Internet users are only 5 per cent of the population, but these 5 per cent spread rumours about Jews to everyone else. "They say, 'He got it from the internet'. They think it's the Bible."

The smear that defiles the Jews who died in the World Trade Centre, that millions perceive as reality, owes its original currency in September 2001 to a website called InformationTimes.com, "an independent news and information service" whose address was given as the Press Building in Washington. I thought it worth asking the

Anti-Semitic lies and hate threaten us all

editor in chief, Syed Adeeb, for the evidence. He told me his source was the TV station Al Manar in the Lebanon. When I asked if he had any qualms about relying on Al Manar because it was a mouthpiece for the terrorist group Hezbollah, which exists "to stage an effective psychological warfare with the Zionist enemy", Adeeb's reply was: "Well, it is a very popular station." Adeeb clearly believed his story; when I mentioned that there were Jews who died in the towers, he conceded that one or two might have died, but he found it sinister that nobody could tell him just how many.

He volunteered that he was an American citizen and that some of his best friends were Jews. Adeeb's approach to the world speaks for itself in his headlines: "Israelis with bomb material arrested in Washington"; "Israeli mafia controls US Congress"; "Crazy Hindu terrorists threaten America"; "FBI and CIA should investigate the Israeli lobby"; "Barbarous Israeli soldiers rape and torture 86 women in Nablus, Palestine".

I asked for the source of that rape story and was referred to the Labour MP for Birmingham Selly Oak, Lynne Jones. I checked. Dr Jones did indeed put the atrocity in circulation, quoting an e-mail from an Anthony Razook in Nablus, but she was careful to say that "this report has not been authenticated". Such qualifications evaporate in the endless laundering of information.

Once upon a time stories such as this would circulate only on smudged cyclostyled sheets that would never see the light of day. But now Wizards of Oz such as Adeeb have a megaphone to a gullible world, with this spurious authenticity of electronic delivery. In the thirties, Cordell Hull complained of print and radio that a lie went half way round the world before truth had time to put its trousers on; nowadays it has been to Mars and back before anyone is half awake. At the end of the line of incendiary headlines and the careless propagation of e-mail there is Danny Pearl, tortured and butchered because he was a Jew and a reporter.

Unfortunately, reporting and comment in the West all too often, with the best of motives, ingenuously reinforce the anti-Semitic mindset. Israel is supported, in Lenin's phrase, like a rope supports a hanging man. Equal weight is given to information from corrupt police states and proven liars as to information from a vigorous, self-critical democracy. The pious but fatuous posture is that this is somehow fair, as if truth existed in a moral vacuum, something to be measured by the yard, like calico. Five million Jews in Israel are a vulnerable minority surrounded by 300 million Muslims governed for the most part by authoritarian regimes, quasi-police states that in more than 50 years have never ceased trying to wipe it out by war and terrorism. They muzzle dissent and critical reporting, they run vengeful penal systems and toxic schools, they have failed in almost every measure of social and political justice, they deflect the frustrations of their streets to the scapegoat of Zionism and they breed and finance international terrorism. Yet it is Israel that is regarded with scepticism and sometimes hostility.

Take the battle of Jenin. The presumption in the feeding frenzy in the best newspapers in Europe and in hours and hours of television was that the Palestinian stories of 3,000 killed and buried in secret mass graves must be true, though the main propagator of this story, Saeb Erekat, has been accused of being a liar. The Guardian was even moved to write the editorial opinion that Israel's attacks on Jenin were "every bit as repellent" as Osama bin Laden's attack on New York on September 11.

Every bit as repellent? Did we miss something? Some American provocation of Osama comparable to the continuous murder of Israeli women, children, the old and the sick? Was something going on in the World Trade Centre as menacing as the making of bombs in Jenin, known proudly to Palestinians as Suicide Capital? In fact, there was no massacre, no mass graves. Human Rights Watch has since put the death toll at 54, including, on their count, 22 civilians -the Israelis say 3. Some Palestinian militants in fact claim Jenin as a victory in the killing of 23 Israeli soldiers.

Of course, the press had a duty to report the Palestinians' allegations of massacre; it was entitled to raise questions and express alarm in the editorial columns. But truth did not lie in the balance between competing statements, and it was ill served by hysteria. Big stories such as this demand special rigour in the reporting, restraint in the language, scrupulous care in the headlining, proper attribution of sources and above all a sense of responsibility: "genocide" is too agonising when real for it to be devalued by its use as small change. To describe suicide bombers as "martyrs", as a recent British headline did, is to endorse a barbarity; Palestinians can call

Anti-Semitic lies and hate threaten us all

bombers martyrs if they like but it is a defamation of historic martyrs who gave their lives to save others, not to kill randomly and for financial reward for their families. Words, said Churchill, are the only things that last for ever. We should all have as much care with the explosive power of words as we expect airports to have with our luggage.

Let me reject the sophistry that to question such matters is to excuse everything done under the guise of protesting anti-Semitism. It is not anti-Semitic to raise questions about Jenin, no more than it is anti-press to raise questions about the reporting. It is not anti-Semitic to report and protest at ill treatment of Palestinians. It is not anti-Semitic to consider whether Sharon's past belies his promises for the future. It is not anti-Semitic to deplore the long occupation, though originally brought about by the Arab leaders who instigated and lost three wars.

It IS anti-Semitic to vilify the state of Israel as a diabolical abstraction, reserving tolerance for the individual Jew but not the collective Jew; it IS anti-Semitic to invent malignant outrages; it is anti-Semitic consistently to condemn in Israel what you ignore or condone elsewhere; it is, above all, anti-Semitic to de-humanise Judaism and the Jewish people such as to incite and justify their extermination. That is what we have seen thousands and thousands of times over on a preposterous scale.

The European Community recently voted more millions to the Palestinian Authority. Corrupt as it is, one sympathises with its need for the relief of suffering and poverty, but should it not have been made a condition that the PA must cease using European money for racist propaganda through its schools, its mosques, on television and radio, in political rallies and summer camps? The fanaticism Arafat offers to renounce -as a bargaining chip, not a moral principle -is the fanaticism stimulated by his Palestinian Authority which, among other enlightenments, makes educational films of little girls singing their dedication to martyrdom. The degree of infection was manifest at Al Najah University in the city of Nablus, where the students put on a display entitled "The Sbarro Cafe Exhibition".

The Sbarro Cafe is the pizza parlour where a Palestinian suicide bomber murdered 15 people taking a meal. The display, according to the Associated Press and Israeli media, included an exhibit with pizza slices and body parts strewn across the room. The walls were painted red to represent scattered blood.

It is hard looking for sanity to put in the picture -especially in the Department of Psychiatry at Ein Shams University in Cairo. Here is Dr Adel Sadeq, who is also chairman of the Arab Psychiatrists' Association, on suicide bombings: "As a professional psychiatrist, I say that the height of bliss comes with the end of the countdown: ten, nine, eight, seven six, five, four three, two, one. When the martyr reaches 'one' and he explodes, he has a sense of himself flying, because he knows for certain that he is not dead. It is a transition to another, more beautiful, world. None in the Western world sacrifices his life for his homeland. If his homeland is drowning, he is the first to jump ship. In our culture it is different...this is the only Arab weapon there is and anyone who says otherwise is a conspirator."

Next patient, please!

The Muslim world's relentless caricatures of the Jew are boringly on the same one note; Jews are always dirty, hook-nosed, money-grubbing, vindictive and scheming parasites. They are barbarians who deliberately spread vice, drugs and prostitution, and poison water. Among the fabrications: Israeli authorities infected by injection 300 Palestinian children with HIV during the years of the intifada; Israel poisoned Palestinians with uranium and nerve gas; Israel is giving out drug-laced chewing gum and chocolate intended to make women sexually corrupt; Jews use the blood of gentiles to make matzos for Passover (Al-Ahram, Cairo). This past April, state-funded San Francisco students put out a poster of a baby "slaughtered according to Jewish rites under American licence".

Incredibly, the Arab and Muslim media, and behind them their states, have resurrected that notorious Bolshevik forgery, the Protocols of the Elders of Zion. This supposedly occult document, which reads like something discarded as too ridiculous for the script of Mel Brooks's The Producers, is the secret Zionist plan by which satanic Jews will gain world domination. It has had more scholarly stakes through its heart than the umpteen re-enactments of Dracula, but this bizarre counterfeit is common currency in the Muslim world. A multi-million dollar 30-part series was produced in Egypt by Arab Radio and Television. With a cast of 400! And not as satire.

It is the Protocols that inspire Hamas, the Islamic resistance movement, to teach their children that the Jews control the world's wealth and mass media. According to Hamas -and who will be there in the classroom or on the

Anti-Semitic lies and hate threaten us all

street to raise a question? -Jews deliberately instigated the French and Russian revolutions, and World War I, so that they could wipe out the Islamic caliphate, and establish the League of Nations "in order to rule the world by their intermediary".

When I checked on the website Palestine Watch, by the way, to report on what they were telling the world about Israeli propaganda, I drew a blank, but there it described Hamas as seeking nothing other than peace with dignity, forbearing to mention the small matter that Hamas is dedicated to the destruction of the state of Israel.

Apart from the volume and intensity of the multi-media global campaign, there has been an ominous change in political direction. Arab frustration with the recognition of the state of Israel after the Second World War has for decades been expressed as "why should the Arabs have to compensate the Jews for the Holocaust that was perpetrated by Europeans".

Today the theme is that the Holocaust is a Zionist invention. It is expressed with a vehemence as astounding as the contempt for scholarship.

A typical columnist in Al-Akhbar, the Egyptian Government daily, on April 29: "The entire matter (the Holocaust), as many French and British scientists have proven, is nothing more than a huge Israeli plot aimed at extorting the German Government in particular and the European countries. I personally and in the light of this imaginary tale complain to Hitler, even saying to him, 'If only you had done it, brother, if only it had really happened, so that that the world could sigh in relief (without) their evil and sin'."

Hiri Manzour in the official Palestinian newspaper: "The figure of six million Jews cremated in the Nazi Auschwitz camps is a lie," a hoax promoted by Jews as part of their international "marketing operation".

Seif al-Jarawn in the Palestinian newspaper Al-Hayat al-Jadeeda: "They concocted horrible stories of gas chambers which Hitler, they claimed, used to burn them alive. The press overflowed with pictures of Jews being gunned down...or being pushed into gas chambers. The truth is that such malicious persecution was a malicious fabrication by the Jews."

Clearly here is a consistent attempt to undermine the moral foundations of the state of Israel and it is espoused by a number of supposedly moderate people. The former President of Iran, Ali Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani, had this to say on Tehran Radio: "One atomic bomb would wipe out Israel without trace while the Islamic world would only be damaged rather than destroyed by Israeli nuclear retaliation."

The brilliance of the whole campaign of anti-Semitism is its stupefying perversity: the Arab and Muslim media and mosques depict Israelis as Nazis even the conciliatory Barak and the hawkish Sharon are alike dressed up in swastikas with fangs dripping with blood -but media and mosque peddle the same Judeophobia that paved the way to Auschwitz. How can you talk to someone who conducts all discourse standing on his head screaming? People in the West who adopt the same murderous metaphor for Israel, and I heard it often on my recent visit to Europe, may be regarded as a joke in their own country, but that is not where the action is. They are moral idiots but they lend credibility to malevolent liars in the Middle East.

By comparison with the phantasmagoria I have described, it seems a small matter that without exception Palestinian school textbooks supplied by the PA Authority, and funded by Europe, have no space in the maps for the sovereign state of Israel, no mention of its five million people, no recognition of the Jews' historic links to Jerusalem.

The Palestinian claim to statehood is unanswerable, and with wiser leadership it would have been flourishing for years. It is tragic that the cause is now being so ruthlessly exploited with Jew as a code word for extremist incitement of hatred of America and the West. This is jihad. It is aimed at us all, at Europeans who "look like" Americans because they believe in liberal democracy and are infected by American culture. But its first victims are the Palestinians and the frustrated masses of the Muslim world. Their leaders have led them into ignominy in three wars. They have failed to reform their corrupt and incompetent societies. It is convenient to deflect the despair and

Anti-Semitic lies and hate threaten us all

anger of the street to Israel and the Jews who supposedly control the West, but terror and hate have a way of poisoning every society that encourages or tolerates them.

When Bernard Lewis observed 16 years ago that anti-Semitism was becoming part of Arab intellectual life "almost as much as happened in Nazi Germany", he added the comforting thought that it lacked the visceral quality of Central and East European anti-Semitism, being "still largely political and ideological, intellectual and literary", lacking any deep personal animosity or popular resonance, something cynically exploited by Arab rulers and elites, a polemical weapon to be discarded when no longer required.

But that was before the current electronic efflorescence of hate, before the brainwashing I have sketched, before September 11. Habits of mind tending to approve terror are becoming ingrained in the Muslim world, sanctioned by the lethargy and prejudice in Europe: those Palestinians who danced for joy on September 11 and those students who staged the grisly exhibition of pizza parlour murders were not al-Qaeda, but their acceptance of terror as a substitute for politics does not augur well for the future of their country or the possibilities of peaceful political dialogue in any of the Arab states.

This article is abridged from a lecture prepared for the 30th anniversary of Index on Censorship. Harold Evans, a former editor of The Sunday Times and The Times, was most recently president of Random House, New York, and editorial director of the Daily News, Atlantic Monthly and US News & World Report. He is the author of The American Century.

Load-Date: June 28, 2002

End of Document

Army tightens grip on West Bank cities

The New Zealand Herald

August 6, 2002 Tuesday

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Section: NEWS; World

Length: 867 words

Body

JERUSALEM - A Palestinian militant shot dead a Jewish settler couple in a West Bank ambush yesterday, bringing to 13 the number of people killed in a fresh wave of attacks within 24 hours.

Israel last night responded to the attacks, which also included a suicide bombing on a bus in the country's northern Galilee region and a shooting in Jerusalem, by further restricting Palestinian travel around most West Bank cities.

On the Palestinian side, witnesses said Israeli forces raided the West Bank village of Burqa to hunt for suspected militants. Two Palestinian men were shot dead in the battle, one of them a wanted militant.

In the latest shooting attack, a Palestinian gunman shot at the car of a Jewish settler family as it drove towards the West Bank city of Ramallah, killing the parents instantly and wounding their children, aged 3 years and 6 months.

At the scene, a baby's milk bottle stood on the asphalt road next to the blanket-covered bodies of the parents.

"Due to the last wave of attacks ... it was decided to completely restrict Palestinian movement in the areas of Jenin, Nablus, Tulkarm, Qalqilya and Ramallah, with the exception of medical and humanitarian cases," the Army said.

Israel swept into seven West Bank cities in June following suicide bombings in Jerusalem, imposing curfews in the urban centres and conducting frequent raids to arrest suspected militants.

The Army had begun to ease slightly the closures and curfews that kept 700,000 Palestinians largely confined to their homes. Militants continue to elude the troops to carry out shootings and bombings.

"People lucky enough not to face the ugly face of terror can have a much more relaxed opinion about it," said Israeli Foreign Minister Shimon Peres. "If you live through a day like today, in this country, you can understand our determination."

Following the new attacks, Israeli spokesman Raanan Gissin said Israel had suspended talks due this week with Palestinians on security and easing hardships.

At United Nations headquarters in New York, Secretary-General Kofi Annan called on the two sides to stop the cycle of attacks and retaliation, saying it fed "anger and hatred".

Palestinian militants resorted to "indiscriminate terror" while Israel's retaliation was "equally devastating in its effects on ordinary people".

Army tightens grip on West Bank cities

"Does it need saying, yet again, that these attacks on civilians are immoral and illegal, as well as politically counter-productive?"

At least 1481 Palestinians and 585 Israelis have been killed since the intifada erupted in September 2000.

United States President George W. Bush condemned the attacks, saying: "There are a few killers who want to stop the peace process that we have started. We must not let them."

Hamas said it sent the suicide bomber who killed nine people by detonating the bomb on the bus packed with soldiers, civilians on holiday and religious Jews on pilgrimage to the grave of a Jewish sage.

Three Israeli soldiers and two Filipinas were among the dead.

Within hours, a Palestinian gunman opened fire on Israelis in a Palestinian market area of East Jerusalem, killing one Israeli. A Palestinian bystander was killed in an ensuing shootout with police in which the gunman was shot dead.

The Al-Aqsa Martyrs Brigades claimed responsibility for the Jerusalem shooting.

The first person on the scene of the bus bombing was an Arab shopkeeper who pulled 15 victims from the wreck of the vehicle.

Nayef Isat, 48, owner of a supermarket nearby, was opening his shop when the bus blew up.

"I started pulling male and **female** soldiers out through the windows.

"My son brought a fire extinguisher to put out the flames.

"Some of the **female** soldiers were in such a state of shock that they were just hanging there, half in and half out of the window. I really had to convince them to let me pull them out."

Isat is of Bedouin origin and a veteran of Israeli military service.

Two Jewish shopkeepers also ran to the scene but one was overcome by the horror of mangled bodies and had to be taken to hospital, while the second could do nothing because of a weak heart.

The area in northern Israel is normally a quiet and harmonious haven, where Arab and Jew live together in peace.

Avraham Freed, 52, the shopkeeper with the weak heart, said: "This is the quietest place in the whole of Israel. The Arabs invite us to our weddings and we do the same."

Among the debris of the bus, travelling from the port city of Haifa to Safed during the morning rush hour, rescuers found a child's drawing of intertwined hearts.

Hanan Sofer, the head of the local Red Star of David ambulance service, was one of the first on the scene.

"I have been working in the field for 22 years, and I have never seen such an atrocious scene. The bus was burning, mainly at the back, and the roof had been blown off.

"Some of the wounded were strewn along the road and others were trapped within the burning bus and were screaming for help. Most of them were suffering from severe burns and there was a lot of blood flowing."

- AGENCIES

<http://www.nzherald.co.nz/storydisplay.cfm?reportID=56522> Feature: Middle East

<http://www.nzherald.co.nz/storydisplay.cfm?storyID=1844330&thesection=Story&thesubsection=&reportid=56522>

Related links

Army tightens grip on West Bank cities

Load-Date: December 17, 2002

End of Document

NEWS SUMMARY

The New York Times

July 24, 2002 Wednesday

Late Edition - Final

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Section: Section A; Column 3; Metropolitan Desk; Pg. 2

Length: 921 words

Body

INTERNATIONAL A3-8

U.S. Rebukes Israel Over Gaza Airstrike

The Bush administration condemned as "heavy-handed" the Israeli attack on an apartment building that killed the founder of the military wing of **Hamas**, Salah Shehada, but also 14 civilians. The attack, using a one-ton guided bomb launched by an American-made warplane, reportedly injured more than 140 people. A1

Tens of thousands of mourners took to the streets and cried for revenge. A6

Israeli Draft Exemption

Parliament passed a bill, 51 to 41, that exempts thousands of rigorously Orthodox yeshiva students from compulsory military service. A6

Move to Ease Cuba Restrictions

The House ignored a veto threat and voted to ease restrictions on traveling and sending money to Cuba. A4

Philippines Militants Indicted

The United States Justice Department announced the indictment of five fugitive leaders of the Islamic group Abu Sayyaf for a series of kidnappings that led to the death of an American missionary on June 7. A8

New Archbishop of Canterbury

Rowan Williams, 52, a Welsh churchman outspokenly in favor of gay clergy and **women** as clerics and opposed to Western militarism, will become the 104th archbishop of Canterbury, the spiritual leader of the world's 70 million Anglicans. A3

Award in Salvador Torture Case

A federal jury in Florida ordered two retired Salvadoran generals to pay \$54.6 million in damages to three civilians who were tortured by security forces during El Salvador's civil war more than 20 years ago. A8

Democracy in Trouble

NEWS SUMMARY

A United Nations report warned that gains made with the emergence of dozens of democracies in the last decade are at risk of being reversed. A8

World Briefing A8

NATIONAL A10-15

Mineta Faults Congress On Aviation Security Funds

Transportation Secretary Norman Y. Mineta said Congress had "dramatically undermined" the ability to meet aviation security deadlines by not providing enough money. A1

The House approved \$28.5 billion in emergency spending for military operations, domestic security and New York's recovery from Sept. 11. A15

Shift in Views on Ashcroft

Many religious conservatives say they are troubled by Attorney General John Ashcroft's actions in fighting terrorism. And some Bush advisers are expressing displeasure over Mr. Ashcroft's public profile. A1

Mr. Ashcroft disagreed with his own staff when he told Congress that the F.B.I. could not use gun background check records in investigating terror suspects, a G.A.O. report said. A14

Opposition to Security Bill

Many House Democrats are considering voting against the proposed Department of Homeland Security tomorrow, citing ideological differences with some Republican provisions. A15

Medicare Drug Benefit Falters

Competing Democratic and Republican proposals to help elderly people with the soaring cost of prescription drugs failed on the Senate floor. A1

Hearing on Judicial Nominee

Priscilla Owen, an appellate court nominee, told senators that she had been unfairly cast as a judicial activist by "special interest groups." A15

Philadelphia Girl Kidnapped

A 7-year-old girl abducted near her home on Monday night was found apparently unharmed, officials said. A10

A Vote on Marijuana Plots

San Francisco officials have approved a ballot measure that would explore growing marijuana on public property to get around D.E.A. closings of medical marijuana clubs. A10

NEW YORK/REGION B1-8

Town Investigates Report Of Little League Fixing

The mayor of Kearny, N.J., said he was opening an investigation into accusations that a Little League All-Star team had been asked to lose to another so that that team could advance in a tournament leading to the Little League World Series. B1

Shaking Up the Buildings Dept.

Mayor Bloomberg announced changes to the Department of Buildings, where 19 plumbing inspectors were recently charged with extorting payoffs from contractors. B1

SCIENCE/HEALTH

NEWS SUMMARY

A New Life Form in Central Park

A new species of centipede, perhaps the smallest, has been discovered in the North Woods and Ramble of Central Park, the American Museum of Natural History reported. A1

A New Surgeon General

The Senate unanimously confirmed Dr. Richard H. Carmona. A12

EDUCATION B7

Columbia Halts Dean Search

The university's new president suspended efforts to find a new dean to lead the Graduate School of Journalism, saying it needed to change its mission to put less emphasis on teaching journalism skills. B7

SPORTS D1-7

OBITUARIES A16-17

Chaim Potok

The scholar and rabbi whose best-selling novels illuminated the world of Hasidic Judaism was 73. A17

BUSINESS DAY C1-14

Stocks Press On, Downward

Concerns grew about telecommunications and energy trading companies. The Nasdaq lost nearly 5 percent and the Dow posted its lowest close, 7,702.34 points, since September 1998. Treasury Secretary Paul H. O'Neill met with Wall Street executives. A1

The S.E.C. chairman, Harvey L. Pitt, wants Congress to elevate his office to the rank of cabinet posts like secretary of state and attorney general, with a raise of \$28,500, to \$166,700. A1

Bankers Deny Impropriety

Citigroup and J. P. Morgan Chase officials told senators that they did not improperly help Enron disguise portions of the enormous debt that contributed to its collapse. C1

Business Digest C1

World Business W1

DINING F1-8

ARTS E1-10

EDITORIAL A18-19

Editorials: Misusing the military; the Torricelli bob-and-weave; tainted beef; California's message to George Pataki. Column: Maureen Dowd.

Crossword E8

TV Listings E9

Public Lives B2

Weather D8

NEWS SUMMARY

<http://www.nytimes.com>

Load-Date: July 24, 2002

End of Document

For hire: the boy human shields in Gaza's most desperate town: Palestinian children tout for risky work at border as Israel's tightening grip creates poverty and hunger

The Guardian (London)

August 6, 2002

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Section: Guardian Home Pages, Pg. 2

Length: 816 words

Byline: Jonathan Steele in Khan Yunis

Body

Every day Usama Khalid jumps into a car or taxi queuing at an Israeli checkpoint, travels 300 yards, and gets one shekel for the trip. The 11-year-old Palestinian is an officially sanctioned human shield.

For the Israeli troops who squint out of a watchtower above the road, the boy's presence is taken as proof that a suicide bomber is not at the wheel of the car passing beneath them. Cars with a lone occupant will be immediately fired upon, according to an Israeli warning.

So drivers give boys like Usama the equivalent of 14p for the short journey. A gang of boys presses round the waiting cars and although Usama often works 15 hours a day, he usually earns only about seven to 10 shekels.

"Older boys often push us away so that they can ride. Sometimes they bully us to hand over our takings," he said as we drove him to his miserable-looking home of concrete blocks, topped by corrugated iron, where he lives with his parents and six younger siblings in the sand-blown outskirts of Khan Yunis.

As Israel announced a complete ban on Palestinian travel in most of the West Bank and tanks sealed off part of the Gaza Strip, in retaliation for the Palestinian attacks that killed 13 people in 24 hours, no part of Gaza was as wretched as its southern tip.

When large numbers of Palestinians could still work in Israel, Khan Yunis had fewer people in work there as it was furthest from Israel's main cities. Now Israel has stopped most Palestinians coming in, distance still plagues the town.

Several Israeli checkpoints cut the main road north and there are frequent unexplained closures, leaving hospitals without guaranteed supplies of drugs, ambulances delayed, and women in labour sometimes in crisis. Israeli tanks yesterday blocked the crossings south into Egypt.

The closures mean that one in 10 children under the age of five suffers from acute malnutrition, putting Gaza on a par with Nigeria and Chad, according to an assessment funded by the US Agency for International Development published yesterday.

In 2000 only one in 40 children under five in the West Bank and Gaza was acutely malnourished, the survey, conducted by Johns Hopkins University in the US and al-Quds University in Jerusalem, found.

For hire: the boy human shields in Gaza's most desperate town: Palestinian children tout for risky work at border as Israel 's tightening grip creates poverty a....

The stretch of road where Usama touts himself as a human shield goes under a new bridge connecting Israel with the beachfront Jewish settlement of Qatif.

On one side of the road 10ft-high concrete slabs screen the new highway which Israelis alone can use. On the other side the bridge's approaches are protected by coils of razorwire and a slope of sand which is raked regularly to make suspicious nocturnal footprints easy to detect. The air conditioned cars of Israeli settlers swish over the bridge to their seaside outpost above the battered orange Mercedes taxis of impoverished Palestinians.

Donkey-carts are almost as common as private cars in this part of Gaza and most vehicles are taxis.

"Usama is our only breadwinner", says Mirvat Khalid, his mother. The bright-eyed child is as thin as a rake. "I had bread and tea for breakfast, and bread and a piece of tomato and cucumber in the evening," he says. The extra-white marks on his front teeth are a sign of vitamin deficiency.

"People are giving up meat and fruit," reports Dr Abdul Ati al-Muzayen, a senior obstetrician at the Nasser hospital in Khan Yunis. Just under half of the area's women of child-bearing age suffer from anaemia which is caused by deficiencies in diet, according to the USAID-funded survey. It notes shortages of fish, chickens, and dairy produce.

"This gives rise to an abnormally high incidence of premature births and lack of breast-milk," says Dr al-Muzayen. The survey found that due to border closures, half the wholesalers were short of powdered milk.

Nearby Israeli settlements have put the desert under giant hothouses at the expense of fresh water for Khan Yunis. "We have had no water for three days in parts of the city, and when it comes it's not fit for drinking," says Dr al-Muzayen.

Khan Yunis has four small UN-funded filtration plants where fresh water is available. But getting water from them is hard work. In a modern city of three- and four-storey buildings, teenage boys queue with plastic cans at the equivalent of village pumps to take water home.

"People have a feeling of hopelessness," says Dr Eyad Zarqut, who heads the crisis intervention team at Gaza's community mental health programme. "There is no escape."

* Israeli helicopters last night fired missiles at a suspected weapons factory in Gaza City, injuring four people, rescue officials said. Helicopters fired three missiles at a metal spare parts shop in the Zeitouni area, a hub for Hamas.

Earlier yesterday, one man, who appeared to be an Arab, died when a suspected car bomb exploded at a junction near the northern Israeli Arab town of Umm el Fahm.

Special report on the Middle East at guardian.co.uk/israel

Load-Date: August 8, 2002

CHERIE'S BOMB BLUNDER

The Scotsman

June 19, 2002, Wednesday

Copyright 2002 The Scotsman Publications Ltd.

Section: Pg. 1

Length: 846 words

Byline: Fraser Nelson Westminster Editor

Body

CHERIE Blair made the gravest blunder of her career yesterday when she sympathised with Palestinian suicide bombers - hours after 19 Israelis were killed in an attack on a bus load of students, the country's worst terrorist outrage in more than six years.

The Prime Minister's wife apologised last night for any offence, but failed to offer any condolences to the families of those killed in the suicide attack in Jerusalem.

The Conservatives said her comments demonstrated Mrs Blair should halt her forays into politics and restrict herself to her career as a QC.

Mrs Blair was launching an appeal yesterday for Medical Aid for Palestinians with Queen Rania of Jordan, who denounced the attack and the murder of two schoolchildren among other commuters.

Mrs Blair agreed, then added: "As long as young people feel they have got no hope but to blow themselves up, you are never going to make progress."

Her comments were at once denounced by the Conservatives and Jewish groups, who said Mrs Blair should have condemned the attack rather than use emollient language to describe the bombers.

David Garfinkel, the editor of London Jewish News, said Mrs Blair's comments had caused outrage. "It is startling that Mrs Blair, a barrister, could be so insensitive with the words she chose. Her comments have damaged what had been an excellent relationship between the Jewish community and the government."

The Israeli embassy in London said it regretted "any public statements which might be interpreted as expressing understanding for Palestinian terrorism ... on a day when innocent Israeli lives were taken".

After the attack, Israeli tanks returned again to the West Bank town of Jenin, a stronghold of Palestinian militants. At least six tanks were reported in the city, with more army vehicles approaching. The Israeli security cabinet met just before the incursion - and security sources said it had decided on "some military action soon".

The Prime Minister yesterday tried to defend his wife, saying she was not suggesting that Palestinians are being driven into acts of terrorism: "I hope that no-one mis-describes her sentiments, or mine or anyone else's. Everybody in this situation feels nothing but the deepest sympathy for the people who have lost their lives in the latest terrorist attack."

CHERIE'S BOMB BLUNDER

Later, a spokeswoman for Mrs Blair said: "If any offence has been taken from the interpretation of her comments then Mrs Blair is obviously sorry. None was intended and it goes without saying that she condemns the atrocity today in the strongest possible terms along with all right-minded people."

David Mencer, the director of Labour Friends of Israel, said that Mrs Blair's comments were "regrettable" but that he was satisfied with the Prime Minister's clarification.

The Conservatives last night said that Mrs Blair's gaffe was the latest of a series of intrusions into the political arena. Ann Widdecombe, the Tory backbencher said: "We've already got her chairing policy discussions at No.10 when she has no elected role. Now she's making comments in this very high profile way. How would we have felt if when we were trying to cope with the Northern Ireland crisis, the wife of a foreign politician had actually suggested that the IRA had no choice but to blow up innocent civilians?"

Other Tories said that Mrs Blair had plenty of time to postpone the charity appeal, as the bomb was detonated at 6am. Downing Street said that Medical Aid for Palestinians - a charity chaired by Lord Steel of Aikwood, the Presiding Officer of the Scottish Parliament, can in no way be described as a political organisation.

Mrs Blair is involved in work for charities on both sides of the divide, and has actively contributed to Jewish Care - run by Lord Levy, Mr Blair's key fundraiser.

In November, Mrs Blair referred to the government as "we" when discussing initiatives to assist the women of Afghanistan.

Yesterday's attack was the deadliest in Jerusalem since February 1996, when 26 people were killed in a bus explosion. The bus - which had stopped at a traffic light after pulling away from a stop - was lifted into the air by the blast.

Hamas, the extremist Islamic group, claimed responsibility for the attack - the 69th Palestinian suicide bombing in the 21 months of the Intifada.

It named the bomber as Mohammed al-Ghoul, 22, from the al-Faraa refugee camp near Nablus. His suicide note said this was his third attempt at such an attack.

Ariel Sharon, Israel's prime minister, inspected the body bags lined up after the attack - and hinted that this made Tony Blair's hopes for a "Palestinian state" even more remote.

"The terrible sights we have seen here are stronger than any words," he said. "It is interesting to know what kind of Palestinian state they mean. What Palestinian state?"

Tough Israeli retaliation is now expected - but this is unlikely to include expelling Yasser Arafat, the PLO chairman. The attack comes while the US government is carrying out a Middle East policy review, aiming to chart a two -state settlement to the Israeli-Palestinian conflict.

Load-Date: June 19, 2002

Palestinians need Hanan Ashrawi

Christian Science Monitor (Boston, MA)

June 7, 2002, Friday

Copyright 2002 The Christian Science Publishing Society

Section: OPINION; Pg. 11

Length: 937 words

Byline: John K. Cooley

Dateline: ATHENS

Body

Yasser Arafat has finally signed into law, after five years, what amounts to a constitution for his Palestinian Authority. It opens the road toward democratic reform and change.

What is urgently required now, as US and European peace seekers shuttle around the Israeli-Palestinian arena, and Mr. Arafat forms a new Cabinet, is a reform-minded prime minister - a new post.

Such a leader should energetically manage the administrative cleanup so urgently needed to open the way for peace talks with Israel, and then help guide those talks. This would render moot Israel's refusal to talk to Arafat. Arafat should accept the advice of mainly younger Palestinians and appoint the prominent woman politician and human rights advocate, Hanan Ashrawi, to head the new government. She could lead it to democratic principles, and a general sweeping up throughout Arafat's partially corrupt entourage.

Mrs. Ashrawi hails from a Christian family of Ramallah in the West Bank. As a graduate student at the American University of Beirut in the early 1970s, she performed valuable research for this reporter's 1973 book on Palestinians, cataloguing the professionals and achievers - from artists and scientists to academics and bankers - among the millions of Palestinians in the overseas diaspora.

As minister of higher education and research in the Palestinian Authority from 1996 to 1998, she was able to draw on this knowledge and her contacts with these brainy and successful Palestinians. Many of them have kept their distance from the Israeli-Palestinian violence and the turbulent politics of the Mideast.

As a young woman, Ashrawi had taken a different path. After earning her BA and MA degrees at the American University of Beirut and a PhD in medieval and comparative literature at the University of Virginia, Charlottesville, she dived back into the boiling caldron of the Arab-Israeli conflict. In 1973, she created and then chaired the English Department at Bir Zeit University on the West Bank.

Palestinians need Hanan Ashrawi

As a teacher and later as dean of Bir Zeit's faculty of arts, married and with two daughters of her own, Hanan Ashrawi found herself physically barring her classrooms to raiding Israeli soldiers who sometimes came to beat and arrest her nationalist-minded Arab students. Then she would calm Israeli officers with reasoned arguments.

This led to her founding Bir Zeit's legal aid committee and Human Rights Action Project. During the first Palestinian intifada in 1988, she served as a kind of public-relations contact with Israeli and foreign diplomats, academics, and journalists.

From 1991 to '93, she was the spokeswoman of the Palestinian delegation to the US-Israeli-Palestinian peace talks, and a key delegate in those talks. Although Arafat didn't take her into his confidence about the secret peace talks leading to the 1993 Oslo accords, Ashrawi afterward served the Palestinian Authority (PA) in senior capacities, including as a member of the Palestinian Legislative Council.

Ashrawi has consistently worked for Palestinian unity and against violence. She has doggedly swum against the current of mainstream Israeli and Palestinian opinion that there should be total separation of the two peoples. Once she put it to me this way: We are "foreordained or doomed, however you want to put it, to live together... Otherwise you have permanent apartheid, a la South Africa, and permanent conflict."

In the current crescendo of terrorist violence, she has acknowledged that Arafat has no power to halt suicide bombings by groups such as the radically Islamist Hamas, or even by the Al Aqsa Martyrs Brigades. Ashrawi recently noted that the PA communiques disavowing the suicide attacks show that a serious debate "is taking place publicly and behind doors." As a PA loyalist, despite her past reservations about PA persons and policies, she thinks the Al Aqsa Brigades will eventually halt their attacks - provided Prime Minister Ariel Sharon ends his policies of assassinating Palestinian leaders and enlarging Israeli settlements in occupied Arab territory.

Eyad Al Sarraj, a Palestinian intellectual, is advocating her for prime minister. Using the words of one of Ashrawi's female Palestinian supporters, he recently told the Greek newspaper Kathemerini: "She would have the authority to appoint whomever she sees fit in her cabinet. Her choice would be based on qualifications, not political, personal, or clan loyalties."

"The new cabinet," Dr. Al Sarraj continued, "has to organize the [Palestinian] security branches and bring them under the law, to collect weapons and help prepare parliamentary elections."

Equally important, as prime minister, Ashrawi could persuade highly educated and qualified Palestinians in the diaspora to come home and work with her. (Al Sarraj's sentiments have also been voiced by Israeli women who know Ashrawi and who support the Israeli peace movements.)

Ashrawi would not supplant Arafat, or his successor, as the titular head of the Palestinian nation. She might face tough opposition from senior or Muslim Palestinians annoyed or envying the respect she commands among Westerners and Israelis - or simply because she is a woman and a Christian.

But giving her a large share of responsibility for ending violence and moving to a peaceful, two-state system might prove the bold move that could help bring a longed-for peaceful closure.

Palestinians need Hanan Ashrawi

* John K. Cooley, a former Monitor correspondent in the Mideast, is the author of 'Green March, Black September: The Story of the Palestinian Arabs' and other books on the Middle East and North Africa.

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Load-Date: June 6, 2002

End of Document

'Atrocities' provide a new lesson in hate

The Evening Standard (London)

April 15, 2002

Copyright 2002 Associated Newspapers Ltd.

Section: Pg. 6

Length: 792 words

Byline: Sam Kiley

Body

THE BODIES of men, women and children were dumped by a bulldozer on the site of a levelled home, then scooped up again and sent by lorry to Israel.

Others were ground into the mud beneath the tracks of armoured vehicles.

Men of fighting age were led away in their thousands. Fighters who surrendered were put against a wall and shot. Pregnant women miscarried. The wounded were left to bleed. Water supplies were cut and babies fed on milk formula mixed with sewage or urine.

And all the while, Israel worked to keep the truth from the world, it is claimed.

The allegations of a massacre of Palestinians in Jenin have so concerned the United Nations that a senior official said that "the only assumption we can make, regrettably, is that someone has something abominable to hide".

By denying the UN, the Red Cross and the media free access to the maze of streets of the 50-year-old Jenin refugee camp, Israel has created in Jenin a new symbol of oppression for the Palestinians.

Detained Palestinians have been tortured and civilians buried alive when their homes were bulldozed, it is claimed. There is also powerful testimony - collected by Israeli human rights groups - of executions, and the use of Palestinians as human shields.

Teacher Ali Mustafa abu Serja, 42, lay in Jenin's Raji hospital. He'd been shot in both legs inside the camp in the first two days of the Israeli assault.

He said: "I was made to go in front of the Israeli soldiers to call out to people in their homes to separate, women on one side of a room, men on the other. But I was shot by another Israeli patrol. The two patrols argued about shooting me, then they left me to bleed in the street. Neighbours rescued me."

His wife, Munther, 36, was four months pregnant. She said she'd been beaten by troops, and miscarried amid the ruins of her home.

Serja is among only a handful of wounded to have escaped the camp.

"Where are the others? Have they all been left to die?" asked a senior UN source. "I've never heard of a battle on this scale with only dead casualties."

'Atrocities' provide a new lesson in hate

The real number of dead will probably never be known. But to the Palestinians, Jenin is already considered a worse atrocity than the massacre of 200 civilians by an Israeli terrorist group at Deir Yessin near Jerusalem in 1948.

It is an incident every Palestinian child learns about as a symbol of the brutality of Israel's Zionism, now represented by Rightwing extremists who have seats in Ariel Sharon's cabinet, who want to "cleanse" the land of Israel of Arabs.

But what happened in Jenin was done with American M16 rifles, Apache and Cobra helicopter gunships, and US funding of \$ 3 billion a year. British equipment - armoured personnel carriers built on British Challenger tank chassis - supplied to Israel in the Sixties was also used.

The USA - already reviled by much of the Arab world over its support for Israel - and the West in general, now risks being added to a list of targets for Palestinian terrorist groups who see no difference between the Jewish State and its sponsors.

Hamas and Islamic Jihad have held back from outright threats but their officials boast a waiting list for suicide bombers.

While Colin Powell was meeting Yasser Arafat in his besieged Ramallah offices yesterday the Israeli army gave diplomats assurances that house demolitions had stopped.

They had not.

Rahieda Ahmed, a grandmother of 65, crept back to her home on the edge of the camp and wept in terror as a bulldozer razed her neighbour's house.

Having finished with the building, it gouged up the citrus garden. Her own home had been used as an Israeli sniper's nest after its top floor was hit by an Apache helicopter rocket.

She wept and cowered from another sniper on nearby buildings.

"Will the machine come here. Will it destroy my empty home? Are we lost?"

she asked. Deeper inside the camp, a Palestinian official said a third of buildings had been levelled, and a third were uninhabitable after almost two weeks of fighting which stopped at the weekend.

The centre of the camp is now rubble and much of the rest looks as if it was hit by an earthquake.

Its residents are unable to leave.

A senior Western intelligence officer in Israel said: "We are all worried about the consequences for the rest of the world. If the Palestinian extremists begin to feel they've been abandoned by the West, then the West will pay a price and we could see a return to the Palestinian terror of the 1970s."

For 54 years the massacre of Deir Yessin has sustained Palestinian fear and loathing. The battle for Jenin will probably sustain it for another half century.

While there is no prospect of an end to the madness of Sharon's clash with Arafat, it is worth noting that the site of Deir Yessin is now a lunatic asylum.

Graphic

UNDER SIEGE: SMOKE BILLOWS AROUND THE CHURCH OF THE NATIVITY IN BETHLEHEM TODAY

'Atrocities' provide a new lesson in hate

Load-Date: April 16, 2002

End of Document

Arafat links election to Israeli exit

Deseret News (Salt Lake City)

May 17, 2002, Friday

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Section: WIRE;

Length: 915 words

Byline: By Mohammed Daraghmeh Associated Press writer

Body

NABLUS, West Bank -- Israel soldiers hunting militants raided the battle-scarred Jenin refugee camp Friday, while Yasser Arafat's aides said preparations have begun for holding presidential and parliamentary elections within six months.

However, the Palestinians linked the voting to a withdrawal of Israeli troops to positions they held before the outbreak of the current round of fighting in September 2000.

Such a withdrawal would require the Israelis to remove dozens of checkpoints and pull back forces perched outside of major Palestinian cities. Israeli soldiers currently enter Palestinian cities at will to arrest suspects. Most Palestinians are confined to their cities or towns, and the military checkpoints make travel between areas almost impossible.

Raanan Gissin, an adviser to Israeli Prime Minister Ariel Sharon, said Arafat was looking for an excuse for not holding elections. "He knows very well that as long as he doesn't take any action against terrorism, Israeli forces will have to remain there," Gissin said.

In the West Bank, meanwhile, an Israeli Arab woman was killed when assailants opened fire on her taxi, which had Israeli license plates, media reports said.

In the Gaza Strip, an armed Palestinian was killed in an exchange of fire with Israeli soldiers Friday while he tried to enter the Jewish settlement of Dugit, the Israeli military said. The Al Aqsa Martyrs' Brigade, a militia linked to Arafat's Fatah movement, claimed responsibility for the attempted infiltration.

In Jenin, exchanges of fire erupted after Israeli forces reached the city and adjacent refugee camp around 3:30 a.m., witnesses said. But the army said its forces did not come under heavy fire and intended to withdraw as soon as it arrested the suspects it wanted.

In the refugee camp, soldiers surrounded the home of Jamal Abu Alhija, local leader of the militant Islamic group **Hamas**. Soldiers ordered the family to come out, but Alhija was not among them, said Alhija's 14-year-old son, Asam.

The family said it did not know where Alhija was, and the soldiers then set the empty house on fire, burning every room, Asam said.

Arafat links election to Israeli exit

In the city of Jenin, soldiers surrounded a building and were looking for at least one person they believed to be inside.

Several Israeli tanks also entered the West Bank city of Nablus, but troops made no arrests, and left after several hours, Palestinian witnesses said.

Last week, Israel completed a six-week military offensive aimed at militants in the West Bank, withdrawing from occupied areas. Israeli troops, however, remain perched outside major Palestinian cities. The operation was launched March 29 following a series of Palestinian suicide bombings in Israel.

Israeli forces have continued to make brief incursions into the West Bank to arrest or kill suspected militants.

Last month, the Jenin refugee camp was the scene of the heaviest fighting of the Israeli offensive. Israel lost 23 soldiers and more than 50 Palestinians were killed in the April 3-11 battle.

In Ramallah, aides to Arafat said Friday that preparations have begun for holding general elections within six months -- on condition that Israeli troops first withdraw to positions they held before the outbreak of fighting 20 months ago.

Palestinian Planning Minister Nabil Shaath said that work on putting together rosters of 1.6 million eligible voters had already begun.

"But these elections need an Israeli withdrawal to the places (troops held) before September 28, 2000," Shaath said.

Shaath said the Palestinians also insisted that residents of traditionally Arab east Jerusalem be permitted to vote, as they were in the last Palestinian election in 1996.

The Palestinian Bureau of Statistics said it would take about 60 days to compile the list of voters. The bureau said it expects international monitors will be needed to ensure fair elections.

The Palestinians' Central Elections Committee will convene over the weekend to start preparations, officials said.

Arafat told reporters Friday that elections would only be held once Israeli occupation had ended, but his advisers later clarified that the voting is being linked to a far more modest withdrawal.

Arafat is under growing pressure from the United States, the European Union and his own people to reform the corruption-ridden Palestinian Authority and to hold elections.

Arafat's popularity has been sagging as a result of the Israeli-Palestinian fighting that caused great hardships to the residents of the West Bank and Gaza Strip. Israel's military offensive strengthened a sense among many Palestinians that their government is unable to protect them.

On Thursday, the Palestinian parliament called for elections by the beginning of 2003 and demanded that Arafat disband his Cabinet and present a new one within 45 days.

Arafat's decision to hold elections appeared aimed at deflecting reform demands.

Yet despite the widespread dissatisfaction, Arafat continues to be seen as a symbol of the Palestinian people and is not expected to face a strong challenge for leadership.

The Palestinians' first general elections were held in 1996 -- as part of interim peace agreements with Israel.

At the time, Arafat took 87 percent of the vote against Samiha Khalil, a female social worker in her 70s. Members of his Fatah faction won 50 of the 88 seats in the legislature.

Arafat links election to Israeli exit

Previous attempts to reform Arafat's administration have led to few significant changes, with Arafat ignoring laws passed by parliament as well as decisions by the judiciary.

Load-Date: May 17, 2002

End of Document

It was a school run on a sunny day, but a tank shell found them in the wrong place at the wrong time

Guardian Weekly

March 13, 2002

Copyright 2002 Guardian Publication, Ltd.

Section: Pg. 1

Length: 744 words

Byline: Suzanne Goldenberg in Ramallah

Highlight: Israel talks of war as cycle of violence takes a savage turn for the worse

Body

The Pokemon CD was intact, and that was nearly all that remained of Bushra Abu Kweik and her three children after an Israeli tank shell ripped through the roof of their truck during the Monday afternoon school run.

Two other children in a passing Subaru were also killed by the Israeli shell, the deadliest single episode in a day in which 16 Palestinians were killed as Israeli adopted a campaign of "continuous military pressure" against West Bank and Gaza militants.

The Palestinian response came early on Tuesday morning as a gunman opened fire with an M-16 rifle in an all-night Tel Aviv restaurant, killing three people and wounding 16 before he was shot dead, police said.

Earlier that night Israeli warplanes and helicopters struck in Gaza and in two places in the West Bank. Israeli officials said helicopters fired missiles inside the compound of the Palestinian leader, Yasser Arafat, in the West Bank town of Ramallah. Witnesses said the missiles struck a building a few dozen metres from his office. He was uninjured.

Israel's prime minister, Ariel Sharon, told reporters on Monday that Palestinian militants "must be dealt a heavy blow from every direction. Anyone wishing to conduct negotiations with them must first hit them hard, so that it is clear to them that they will achieve nothing through terror," he said. "If it is not made clear to them that they are overpowered, we will be unable to return to negotiations."

But as Israel emerged from one of its bloodiest weekends of the 17-month uprising, during which 21 Israelis were killed, including seven soldiers in a sniper attack on a West Bank check-point, there was increasing talk of war. The horror of the attack by a suicide bomber on a crowd of mothers and children in an ultra-orthodox neighbourhood of Jerusalem has had a huge psychological impact. "We are in a war for our home and we will win," Mr Sharon told MPs.

The shell that arced through a glorious blue sky towards Ramallah's Abu Shusha street was fired from the illegal Jewish settlement of Psagot. The rows of red-topped houses are clearly visible from this opposing hilltop, 2.5km away, and it seemed all but impossible that the Israeli troops would have failed to spot the fluttering white headscarf of Ms Abu Kweik, or those of her daughters, as she eased her Mitsubishi truck down the hill.

It was a school run on a sunny day, but a tank shell found them in the wrong place at the wrong time

"I heard a loud noise and ran out and saw pieces of human flesh. A man was holding three children in his arms. They were all covered in blood," said Najwa Itaiwi, who lives a few metres from the scene of the attack. "He was screaming, 'Look at my children. Where are the other two?'"

There was nothing recognisably human left in the other vehicle, in which Ms Abu Kweik was driving her daughters, Aziza, 13, Bara, 12, and son, Mohammed, 10, home from school. Children's textbooks, wrapped in covers showing cartoon characters, were stacked on the bonnet of the wreck. In the last page of one notebook a child's hand had scrawled over and over: "I love you very much".

The Israeli army said that it killed the four members of the Abu Kweik family and the two children in the Subaru -- boys aged four and 15 -- by mistake. Although Ms Abu Kweik's husband, Hussein, is a prominent **Hamas** figure in Ramallah, where he runs a local charity, the army said he was not a target. It claimed that it had been aiming at a vehicle carrying armed Palestinian policemen.

However, Mr Abu Kweik said: "It was premeditated murder" as he arrived at a memorial meeting in a municipal hall. "Sharon has run out of other options, so he went after **women** and children," he said. Inside the crowded hall, passions were running equally high. Eighteen months into a savage cycle of attack and retaliation, people here were convinced that the army meant to kill Mr Abu Kweik's children as revenge for the death of five Jewish children in last weekend's Jerusalem suicide attack, claimed by the al-Aqsa Martyrs Brigade, a military offshoot of Fatah.

* An Egyptian offer to host an Israeli-Palestinian summit was warmly received by the US secretary of state, Colin Powell, during a visit by President Hosni Mubarak to Washington. It follows a proposal by Crown Prince Abdullah of Saudi Arabia to normalise relations between the Jewish state and the Arab world in exchange for a full withdrawal from the territories Israel has occupied since the 1967 war: Gaza, the West Bank and Arab east Jerusalem, as well as the Golan Heights, captured from Syria.

Graphic

Photo, A Palestinian man gathers remains from the wreckage of the car hit by a tank shell in Ramallah. The shell killed a mother and five children, Nasser Nasser/AP

Load-Date: March 18, 2002

Israel, U.S. not fighting the same war

University Wire

April 26, 2002, Friday

Copyright 2002 The Stanford Daily via U-Wire

Section: COLUMN

Length: 884 words

Byline: By Kareem Ghanem, The Stanford Daily

Dateline: Stanford, Calif.

Body

Since the Sept. 11 attacks, we Americans take the threat of international terrorism very seriously. Our resulting mentality leaves us susceptible to emotional appeals whenever the issue of terrorism is a factor. In equating the moral legitimacy of the United States' campaign against terrorism with Israel's campaign against the Palestinian people, the Israeli government and its advocates hope to exploit precisely this vulnerability. The simple fact, however, is that there is no moral parallel between our battle against al Qaeda and what the deceptively titled Israel Defense Forces are currently doing in the Palestinian territories.

The story from the Israeli government is this: Former Israeli Prime Minister Ehud Barak offered Palestinian Authority President Yasser Arafat a tremendously generous deal at the Camp David summit hosted by then-President Bill Clinton. Rather than reach for the olive branch of peace, however, Arafat selfishly and senselessly rejected the offer and turned to terror to achieve his aims. The current Israeli offensive, it stands to reason, is simply a defensive measure to root out the terrorist infrastructure of the Palestinian terror apparatus. It is time to confront a complete appraisal of the current situation.

Stanford U.

To begin with, it is foolish to condemn Arafat for rejecting Barak's offer. In truth, the Israeli proposal would have included no guarantee of contiguous borders for the Palestinian state (Palestine would have existed as pockets of territory surrounded by greater Israel), no Israeli withdrawal from the Jewish settlements within the Palestinian territories and little control by the Palestinian government over water resources. Additionally, it would have placed crippling restrictions on the new state's ability to raise a defensive army.

In short, Barak's proposal amounted to an economically, politically and militarily dependent ghost of a self-governing entity. Would Israel ever agree to be bound by these same restrictions? They'd have to be crazy to abide by that agreement. And so would the Palestinians.

This all reveals that the Israeli government has rarely seen the Palestinian people as equals to be dealt with fairly. Today, Ariel Sharon, who could easily be convicted as a war criminal, leads Israel. After an Israeli commission found him responsible for the infamous massacres at the Sabra and Shatila refugee camps in Lebanon in the early '80s, he resigned in shame from his post as Defense Minister. No one thought he would ever rise to a politically prominent position until the Israeli people elected him prime minister by a landslide in early 2001. Today, he is an accomplice to a murderous strategy that has claimed thousands.

Israel , U.S. not fighting the same war

Documentation of Israeli military abuses against civilians may be hard to come by in the American press, but it's there if you look. One need not consult Arab news sources per se -- Israeli papers such as Ha'aretz have openly challenged Sharon's barbarism. In its April 17 editorial, Ha'aretz writes, "The public is ripe for the emergence of a leader courageous enough to correct the tragic mistake, made by every Israeli government since 1967, to build settlements... Prime Minister Ariel Sharon is not the person to take on this historic role."

Apart from the massive physical blows the Israelis have dealt the Palestinians, there is an important component of sheer personal humiliation in the way the Palestinians have been treated. From entire apartment buildings that have been razed because they might have housed a terrorist meeting place to Muslim women who have had their hijabs (head scarves) torn off in public places, the Palestinians have been thoroughly abused by their occupiers. This was made especially clear in the news reports from Arafat's half-demolished headquarters where the leader, surrounded by Israeli tanks outside, huddled with aides around a lit candle while trying to reach world leaders by cell phone.

Charles Krauthammer and now Richard Cohen (both Washington Post columnists) speak for more than a few hard-liners when they advocate physical Israeli disengagement by building a wall to hold the Palestinians in Gaza and the West Bank. Apparently someone's been taking their cues from the Pat Buchanan school of foreign diplomacy: Turn the Palestinian territories into a giant concentration camp.

Both these pundits and the Israeli government, however, are deluding themselves if they think that continued aggression will end the suicide bombings. Targeted civilian attacks are reprehensible whether they are committed by groups like Hamas and Islamic Jihad or by a state government such as that of Ariel Sharon. In the wake of the devastating siege of Jenin, the United States must stand with the rest of the world in strict condemnation of the Israeli government's actions.

Only when Israel begins viewing the Palestinians as a people with legitimate grievances deserving of dignity and empathy, will the first steps have been taken toward a lasting peace that respects the aspirations of both the Palestinian and Israeli peoples. The United States must lead the way by taking action and showing Sharon that there are real consequences if his government continues down this maniacal and destructive path.

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Load-Date: April 26, 2002

Outsider's tragic carpet ride

The Weekend Australian

March 30, 2002, Saturday

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Section: REVIEW-TYPE- FEATUREREVIEW-COLUMN- BOOKS EXTRA; Pg. B11

Length: 875 words

Byline: Peter Rodgers

Body

The Carpet Wars

By Christopher Kremmer, HarperCollins, 480pp, \$35

AS with the finest carpets, this book has many strands. It has demanded time and perseverance to weave the story of an outsider's journey through a world that mostly seems to offer images of ancient glory and modern horror. Through it we enter the world of Islam and its practitioners in West Asia: in Afghanistan, Iran, Iraq and other places about which we seem to swing wildly between amnesia and paranoia.

No magic carpet travel here, though, only decrepit Soviet choppers, creaking trains, gas-guzzling Chevies and our redoubtable if occasionally white-knuckled adventurer. Still, there is magic in the carpet as Kremmer explores its pervasive role as a barometer of human triumph and tribulation -- as a currency, a treasured artefact and the region's largest industry outside oil. There is magic in the people, too, as Kremmer sketches for us with sometimes pungent and often sympathetic strokes a range of characters -- wily rug sellers, brutal warlords, women dealing with the realities of Taliban rule and many others.

MATP

The prose is anything but spare, occasionally overblown, often amusing and incisive. Meeting the revered anti-Taliban leader Ahmad Shah Massoud, assassinated two days before the September 11 sea change in world affairs, Kremmer deftly translates Massoud's official position -- regrouping and waiting for cracks to appear in the Taliban's unity -- as "otherwise known as hiding in the hills".

Western countries, he notes wryly, have exhibited "an insatiable appetite for Oriental rugs" but have been "less interested in Oriental refugees". Long before September 11, "terror had been the lot of the people of Islamic West Asia", their lives stunted by war, dictatorship and economic hardship. Even so, Kremmer records the black joke among beleaguered UN staff "that in order to prove a well-founded fear of persecution, an Afghan needed to be dead already".

The book lays before us both Oriental failings and Western hypocrisy, or at least short-sightedness. Despite Kremmer's obvious disgust with much Taliban behaviour, these "barely educated, war-wounded mullahs from Pashtun villages" were a not entirely surprising product of Afghanistan's brutal and brutalising past. "They don't floss and they don't use non-sexist language," Kremmer quotes one US aid worker, "but this is not the evil empire." Still, those trying to help the Taliban faced peculiar difficulties. An anti-malarial pamphlet with a drawing of a

Outsider's tragic carpet ride

mosquito biting a human arm offended the law against images of life forms. After much discussion the pamphlet was reissued showing the offending mozzie impaled on a Bowie knife.

In the 1980s a willowy Arab, Osama bin Laden, took the fight to the Soviet forces occupying Afghanistan. Near the eastern city of Khost he helped build a fortified complex of tunnels, armouries, training facilities and hospitals, "funded by the CIA". (Somehow I can't help recalling here Israeli intelligence service support for Hamas in the late '80s, aimed at blunting the appeal of Yasser Arafat's PLO.) Later US food aid to drought-stricken Afghans proved useless -- flour made from the hard red wheat wouldn't stick to the inside of the tandoor ovens used to make the all-important naan. The world had provided "a problem, not a solution to their simplest of needs". (Again I'm reminded of other follies, this time a West German shipment of electric blankets to Bangladeshi typhoon victims, most of whom were without electricity at the best of times.)

Kremmer writes of his "first pleasing brush with Islam" in the Egyptian city of Alexandria. Those "positive impressions of calm and simplicity, of religion without bells, have remained with me". Throughout his journeys we meet wonderful people who are Muslims and rogues who are Muslims. His appealing pen-portrait of Iran, the world's largest supplier of Oriental carpets, is that of a proud, energetic country trapped in a debilitating struggle between the two. There, "Islamic agitprop billboards jostle with ads for Paco Rabanne".

The message, more implicit perhaps than explicit, is that Islam is not a barrier to the modern world but some of its adherents are. The same might be said about other faiths. The message too is that Islam has no mortgage on intolerance and extremism, and that these light up lacklustre lives everywhere. I wish he had drawn out this theme more.

By the end of Kremmer's journeys in *The Carpet Wars* we've explored in idiosyncratic and, at times, absorbing detail the history, politics and human face of a complex and often maligned region and its people. I felt the experience strangely incomplete. It's as though I'd examined a carpet close up and been beguiled by its colour and its composition, even if I found the odd patch coarse and a trifle irritating. Then I stepped back and, somewhat to my surprise, I found it hard to identify the central motif that held it all together, that gave it final shape and authority.

Maybe it was just not there or maybe, as with some good carpets, so much else was competing for my attention that I'd missed the obvious. But, at the end, the book remained an Oriental carpet, one that will impress different people in different ways.

Load-Date: March 29, 2002

**A NATION CHALLENGED: AMERICAN MUSLIMS; Raids, Detentions and
Lists Lead Muslims to Cry Persecution**

The New York Times
March 27, 2002 Wednesday
Late Edition - Final

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Section: Section A; Column 2; National Desk; Pg. 11

Length: 843 words

Byline: By JOSEPH KAHN

Dateline: WASHINGTON, March 26

Body

As the Bush administration investigates what it says may be domestic ties to Al Qaeda and other terrorist groups, some Muslim leaders say the government is persecuting them as it once did suspected supporters of Japan or the Soviet Union more than 50 years ago.

An ad hoc group of Muslim civic and religious groups have accused the administration of racial and religious harassment, citing the Justice Department's request that 3,000 Muslims living in the United States submit to voluntary interviews, as well as a series of federal raids last week on homes, businesses and charities in Northern Virginia.

Several hundred Muslims held an open meeting on Monday night in Sterling, Va., near Washington, to listen to complaints of people whose homes or businesses were among those raided. Many said they intended to press for Congressional hearings into police tactics and to organize rallies to call attention to abuses against Muslims since Sept. 11.

Though officials have made no announcement about the raids, a copy of a sealed search warrant states that the government is seeking wide-ranging information about financial links between people in businesses in the Virginia area and numerous terrorist groups, including Al Qaeda and Hamas. There were no arrests.

"As Muslims we condemned the terrorist acts of Sept. 11," said Akmal M. Muhammad, an imam who spoke at the meeting. "But we must also insist that the Bush administration stop practicing terrorism in reverse against us."

Though the number of Muslims in the United States has been estimated by some to be as high as six million, Muslims tend to be more loosely organized than adherents of some other major religions and do not often speak with a unified national voice. But groups like the Council on American-Islamic Relations and the Muslim Public Affairs Council say they are trying to change that to protest what they describe as a pattern of discrimination against Muslims since the terrorist attacks.

They have objected not only to the raids but to secretive detentions of Muslims around the country. They also criticized a Justice Department request last week that some 3,000 young men who came to the United States recently from predominantly Muslim countries agree to talk with law enforcement authorities.

A NATION CHALLENGED: AMERICAN MUSLIMS Raids, Detentions and Lists Lead Muslims to Cry Persecution

The efforts to single out foreigners is reminiscent of the way the government treated Japanese-Americans during World War II, when they were put in internment camps because of fears they might sabotage American facilities or spy for Tokyo, said Mara Verheyden-Hilliard of the Partnership for Civil Justice, a liberal legal group that has joined a coalition of groups protesting treatment of Muslims. The government apologized decades later for the way it had treated Japanese-Americans.

"It's not O.K. to deny people their civil rights and then later apologize and let them go," Ms. Verheyden-Hilliard said.

An overflow crowd of Muslim-Americans gathered at the public library in Sterling, a prosperous suburb in the high-tech corridor of Northern Virginia, to discuss the raids. Some women wore hijabs and a few men had the skullcaps and black robes of Muslim religious leaders. Others looked like high school students in their T-shirts and jeans. Many said they had been born in the area or had lived there for years, but felt alienated and uncertain of their rights after people they know and respect came under suspicion.

Speakers repeatedly condemned the tactics of Customs Service agents who conducted the raids, saying that agents forced their way into homes and businesses, sometimes with guns drawn, and rifled belongings. They said people were handcuffed during the searches.

Laura Jaghlit, an English teacher whose husband works at an Islamic study center that was a target of the investigation, said she returned to her home in Sterling on Wednesday to find agents interrogating her husband and parts of her house "in complete disarray."

"I can't tell you how sad I am for my country and my people," Ms. Jaghlit said. "As a proud American, I find it hard to take that such violations are being committed."

A customs spokesman said today that the accusations were unfounded.

"The raids were not conducted based on religion or ethnicity," said Dean Boyd, the spokesman. "They were based on evidence presented to a federal magistrate who found that there was probable cause to believe that criminal activity had occurred."

While most people cooperated with the searches, agents met resistance in two cases, Mr. Boyd said. Officers used handcuffs to prevent one person from fleeing and another from destroying evidence -- both in accordance with legal procedures, he said.

Louay M. Safi, director of research at the International Institute of Islamic Thought in Herndon, Va., which was searched, did not complain about tactics. But he said his study center had no ties to terrorists and that he believed it was a target only because it supports Islam.

"This has undermined the effect of Bush saying that Muslims are peaceful," Mr. Safi said. "This is really a campaign against Islam."

<http://www.nytimes.com>

Graphic

Photo: At an open meeting on Monday at the public library in Sterling, Va., hundreds of Muslims discussed the federal raids on their homes and businesses. (Carol T. Powers for The New York Times)

A NATION CHALLENGED: AMERICAN MUSLIMS Raids, Detentions and Lists Lead Muslims to Cry
Persecution

Load-Date: March 27, 2002

End of Document

A wasteland stinking of corpses and cordite that was Jenin's refugee camp

Guardian Weekly

April 24, 2002

Copyright 2002 Guardian Publication, Ltd.

Section: Pg. 1

Length: 816 words

Byline: Suzanne Goldenberg in Jenin

Highlight: Palestinians count the cost of Israel's ongoing military offensive against West Bank communities

Body

A month ago, before Israeli forces invaded, this was a crowded, bustling place. The narrow alleys between the cinderblock homes -- spanning barely the width of outstretched arms -- were packed with children.

On Monday the Hart al-Hawashin neighbourhood, the heart of the Jenin refugee camp, was a silent wasteland, permeated with the stench of rotting corpses and cordite. The evidence of lives interrupted was everywhere. Plates of food sat in refrigerators in houses sheared in half by Israeli bull-dozers. Pages from children's exercise books fluttered in the breeze.

In one ruined house the charred corpse of a gunman wearing the green bandana of **Hamas** lay where it fell, beside his ammunition belt. Electric cables snaked through the ruins.

Alleys leading off the square deepened the image of wanton destruction: entire sides of buildings gouged out, stripped out to the kitchen tiles like discarded dolls' houses. The scale is almost beyond imagination: a vast expanse of rubble and mangled iron rods, surrounded by the gaping carcasses of shattered homes.

This week the first definitive accounts of the battle of Jenin began to emerge as journalists broke through the Israeli cordon and gained access to the heart of the refugee camp. Palestinians describe a systematic campaign of destruction, with the Israeli army ploughing through occupied homes to broaden the alleys of the camp and make them accessible to tanks and vehicles.

But they also say the demolition campaign increased dramatically in the last two days of the battle for Jenin, with Israeli bulldozers exacting harsh retribution for the killing of 13 Israeli soldiers on Tuesday last week. "When the soldiers were killed, the Israelis became more aggressive," said Ali Damaj, who lives on the eastern edge of the camp. "In one night I counted 71 missiles from a helicopter."

For the Palestinians, the battle for the Jenin refugee camp has become a legend. Before the last of the militants surrendered last Wednesday, the camp saw the bloodiest fighting of Israel's offensive on West Bank towns. The brutal combat claimed the lives of 23 Israeli soldiers, and an unknown number of Palestinians.

Palestinians accuse Israel of a massacre, and there are convincing accounts from local people of the occasional summary execution. However, there are no reliable figures for Palestinian dead and injured. The Red Cross carried away seven bodies on Monday, but the smell of rotting corpses remained.

A wasteland stinking of corpses and cordite that was Jenin's refugee camp

"The soldiers had a map with them of the houses they wanted bulldozed, and outlined them with a blue marker," said Aisha Salah, whose house overlooks the destruction.

Ms Salah's home was occupied by Israeli soldiers who entered her living room by punching a hole through the neighbour's wall. Before they withdrew, one of the soldiers wrote a message on the wall in neat blue ink: "I don't have another land."

One Israeli soldier bedded down in Ms Salah's house was shot in the face by a Palestinian sniper as he stood at the window. Two days later, 13 Israeli soldiers were lured to their deaths in a nearby alley by a series of booby trap explosives, and then picked off by Palestinian gunmen.

"When there was resistance, especially after the 13 soldiers were killed, I could see a lot more squares on the map," said Ms Salah.

The systematic bulldozing of homes began four days after Israeli forces blasted their way into the camp on the night of April 3, strafing houses from helicopter gunships, and pounding them with tank shells.

Four days later, the army razed six houses in the Damaj neighbourhood on its eastern edges. They began with the house of Fatima Abu Tak, flattening homes on both sides of the street.

A few hours later, soldiers entered the camp on foot, shooting their way between the cinderblock homes in groups of 15 or 20.

Israeli soldiers injured in Jenin say this was the most nerve-racking part of the battle. "They booby-trapped every centimetre. In one metre you would find 20 small booby traps or a big balloon attached with a wire. Every metre was very dangerous," said Dori Scheuer, who was shot in the stomach by a Palestinian gunman.

Palestinians admit the camp was liberally mined two or three days before the assault. But the strategy failed because Israel had no compunction about razing homes to make roads for its tanks.

After the 13 soldiers were killed, Israel appears to have abandoned foot patrols. Instead, the army knocked houses down indiscriminately, creating a vast plaza of rubble in the centre of the camp, a crossroads for the tanks.

"They just started demolishing with people inside," said Hania al-Kabia, a mother of six whose flat is on the edge of the lunar landscape. "I used to hear them on the loudspeaker saying 'Come out, come out'. Then they stopped doing that, but they went on bulldozing."

View from US and Europe, page 6

Comment, page 12

Washington Post, pages 27, 28

Graphic

Photo, Palestinian women brave a curfew to salvage belongings from their bulldozed homes in Jenin, Jerome Delay/AP

Load-Date: April 30, 2002

A wasteland stinking of corpses and cordite that was Jenin's refugee camp

End of Document

Carnage of Black Friday

Sunday Herald Sun (Melbourne, Australia)

March 10, 2002, Sunday

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Section: SUNDAY WORLD; Pg. 38

Length: 886 words

Byline: CALIN NEACSU

Body

JERUSALEM: The Israeli-Palestinian conflict plunged to one of its darkest depths on Friday night and early yesterday, with at least 64 people killed, most of them Palestinians.

The slaughter forced an about-face by hardline Israeli Prime Minister Ariel Sharon as he conceded for the first time that ceasefire talks would have to take place "under fire".

On the eve of new missions to the region by a US Vice-President Dick Cheney and peace envoy General Anthony Zinni, Israeli tanks and helicopters clashed with Palestinian gunmen in scenes of carnage.

The unprecedented outburst of violence followed an attack by the Islamic militant group **Hamas** on the Gaza Strip Jewish settlement of Atzmona, when a gunman killed five Israelis before he was shot dead.

AFP

Israeli armoured cars, tanks and bulldozers then stormed the villages of Khuzaa and Abassan, near the city of Khan Yunis in the southern Gaza Strip.

Those operations left 16 Palestinians dead and about 10 captured before the Israeli forces pulled out shortly after dawn.

Among the dead from one incursion was the Palestinian public security chief for the southern Gaza Strip, General Ahmad Mufrij, 62. He was the most senior Palestinian security official to be killed since the beginning of the intifada in September 2000.

Dozens of encircled Palestinian gunmen surrendered on Friday night following the Israeli Army's deadly sweep in Tulkarem, military sources said. But Palestinian witnesses said the number was only about 10 because others had escaped by dressing as **women**.

The head of Palestinian public security for the Gaza Strip, General Abdel Razaq al-Majaida, said Israel's attacks on the Gaza Strip were also an "assassination attempt" against him.

North of Gaza City, four Palestinians, including two policeman and an ambulance worker, were killed when Israeli gunboats and helicopters fired missiles at a police post. Medical workers said their colleague was killed by an Israeli missile while trying to reach the wounded.

Carnage of Black Friday

Palestinian Health Minister Ryad Zanut accused the Israeli Army of firing on a Palestinian ambulance during an incursion.

Israel's West Bank commander, Yitzhak Gershon, accused the Palestinians of using ambulances to carry "armed terrorists" in and out of refugee camps.

The bloodshed was also continuing in the northern West Bank, as Israeli forces pulled out of the refugee camp of Nur el-Shams, but continued to occupy Tulkarem city and refugee camp.

Resistance was fierce in the camp, with seven Palestinians being killed in clashes, security sources said.

A boy, 10, was shot dead in the autonomous city, while two Palestinians were shot dead by troops in the villages of Al-Yammun and Salem in the northern West Bank.

Yesterday, 14 Palestinians were killed in the West Bank, including a UN employee in Tulkarem, the first staff member of the body to be killed since the intifada erupted.

Meanwhile, five Palestinians were killed and dozens injured in clashes near the West Bank town of Bethlehem.

CONTINUED page 39

In its hunt for militants, the Army repeated the method used for the first time in Balata refugee camp a week ago, moving from house to house by breaking down partition walls to avoid being exposed to Palestinian snipers outside.

Ten Israeli settlers entered a Palestinian village under Israeli security control, firing guns in the air and attacking houses with stones, residents said.

The incident fuelled fears that anti-Arab violence by extremist Jewish groups would resurface.

The escalation means that the current intifada is likely to be much bloodier than the first uprising against Israeli occupation, which erupted on December 9, 1987, and lasted for 70 months, killing about 1250 Palestinians.

The bloodshed apparently prompted Mr Sharon to back down on a demand for seven days of calm before ceasefire talks with Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat, who remains surrounded by tanks in the West Bank town of Ramallah.

"I thought we could reach a period of respite before a ceasefire," Mr Sharon told Israeli television. "But this is a war situation we are experiencing. The negotiations for a ceasefire will take place under fire."

Mr Sharon had not budged since his election more than a year ago in his insistence on the period of calm before talks.

However, Arafat aide Nabil Adu Rudaineh dismissed the surprise declaration by Mr Sharon as having "no value", and said the Israelis would have to stop their raids into Palestinian lands.

"Sharon must realise that he can not obtain an end to the violence with a military solution," he said. "His declaration on negotiations of a truce 'under fire' have no value. He must stop his massacres and aggression against the Palestinian people."

In Washington, State Department spokesman Richard Boucher issued a stinging critique: "Right now, both sides should think through the consequences of the policies they're following."

"Both parties need to take a hard look at what they're doing now, and take the necessary steps so they can implement existing plans to forge a ceasefire and bring about a resumption of a political dialogue."

Boucher said Arafat had to take further steps to curtail anti-Israel attacks, but made clear that Sharon also had to restrain military responses.

Carnage of Black Friday

Load-Date: March 9, 2002

End of Document

**THE PARAMEDIC WHO BECAME ANOTHER 'MARTYR' FOR PALESTINE;
MIDDLE EAST WOMAN BOMBER NAMED AS A OUTGOING, WESTERNISED
DIVORCEE, DRIVEN 'CRAZY' BY EXPERIENCES DURING THE INTIFADA**

The Independent (London)

January 31, 2002, Thursday

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Section: FOREIGN NEWS; Pg. 17

Length: 804 words

Byline: Phil Reeves In Al-amari Refugee Camp, Ramallah, West Bank Wafa Idris, named as the Palestinian woman who carried a bomb into west Jerusalem on Sunday AP; Palestinian women in Jerusalem's Old City

Body

EARLY ON Sunday, Wafa Idris, a Palestinian divorcee known for her vivacious manner, gave some chocolate and a pair of toy ear-rings to Milana, her four -year-old niece. Then she hurriedly left home, saying she was late for work.

As she set off, weaving through the narrow alleys of al-Amari, the West Bank refugee camp where she lived for her 28 years, her relatives assumed she was planning to spend another day as a volunteer medic.

But Wafa Idris was named yesterday as the woman who carried the bomb that killed herself and one Israeli later that day, ending days of speculation over the bomber's identity.

She worked on the Red Crescent ambulances three or four times a week, often at demonstrations treating youths injured during confrontations with the Israeli army.

The family had no inkling of what was about to occur. "I never thought she would do this," said her sister-in-law Wisam Idris, aged 25, as she mourned with a group of other women yesterday. Wisam's sister, Maanal, 29, agreed. "She was a laughing, happy woman who was always telling jokes. She liked life," she said.

At 12.20pm, hours after Mrs Idris had left her house, there was an unusually powerful explosion in West Jerusalem's Jaffa Street. The street, so repeatedly bombed that Israelis now call it "ground zero", is six miles from her house, although the main road is blocked by two military checkpoints.

The blast killed an Israeli man, 81, called Pinhas Toktaly, injured scores of others and wrecked surrounding shops. It also killed a young Palestinian woman. Her body was so badly mangled that Israeli police concluded that she was either delivering a bomb or wearing a belt packed with explosives.

If the latter is true, she was the first female suicide bomber of the 16-month Palestinian intifada. Either way, her death is an alarming measure of the depths to which the conflict between Israel and the Palestinians has sunk: there have been very few cases of Arab women found infiltrating Israel on a mission to murder civilians.

THE PARAMEDIC WHO BECAME ANOTHER 'MARTYR' FOR PALESTINE ; MIDDLE EAST WOMAN
BOMBER NAMED AS A OUTGOING, WESTERNISED DIVORCEE, DRIVEN 'CRAZY' BY EXPERIENCES
DURI....

Initial reports saying she was a student from Nablus proved false. For two days, her identity was a mystery. Then the Israeli authorities declared she was Wafa Idris, and Palestinian officials in Ramallah, her hometown, confirmed it.

Yesterday, posters were being pasted up near her home, declaring her to be a "heroine" of the al-Aqsa Martyrs Brigade, a militia affiliated to Fatah, the mainstream nationalist movement led by Yasser Arafat.

Saddam Hussein moved to make her immortal, by announcing that a monument would be erected in her honour in Baghdad.

Yet the mystery lingered on. What led a young, outgoing, secular woman to become a bomber, willing randomly to kill? Wafa Idris bore few similarities to most Palestinian suicide bombers. They tend to be intensely devout, educated in Islamic affairs and driven less by poverty than by nationalist and religious zeal. They belong to the military wings of Hamas or Islamic Jihad.

She was westernised - photographed in sleeveless dresses and make-up - poor and divorced. Several years ago she and her husband, Ahmed, who works in a car wash, agreed to part after 10 years of marriage because she could not have children. One friend said she left him reluctantly, under pressure from his family.

Only recently did her mother, Wafiyeh, 60, notice she had begun to change, She started to pray at home and cover her hair with a headscarf. "She always said to me that she wished to be a martyr. I used to argue with her. I said that this would mean I would die after her. She replied - no, you will never die, mother."

Friends and relatives of Palestinian bombers invariably attempt to justify their unjustifiable deeds with accounts of the so-called "martyr's" anger at Israel's conduct and his spotless character.

Yesterday was no different. Wafa Idris was described as a politically driven woman - one friend said she was forced to repeat one school year three times because she spent so much time at demonstrations during the first Palestinian intifada. She was depicted as a social worker who helped deaf children at summer camp; a volunteer carer, who took part in a project to paint the home of a single -parent family. Only one associate, who asked not to be named, suggested what she had done was wrong, part of a "farce" in which innocent women and children on both sides are being killed.

But a common theme dominated others. Her mother said she was driven "crazy" by what she saw as a Red Crescent ambulance volunteer treating youths hit by rubber-coated steel bullets and live ammunition. One of her closest friends, Muna Abed Rabbo, 28, said that about four months ago she had been dispatched to a scrape up the remains of a man hit by a tank shell. "She ended up collecting the flesh in a sack. She told me then, 'I want revenge, revenge, revenge.'"

Load-Date: April 9, 2002

**GOING TO EXTREMES;
TERRORISTS EXPLOIT AMERICAN LIBERTIES**

Pittsburgh Post-Gazette (Pennsylvania)

March 3, 2002 Sunday

FIVE STAR EDITION Correction Appended

Copyright 2002 P.G. Publishing Co.

Section: ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT,

Length: 859 words

Byline: BOB HOOVER, POST-GAZETTE BOOK EDITOR

Body

In the midst of his 1960 presidential campaign, John Kennedy, a Roman Catholic, felt compelled to meet with a group of Protestant ministers to reassure them that he was not taking orders from the pope.

The incident, coming in the middle of the 20th century, reflected that long American tradition of distrusting anything that sounded "foreign."

From the Know-Nothings and other nativist groups of the early 19th century to the warnings of such right-wingers as Pat Buchanan about our current immigration policies, Americans, despite their own immigrant roots, have never been quite at ease with people who haven't totally embraced "Americanism."

That unease is the underlying tone of journalist Steven Emerson's account of Islamic groups in the United States at the time of the September terrorist attacks.

Director of The Investigative Project, an operation he launched to collect data on domestic Muslim organizations, Emerson has been labeled a "leading expert on militant Islamic terrorism."

In 1994, his investigation into Islamic militants, "Jihad in America," aired on PBS. While it won a prestigious journalism prize, Muslim organizations attacked both the program and its maker as racist and inflammatory.

Later, death threats and advice from federal authorities persuaded Emerson to take extraordinary safety precautions. His public appearances, such as his testimony before a congressional committee in 1998, are often conducted under police protection.

Yet Emerson has continued to keep tabs on militants who support or promote the concept of "jihad" -- in this case fundamentalist Islam's virulent hostility toward Western nations, particularly the United States and Israel.

His book is primarily a straightforward history of nine "terrorist support networks" based in America: Muslim Arab Youth Association, the American Islamic Group, Islamic Cultural Workshop, the Council on American-Islamic Relations, the American Muslim Council, Islamic Circle of North America, the Muslim Public Affairs Council, the American Muslim Alliance and the Islamic Society of North America.

GOING TO EXTREMES; TERRORISTS EXPLOIT AMERICAN LIBERTIES

Emerson boils the story behind these groups down to this "simple formula": They use "the laws, freedoms and loopholes of the most liberal nation on earth to help finance and direct one of the most violent international terrorism groups in the world."

Much of his information appears to be gathered through official sources, including the trials of several Muslim terrorists and FBI reports, but what he has uncovered about the groups' role in terrorism seems largely speculative.

While threatening in their rhetoric and even their backing of weekend terrorist training camps, these groups appeared to be operating legally. And, despite Emerson's reputation, he connected none of them to any direct role in Osama bin Laden's Sept. 11 attacks.

His conclusion comes in only general terms: "Operating in the freewheeling and tolerant environment of the United States, bin Laden was able to set up a whole array of 'cells' in a loosely organized network that included Tucson, Arizona; Brooklyn, New York; Orlando, Florida, Dallas, Texas; Santa Clara, California; Columbia, Missouri; and Herndon, Virginia."

There are several eye-openers, though, particularly the support of the University of Southern Florida for a quartet of Islamic Jihad members; open recruiting of bin Laden supporters; and the long-running recruitment and fund-raising efforts of the anti-Israel terrorist group Hamas from its American base.

Emerson takes great pains to remind his readers that the militants are a small minority in the American Muslim world and offers the stories of several followers of Islam who oppose terrorism and violence.

And, while he points out the U.S. Constitution protects the rights of domestic militant groups to voice anger against America, Emerson does not call for a curtailing of those rights and an increase in policing.

He is not an ideologue but a journalist eager to show off what's he gleaned about Islamic militancy.

This book is not a gripping, dramatic account of that militancy and its possible dangers, but a workmanlike and frequently dull overview that occasionally chides Americans for their indifference.

The country, he writes, had "deluded itself into believing that militant Islamic fundamentalism could be contained, that it was not a strategic threat to the U.S."

Sept. 11 has put us all on alert against terrorism. Emerson's book aids our understanding into its domestic connection, but it's not the last word.

Here are other books on the subject:

*"The Lessons of Terror" by Caleb Carr (Random House, \$19.95). A military historian by training, Carr analyzes campaigns against civilians, particularly in wartime.

*"My Forbidden Face: Growing Up Under the Taliban, A Young Woman's Story" by Latifa (TalkMiramax Books, \$21.95). The author is founder of Afghanistan Libre, which campaigns for women's rights.

*"The Taliban and Beyond: A Close Look at the Afghan Nightmare" by S. Amjads Hussain (BWD Publishing, \$14.95). The author, professor of surgery at the Medical College of Ohio, has written for the Blade of Toledo, Ohio, on Islamic subjects.

Correction

Steven Emerson's book, "American Jihad: The Terrorists Living Among Us," did not specifically link the Council on American-Islamic Relations to statements containing "threatening rhetoric" or the backing of terrorist training camps in America. A review of the book Sunday was incorrect in suggesting otherwise.

Correction-Date: March 9, 2002

GOING TO EXTREMES; TERRORISTS EXPLOIT AMERICAN LIBERTIES

Load-Date: March 10, 2002

End of Document

ANOTHER DAY, ANOTHER OUTRAGE;
MONDAY: CHECHNYA SUICIDE ATTACKERS DETONATED TRUCK FILLED
WITH

The Independent (London)

May 19, 2003, Monday

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Section: TITLE PAGE; Pg. 1

Length: 874 words

Byline: PHIL REEVES AND LEONARD DOYLE An investigator covers the body of a woman killed in yesterday's suicide attack on a bus in Jerusalem Enric Marti/AP

Body

THE ATTACKS themselves are no surprise: international observers had been expecting an Islamist backlash after the American-led invasion and occupation of Iraq. But the ferocity and frequency has been shocking. And yesterday there were still more.

The wave of suicide attacks in an arc that stretches across half of the world, embracing Morocco, Algeria, Saudi Arabia, Chechnya, Pakistan and Israel - where seven were killed yesterday - have been committed by different violent groups for different reasons.

Yet they stand as testimony to the inaccuracy of President George Bush's view that America is winning the "war on terror". They also fortify the position of those who say the war in Iraq was not so much part of that war as a diversion from it - and that it has fuelled anti-Western attacks rather than reduced them.

And despite the arrest of four men in Saudi Arabia yesterday, the authorities in Riyadh admit that the masterminds of the operation are still on the loose.

Only days ago, Mr Bush declared that "al-Qa'ida is on the run" and that "about half of all the top al-Qa'ida operatives are either jailed or dead". In either case, he said, "they are not a problem any more".

Yet they are a problem. Some of their elements may have been badly dented by the US campaign against them, notably in Afghanistan. But last week's calculated and carefully planned anti-Western attacks, coupled with a new alleged tape from Osama bin Laden, have proved that they are still in business, and that significant numbers of their operatives are willing to destroy themselves in their name of their beliefs.

Some Democrats in the US are now taking up the issue in a surprisingly bold manner, given the huge support that Americans gave Mr Bush during the war on Iraq. They are asking: why did America go to war against Iraq when the war on al Qa'ida was clearly of more importance?

The presidential candidate Senator Bob Graham of Florida spelt it out this weekend: "What this administration has done is they have conducted an ideological war in Iraq where they have not found the weapons of mass destruction upon which it was predicated and at the same time they have stopped the war against terror. We have let al-Qa'ida off the hook."

ANOTHER DAY, ANOTHER OUTRAGE; MONDAY: CHECHNYA SUICIDE ATTACKERS DETONATED TRUCK FILLED WITH

Yesterday suicide bombers were in action again. This time it was an attack by Hamas, the most militant of the Palestinian nationalist-Islamist groups, which has continued to mount such assaults despite a massive and sustained attack on its ranks - including multiple assassinations - by Israeli forces.

It came in response to the latest attempted negotiations between the government of Ariel Sharon and the new Palestinian Prime Minister, Mahmoud Abbas, over the doomed "road-map" and after yet another rash of Palestinian deaths at the hands of Israeli forces.

This was nothing to do with al-Qa'ida, nor was it about Iraq. Yet the rising temperature in the occupied territories cannot be excluded from the broader picture, not least because the US and British occupation of Iraq is certain to have deepened the conviction among fanatical Islamist anti-American militant groups of their own righteousness.

The sequence of yesterday's events was as familiar as it was revolting: disguised as an Orthodox Jew, a suicide bomber boarded a bus in central Jerusalem as the morning rush hour was getting under way. Seven passengers were killed. A second bomber blew himself up on the city's outskirts.

Hours earlier, talks between Mr Sharon and Mr Abbas - the first talks between Israeli and Palestinian leaders in three years - had ended. It was another addition to the list of problems confronting Mr Bush and his foreign policy makers.

This list is lengthening. The aftermath of the war in Iraq has proved much harder than they expected. US efforts to turn the interim administration in Afghanistan into a national government with functioning security forces appear to be stalled, having been undermined by guerrilla attacks.

Saudi Arabia's arrests of suspects in the Riyadh suicide attacks a week ago was followed by the embarrassing admission yesterday that an earlier botched raid in which 19 suspects escaped was linked to the Riyadh bombing.

Moroccan officials said they detained several dozen militants allegedly linked with the Casablanca bombings. But the outlook is bleak, and likely to worsen.

Before the war on Iraq the Egyptian President, Hosni Mubarak, predicted that it would encourage global terrorism. "If there is one Bin Laden now," he said, "there will be 100 Bin Ladens afterwards."

Those words will have been ringing in the ears of the US Secretary of State, Colin Powell, who landed in Saudi Arabia hours before the bombings and then toured the devastated site of one of the attacks. By the time he had flown on to Moscow to meet the Russian President, Vladimir Putin, the second of two devastating suicide bombings in the Russian republic of Chechnya had taken place. Wednesday's attack by a female suicide bomber added 17 victims to the 60 people who died when a truck bomb exploded in the north of the country on Monday.

Even before Mr Powell's round of diplomacy - aimed at getting a United Nations figleaf of support for the occupation of Iraq - had ended, the bombers had attacked in Morocco.

Load-Date: May 19, 2003

Jerusalem woman bomber strikes in busy street

The Times (London)

January 28, 2002, Monday

Copyright 2002 Times Newspapers Limited

Section: Overseas news

Length: 826 words

Byline: Ross Dunn in Jerusalem

Body

Israeli police were last night trying to determine whether a Palestinian woman killed in Jerusalem by a bomb she was carrying had meant to kill herself or whether it had exploded prematurely.

One elderly Israeli man died and many were wounded in the explosion on Jaffa Road, the main commercial street in west Jerusalem. No Palestinian woman has previously carried out a suicide attack.

In Lebanon the al-Manar television station, run by the militant Hezbollah movement, said that the bomber was Shinaz Amuri, a **female** student at al-Najah University in the West Bank town of Nablus. The university has been described by Shin Bet, Israel's secret police, as a hothouse for suicide bombers.

At least six of the 120 suicide bombers who have carried out attacks against Israeli targets have been students at the university, considered to be a stronghold for **Hamas**, the Islamic Resistance Movement, along with the Islamic Jihad. The two groups are behind suicide bombings over the past seven years that have left hundreds of Israelis dead.

The blast in west Jerusalem came the day after Yassir Arafat, the Palestinian leader, said that millions of his people were volunteering to die for possession of the Holy City.

After the bomber detonated explosives that were strapped to her body, black smoke rose over the area as ambulances arrived to treat dazed and bleeding pedestrians.

"I heard a massive blast and saw black smoke," Harold Slant, a witness, said. "Walking through Jaffa Road these days seems to be taking a risk." Mark Sokolov, an American who survived the World Trade Centre attack unscathed on September 11, had an even narrower escape in the west Jerusalem street. Mr Sokolov, his wife and two daughters, from Long Island, New York, suffered minor injuries.

The family were standing outside a shoe store. Mr Sokolov told Israeli television from his hospital bed: "I heard a loud whoosh, like a bang, and I kind of saw things flying around a little bit, and then I realized I was able to get up and walk around."

The blast occurred near the corner of King George Street, where a suicide bomber last year blew himself up in a pizzeria, killing 15 people. It was also the scene of a Palestinian shooting last week that killed two Israeli **women**.

Mickey Levy, the Jerusalem police chief, who suffered a heart attack after visiting the blast site and was taken to hospital with other victims, said that the explosion was caused by a powerful bomb.

Jerusalem woman bomber strikes in busy street

The bombing was condemned by the Palestinian Authority but came after Mr Arafat issued what appeared to be contradictory statements, calling on all Palestinian factions to halt attacks while also saying that millions of martyrs were on their way to claim Jerusalem as their capital.

It undermines his claims that he is doing everything in his power to halt the attacks on Israel and will further distance the Bush Administration from the Palestinian Authority.

Anthony Zinni, the US envoy to the Middle East, was quoted yesterday in Israeli newspapers as referring to Mr Arafat as a Mafia boss and a liar during a meeting at the White House at the weekend. "Arafat proved to me to be an incorrigible liar," Mr Zinni reportedly said. "In the course of talks I held in the Middle East, he told me bald-faced lies until I reached the conclusion that he is a completely untrustworthy individual."

The officials said that if Mr Arafat failed to rein in groups carrying out attacks against Israelis, then his own Force 17 presidential guard unit would be added to the terrorist list.

Dick Cheney, the Vice-President, yesterday directly implicated Mr Arafat in the shipment of 50 tonnes of arms that Israel seized from the freighter Karine A in the Red Sea on January 3 and questioned his commitment to peace.

"We've just seen evidence that he was involved in this Karine A shipment," Mr Cheney told ABC Television. Asked about Mr Arafat's denial of his involvement in a letter to President Bush, Mr Cheney said: "We don't believe him." His comments marked the first time Mr Arafat himself has been implicated in the affair.

Mr Bush has put off a visit by Mr Zinni to the region. Mr Arafat has appealed to Mr Bush to change his mind, but, according to the Israeli media Mr Zinni regards Mr Arafat as an obstacle to peace. In the face of growing US pressure Mr Arafat issued an appeal to all Palestinian factions to halt their attacks against Israel, saying that they were not in the Palestinian national cause.

But in an interview with al-Jazeera, the Arabic television station, Mr Arafat tried to justify the armed struggle against Israel. "Did George Washington not conduct a war against the British occupation with all weapons at hand, in all kinds of ways, and which led to the establishment of the United States?" he said in a message to the American public.

"Don't judge me by what the Israelis are telling you. I say to the Americans that we (the Palestinians) are the only people living under occupation."

Load-Date: January 28, 2002

Arafat's presence is preventing peace

University Wire

April 30, 2003, Wednesday

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Section: COLUMN

Length: 910 words

Byline: By Gilad Skolnick,, Massachusetts Daily Collegian

Dateline: Amherst, Mass.

Body

One of the things that makes me proud of UMass is its support for the only country in the Middle East that is a democracy, has equal rights for all its citizens (including women, religions and homosexuals) and the only country with a free press. So far over 5,800 signatures have been gathered from UMass and surrounding communities in support of Israel. This overwhelming support is evidence that we care about peace, justice, equality and democracy in the Middle East. As an avid advocate for social justice, I feel of proud of my community and my country's support of Israel. Despite this, when debating Israel, a lot of people give Israel a hard time for not working harder with Arafat to come up with a peaceful solution to the violence that plagues the region, but there are a few things not so spectacular about Arafat's governing regime that they fail to note.

U. Massachusetts-Amherst

As Israel struggles to defend herself against terrorists and suicide bombers, she is also trying to make peace with the Palestinian Authority, led by an oppressive dictator and terrorist, Arafat. The London Daily Telegraph reports that the Palestinian Authority has eight billion dollars in bank accounts all over the world, while other sources reveal that over \$ 50 billion in stock is owned by the Palestinian Authority. Meanwhile, Arafat and his henchmen horde billions in wealth while the Palestinian people are surviving on a bit over \$ 2 a day unless they take Arafat up on his offer of \$ 25,000 to take the job of a suicide bomber, with the simple goal of murdering as many Jewish civilians as possible. This is simply cruelty and greed, with their prime minister living in a life of wealth and luxury as the Palestinians scramble to make ends meet.

Even worse, the Palestinians are routinely subjected to arbitrary charges of traffic violations, demands of large bribes, kidnapping for money and extortion of 70-90 percent from the income of private businesses, all of which is rampant in the PA. Furthermore, most of Arafat's henchmen who were appointed to different positions in the government are criminals as well.

Jibril Rajoub, Preventative Security Head in the West Bank, was widely reported to extort protection money from oil distributors, to receive kickbacks from the Jericho casino until it closed and to steal intellectual property, presumably in concert with the other counterfeiting rings operating in the PA territories. Jibril Rajoub and his men are also implicated in car theft networks.

Far from peace, Arafat has worked tirelessly to promote violence. In the Alamari refugee camp in Ramallah, schools are covered with prominently displayed posters glorifying suicide attacks, armed struggle and the leaders of the terrorist wing of Hamas.

Arafat's presence is preventing peace

Fostering hate and encouraging homicide bombing is not limited to the Palestinian educational system. Chairman Arafat himself, on many public, well-documented occasions, has encouraged children to become "shahidim" (homicide bombers).

Further evidence of the PA's encouragement of violence is when the newly appointed Prime Minister of the PA, Mahmud Abas, told the Kuwaiti newspaper Alzamin (Arabic) on June 20, 2002, that Palestinian Children are given 5 shekels (about \$ 1 US) for each pipe bomb they throw at soldiers. What are the values of a government that sends its children to the front lines to attack Israeli soldiers?

But after much pressure from Israel, Arafat agreed to have elections for a new prime minister, which he canceled, and just recently appointed a guy by the name of Mahmoud Abbas. God forbid there should be a democracy. Another one of Arafat's buddies, he's publicly expressed his support for continuing the violence and terrorism on Palestinian television. In the 1980's he wrote a book explaining that the amount of Jews murdered in the Holocaust was grossly exaggerated and was at most a few hundred thousand, and that Jews participated in the Holocaust to encourage European Jews to leave Europe for Israel. How can anyone who has such a distorted view of reality be an adequate prime minister?

Securing his power through hate and violence, Arafat has been continuously working on making sure that peace never happens, and that his oppressive dictatorship stands. Born in Egypt, he eventually moved to the West Bank where he and his henchmen have been kidnapping, hijacking, extorting, murdering and doing everything else possible for power.

Along with the lack of free press, a justice system, or any other rights, women are denied their basic rights, with such practices as honor killings remaining prevalent in the Palestinian territories. If a woman ruins her family's honor by having sex before her marriage, then it is perfectly legal for her brother or father to murder her, which happens dozens of times a year. The PA and Arafat have done nothing to put an end to this.

Until Arafat is gone, the Palestinian people have no hope for a better future, and the world has no hope for any peace in the Middle East. Arafat has routinely denied his people peace, saying no to peace with Israel at negotiations in Camp David a few years ago that would have resulted in receiving over 95 percent of the land that he wanted, and leaving the table without a counteroffer. The Palestinians deserve better and the world does too.

Information from the American Center for Democracy and Boston.com were used in this opinion.

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Load-Date: April 30, 2003

America is a walking irony - it just doesn't realize it

The Cambridge Reporter

January 4, 2002 Friday

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Section: OPINION; Pg. A4

Length: 827 words

Byline: Giese, Rachel

Body

Nothing stronger than soda water passed my lips on New Year's Eve, but I still woke up with a hangover.

The pounding headache and the queasy stomach were undeniable, but their cause wasn't overindulgence, but dread.

The horrible year that was 2001 still had its unfinished business.

Tensions were high between Pakistan and India and American President George W. Bush had vowed to keep bombing whatever country the U.S. is currently bombing until Osama bin Laden is dead or, at least, until he stops releasing home videos.

Sorry. That little joke might have been in bad taste; 2001 was the year, after all, that irony and cynicism, like God and feminism before them, were declared dead.

And good riddance to them too, apparently.

First editor Graydon Carter declared in Vanity Fair - a magazine that very unironically juxtaposes images of dismembered civilians in Sierra Leone next to profiles of supermodels - that "irony is cynical and reactive and unserious and detached; I think all of those things will seem foolish and dated."

Then, in Time, a news magazine that shied away from making bin Laden its newsmaker of the year in favour of the less controversial New York mayor Rudy Giuliani, writer Roger Rosenblatt scathingly opined: "One good thing could come from this horror: It could spell the end of the age of irony. For some 30 years, roughly as long as the Twin Towers were upright, the good folks in charge of America's intellectual life have insisted that nothing was to be believed in or taken seriously. Nothing was real.

"With a giggle and a smirk, our chattering classes, our columnists and pop-culture makers declared that detachment and personal whimsy were the necessary tools for an oh-so-cool life."

But Rosenblatt and other irony obituary writers have got it all wrong.

It's true that nothing could be a better legacy for Sept. 11 than a shift in American values from selfishness and self-absorption to compassion and generosity.

America is a walking irony - it just doesn't realize it

But the irony is that America, even pre-Sept. 11, was never that ironic. The chatter of the chattering classes aside, few countries take themselves as seriously or feel their own importance so keenly.

It's like a joke John Cleese once told: The difference between America and other nations is that when other countries hold a World Series, they actually invite the whole world.

Few nations are as happily isolated from the rest of the globe, are as uninterested in foreign affairs and as unaware of what's thought of them as America.

So much so that when the terrorist attacks happened, so many could naively comment that "nothing so terrible had ever happened before" (forgetting the Holocaust, slavery, two world wars, ethnic cleansing and apartheid), or innocently wonder "why do they hate us so much?"

There's more than one kind of irony.

There's the sneering and cruel variety, but good irony, the kind that's vital, the kind that America needs more of, not less, is, like good satire, deeply rooted in a sense of morality and is effective exactly because it illuminates hypocrisy and false sentiment.

Isn't it ironic, for instance, that the same police officers, firefighters, nurses, paramedics and construction crews that led relief efforts and cleaned up the horrible mess in New York and Washington and have become heroes for it, still make a pittance compared to those who portray them on film or television?

Or that the same nation that has vowed to ferret out pockets of terrorism around the world, neglects to address the terror experienced by so many of its own citizens, living in violent, impoverished and drug-riddled neighbourhoods?

Or that at the same time the media trumpets a new sense of purpose and gravity, it then turns to fluffball celebrities like Britney Spears and Tom Cruise to weigh in on their feelings about Sept. 11?

Or that the same values the U.S. is defending in its international war on terrorism democracy, civil liberties, freedom are under attack domestically by the homeland security office?

Single-mindedness without reflection, without perspective, without distance, without question without irony, in other words, is the stuff of fanaticism.

It's what drives young men like John Walker to run off and join the Taliban.

Or Diaa Tawil, a member of **Hamas**, who attempted to board a bus in a Jewish neighbourhood in Jerusalem with a shrapnel bomb strapped around his waist.

Or Richard Reid, with his explosives-filled running shoes.

Or the 19 terrorists of Sept. 11 who saw no irony in murdering innocents in the name of Allah.

It fuels extremism in Saudi Arabia, where **women** are forced to live under Taliban-like religious restrictions, and in Uzbekistan, where the fanatically secular and authoritarian government has imprisoned 7,000 Muslims over the past two years, many just for praying.

And it fuels extremism in the United States, where Christians in New Mexico recently burned copies of Harry Potter books.

Irony is dead?

Long live irony.

Rachel Giese is a columnist for Torstar News Service.

America is a walking irony - it just doesn't realize it

Load-Date: December 2, 2002

End of Document

Anti-Israel Voices Muted as Millions Rally

The Forward

February 21, 2003

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Section: News; Pg. 7

Length: 940 words

Body

They cheerfully rode the New York City subway uptown: three Jewish women in their late 50s or early 60s, bundled up in heavy coats decorated in peace buttons. Millions of protesters in 600 cities around the world were rallying against a looming war in Iraq, and these New Yorkers did not intend to be left out.

Members of a half-dozen left-leaning Jewish organizations assembled at the Workmen's Circle building in midtown Manhattan for bagels before the protest Saturday and marched together to the rally site at 49th Street and First Avenue, near the United Nations.

Support for the Palestinian cause was evident at the rally, though far less than pessimists had predicted. Jewish groups, for their part, kept their focus determinedly on opposition to an impending war in Iraq.

Many of those who showed up at the Jewish assembly point looked as if they had been at many other rallies against other wars. Although the main rally was peopled principally by hundreds of thousands of young protesters, there were also thousands of gray heads and wizened faces braving the freezing weather with "No War With Iraq" buttons proudly pinned on their coats.

Rabbi Arthur Waskow, director of Philadelphia's Shalom Center, joined the Jewish contingent halfway to the rally, looking a bit like a 1960s version of a wonder-rabbi with his long, flowing white beard, rainbow-colored skullcap and prayer shawl. He had come straight from Kennedy Airport, after addressing an anti-war conference of church leaders in Rome.

Former New York City mayoral candidate Ruth Messinger, a featured speaker at the large rally, addressed the Jewish contingent before it set out. "I have never seen a demonstration this big or this wide," said Messinger, who heads the American Jewish World Service. "It's an extraordinary, exciting event."

At an interfaith prayer service before the rally, Messinger read a Hebrew prayer for peace. At the rally itself she quoted the late Rabbi Abraham Joshua Heschel.

The main rally was not a 1960s-style love fest, however. Many demonstrators waved signs with images of President Bush daubed with a Hitler mustache or accompanied by messages such as, "Traitor, Imposter, Crook, Rich Man's Poodle." One young woman in a black-and-white kaffiyeh sported a sticker of Bush with a Pinocchio nose that said: "Bush Knew."

The protest movement had come under attack for anti-Israel leanings days before, when planners of a rally in San Francisco denied a speaking slot to Rabbi Michael Lerner, editor of Tikkun magazine. Lerner had publicly criticized one of the rally's co-sponsors, International Answer, for its anti-Israel rhetoric.

Anti- Israel Voices Muted as Millions Rally

When the San Francisco rally took place, however - on Sunday, a day after other cities' rallies, to avoid conflict with Chinese New Year festivities - several rabbis were on the program. One, Rabbi Pam Frydman Baugh of Or Shalom Jewish Community, a Renewal synagogue in San Francisco, greeted a pre-rally interfaith prayer vigil with greetings in Hebrew and Arabic. The rally also featured Muslim, Christian and Buddhist clerics.

While praying for peace for Israelis and Palestinians, Frydman Baugh focused most of her attention on Iraq, praying that Iraqi civilians can "escape the violence perpetrated by Western military forces, and are free from the violence perpetrated by their own people."

In Germany, the Berlin Association Against Anti-Semitism accused the German peace movement of antisemitism following that city's anti-war rally, which was attended by an estimated 500,000 protesters.

"From the start of the Berlin demonstration, it became clear that groups were involved whose worldview includes nationalism, racism and anti-Semitism," stated a letter, signed by approximately 100 scholars, Jewish religious and communal leaders, and activist groups from Germany and abroad.

"Revisionist banners and anti-Israel chants were heard. Israel was depicted as pulling the strings in the Iraq conflict; its politicians were cursed as 'child killers,' and a few flags of the Islamic extremist Hamas and Hezbollah groups were waved," the letter stated.

But in New York, Jews stood side by side with an estimated 100,000 to 400,000 fellow protesters, who lined New York's East Side in wintry weather to hear speakers ranging from Messinger to South African Archbishop Desmond Tutu.

Amit Mashiah, co-founder of "Courage to Refuse," a group of Israeli reservists who refuse to serve in the territories, also spoke at the New York rally. "If Bush really wants to spread democracy and peace around the world today he can start with Israel," he said. "Everyone can learn from our experience that violence doesn't solve conflict."

Mashiah said that although he believes terrorism needs to be condemned and terrorists brought to justice, "to really eliminate terror you have to deal with the reason for hatred. You cannot get rid of terror just by force."

Speaking to a reporter afterward, Mashiah dismissed the anti-Israel sentiment in the anti-war movement as unimportant. "I oppose every movement that is against Israel's right for existence," he said.

A featured speaker at the San Francisco rally was Rabbi Stephen Pearce, the senior spiritual leader of the Reform Congregation Emanu-El, the largest and most influential synagogue in Northern California. He was criticized by some for appearing at a rally whose sponsors included groups known to be hostile to Israel.

But he offered another Jewish voice to those urging Bush to refrain from attacking Iraq. "Jewish tradition teaches of the disciples of Aaron, loving peace and pursuing peace, loving thy fellow creatures, and drawing them near to the rule of law," he said.

Graphic

IMAGE

Load-Date: June 14, 2006

PUBLIC LIVES; A Skeptic About Wars Intended to Stamp Out Evil

The New York Times

January 14, 2003 Tuesday

Late Edition - Final

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Section: Section B; Column 3; Metropolitan Desk; Pg. 2

Length: 898 words

Byline: By CHRIS HEDGES

Body

DR. ROBERT JAY LIFTON has spent his life studying people in extreme situations. He has written about Japanese survivors in Hiroshima, Vietnam veterans, Nazi doctors and members of terrorist cults. But he has also spent a lifetime as an activist, involved in the Vietnam antiwar movement and the antinuclear movement. The two activities, scholarship and activism, are for him intertwined. All of his work is infused with the struggle to live the moral life.

He and a number of colleagues have organized support in the United States for some 500 Israeli soldiers who have banded together in an organization called Courage to Refuse. These soldiers will not serve in the Israeli-occupied territories, saying they will no longer "dominate, expel, starve and humiliate an entire people."

The group Dr. Lifton helped found, Friends of Courage to Refuse, is made up mostly of American Jews. It has pitted itself against the powerful array of pro-Israeli groups in the United States, most of which have what Dr. Lifton calls "an uncritical endorsement of Israel's aggressive policies against the Palestinians." He and some 230 supporters across the country have raised \$5,000 to take out an ad this week in the Israeli newspaper Haaretz backing the Israeli resisters. And in this move, as in other grass-roots campaigns of the past, Dr. Lifton sees the kernel of a potent opposition "which could have considerable influence beyond its numbers."

"When I worked with Vietnam veterans, I found them to have been placed in atrocity-producing situations," he said. "Soldiers found themselves in environments where the structure of the conflict led them to commit atrocities."

"They were not bad people, not worse than you or me, but they were terrified. They were frustrated at not being able to find and destroy the enemy, at having their own men killed. They developed an impulse to strike back at old men, children, women, laborers in a rice field, under the illusion that everyone, even those who were not armed, was the enemy. This can happen when you combat a hostile population, when you fight an elusive opponent. It is what I see happening in the occupied territories."

As a psychiatrist, he views such conflicts as disastrous, not only for individuals but societies. Ordinary men, he said, "can all too readily be socialized to atrocity."

"These killing projects are never described as such," he said. "They are put in terms of the necessity of improving the world, of political and spiritual renewal. You cannot kill large numbers of people without a claim to virtue. Our own campaign to rid the world of terror is expressed this way, as if once we destroy all terrorists we destroy evil."

PUBLIC LIVES A Skeptic About Wars Intended to Stamp Out Evil

Dr. Lifton, 76, is a distinguished professor emeritus from the City University of New York. He is now a visiting professor at Harvard Medical School. He spoke Sunday afternoon at the Harvard Club in Manhattan, his shock of unruly white hair combed down over his ears.

He is married to the psychologist and writer Betty Jean Lifton and is the father of two grown children. He grew up in Brooklyn. He was deeply influenced by his father, a politically progressive businessman who was a fervent atheist. As a teenager, Dr. Lifton was drawn to books about contemporary history, and most of his work, he said, has been concerned with "history and the historical process."

He said that the fundamentalist Israelis and Palestinians, and most avid supporters of "the war on terror" in the United States, combine to further "the growing impulse toward apocalyptic violence."

APOCALYPTIC violence is aimed at large-scale destruction to renew the world spiritually," he said. "You have this on the Israeli side with these religious groups that were fundamental in shaping the mind of the assassin of Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin. You have this among the Islamist fundamentalist groups like Hamas. But you also have this here in the United States among those who use the threat of terror to justify world domination militarily."

Dr. Lifton said such groups "act in concert," and "even though they denounce each other they contribute to the growth and power of their opponents."

"The mutual violence propels these apocalyptic groups to the center of their societies," he said, "and those that urge peaceful methods to solve conflicts are relegated to the fringes. The interaction of violent groups comes to dominate relations between opposing societies. Voices of restraint are increasingly excluded."

It is this drive for wholesale slaughter, made possible by the tools of modern industrial warfare, that he ultimately says he is fighting to thwart. And it is why he gives importance to Courage to Refuse. These groups, he says, are a bulwark that can stop a slide into self-annihilation.

"Our own bellicosity is part of our effort to compensate for the weakness and vulnerability that came out of our defeat in Vietnam," he said. "We have built an alliance with Israeli leaders who share our vision. This has become a unifying principle."

"A war on terror, without limits on time or place, brings us one step closer to the use of apocalyptic violence. Our technology, our nuclear weapons, has made all this a lot easier. These weapons are apocalyptic in essence and bring this vision to the people who possess them. Islamist terrorists hunger for these weapons, maybe all the more so because we continue to embrace them."

<http://www.nytimes.com>

Graphic

Photo: DR. ROBERT JAY LIFTON (Chester Higgins Jr./The New York Times)

Load-Date: January 14, 2003

Suicide bombers kill 22 in Tel Aviv: Sharon blames Arafat, orders missile strikes in Gaza City

Ottawa Citizen

January 6, 2003 Monday Final Edition

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Section: News; Pg. A1; News

Length: 880 words

Byline: Matthew Kalman

Dateline: TEL AVIV

Body

TEL AVIV -- Israeli helicopters fired missiles at targets in Gaza City last night in retaliation for a double suicide bombing in Tel Aviv that killed at least 22 people and wounded more than 120 others.

Israeli Prime Minister Ariel Sharon said the suicide bombing was the responsibility of the Palestinian leadership, which he said "continues to support, fund and initiate terror."

The old bus station area in the Neve Shaanan quarter of southern Tel Aviv looked like a scene from hell. Pieces of flesh and body parts lay strewn across the street. Blood spattered the walls. Dozens of people lay groaning or screaming for help as rescuers tried to help those in need. Several victims lay dead in the midst of the carnage until they were covered with plastic sheets.

The Ottawa Citizen; with files from The Associated Press

Israeli police said two Palestinian suicide bombers blew themselves up among crowds of people in two adjacent streets, Neve Shaanan and Gedud Ha'Ivri.

The blasts, 20 seconds apart, sent shards of jagged metal and bolts flying through the air, killing and maiming bystanders over a wide area.

U.S. President George W. Bush branded the attack "a despicable act of murder" and said Secretary of State Colin Powell had called Israeli Prime Minister Ariel Sharon to express condolences.

"Today terrorists struck again in Israel, murdering and injuring scores of civilians in Tel Aviv," Mr. Bush said in a prepared statement last night.

"I condemn this attack in the strongest possible terms."

The attack was the first suicide bombing in an Israeli city since November, when a suicide bomber blew up a bus in Jerusalem, killing himself and 11 passengers.

Israeli security chiefs said their efforts were halting more than 90 per cent of attempted attacks, with several would-be suicide bombers arrested every week. But even Israel's total occupation of the West Bank was unable to prevent every bomber from getting through.

Suicide bombers kill 22 in Tel Aviv: Sharon blames Arafat, orders missile strikes in Gaza City

The Palestinian Authority officially condemned the attack as Palestinian terror groups competed with each other to claim responsibility, with Hamas and Islamic Jihad first to issue statements. But the most convincing claim came from the Al-Aqsa Martyrs' Brigades, the terrorist wing of Fatah, the group headed by Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat.

Most of the victims were believed to be foreign workers who make up most of the residents of the rundown area noted for its ramshackle housing.

"It was a horrible scene," said Yossi, 28, a businessman who was slightly injured in the attacks. "I saw parts of bodies all over the place. People were shouting and crying in pain."

Tel Aviv police chief Yossi Sedbon, who arrived at the scene within minutes, said it was the most serious attack on Tel Aviv in many years.

"We are unable to identify many of the victims because their bodies have been badly mutilated or charred," Mr. Sedbon said.

"We have launched an investigation, together with the security forces, to determine the identities of the terrorists and to establish who is behind them. I have no doubt that we will soon lay our hands on them."

Mr. Sedbon said dozens of policemen deployed in the area before the explosions were unable to prevent the bombings.

He said police were looking for accomplices who drove the attackers to the site.

Police launched a search for a black Honda Civic seen speeding away from the scene in the direction of the West Bank. It was believed to be carrying two Palestinians.

Last July, two suicide bombers blew themselves up near the site of yesterday's blast, killing three people and wounding 40 others. Last January, 32 people were wounded in a suicide attack on Neve Sha'anani Street.

Israeli Prime Minister Ariel Sharon summoned his top security advisers late last night for urgent consultations. He said the Palestinian Authority was responsible for such attacks launched by supporters of Mr. Arafat.

"Our goal is to stop the brutal terror, and to achieve calm and quiet," Mr. Sharon told visiting Jewish students in Jerusalem. "Only when the brutal terror is stopped, only then will we be able to talk peace."

"All attempts to reach a cease-fire, even today, are failing due to the Palestinian leadership that continues to support, fund and initiate terror," Mr. Sharon said.

The Palestinian Authority issued a detailed condemnation of the attack which was ridiculed by Israeli officials.

"The Palestinian leadership, which condemns firmly and stands with all determination against crimes conducted against Palestinian civilians ... announces its total condemnation of these terrorist attacks against Israeli civilians," said a statement issued by the Palestinian Authority.

"It rejects the idea of revenge with which some are trying to justify these attacks against Israeli civilians. It announces its determination to confront firmly ... the perpetrators of these attacks, the planners and whoever stood behind them."

Saeb Erekat, the chief Palestinian negotiator, said that while there had been no suicide bombings for six weeks, 154 Palestinians, mostly women and children, had been killed by Israeli forces.

"We can sit here and start shouting blame at each other, but I don't believe that the Sharon government is fighting terrorism. They are fighting the Palestinian cause and the peace process," he said.

Suicide bombers kill 22 in Tel Aviv: Sharon blames Arafat, orders missile strikes in Gaza City

Graphic

Colour Photo: Reuters; Israeli medics help one of the injured in two nearly simultaneous suicide bombings in Tel Aviv yesterday that killed 22 and wounded at least 126 others. Israeli helicopters fired missiles into Gaza City in retaliation for the attack, which was the first in Israel since Nov. 21.

Load-Date: January 6, 2003

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BUSH FIGHTS FOR ANOTHER CLEAN SHOT IN HIS WAR

The Independent (London)

November 8, 2002, Friday

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Section: COMMENT; Pg. 21

Length: 884 words

Byline: Robert Fisk

Body

A "clean shot" was The Washington Post's revolting description of the murder of the al-Qa'ida leaders in Yemen by a US "Predator" unmanned aircraft. With grovelling approval, the US press used Israel's own mendacious description of such murders as a "targeted killing" - and shame on the BBC for parroting the same words on Wednesday. How about a little journalistic freedom here? Like asking why this important al-Qa'ida leader could not have been arrested. Or tried before an open court. Or, at the least, taken to Guantanamo Bay for interrogation.

Instead, the Americans release a clutch of Guantanamo "suspects", one of whom - having been held for 11 months in solitary confinement - turns out to be around 100 years old and so senile that he can't string a sentence together. And this is the "war on terror"?

But a "clean shot" is what President Bush appears to want to take at the United Nations. First, he wants to force it to adopt a resolution about which the Security Council has the gravest reservations. Then he warns that he might destroy the UN's integrity by ignoring it altogether. In other words, he wants to destroy the UN. Does George Bush realise that the United States was the prime creator of this institution, just as it was of the League of Nations under President Woodrow Wilson?

"Targeted killing" - courtesy of the Bush administration - is now what the Israeli prime minister Ariel Sharon can call "legitimate warfare". And Vladimir Putin, too. Now the Russians - I kid thee not, as Captain Queeg said in the Caine Mutiny - are talking about "targeted killing" in their renewed war on Chechnya. After the disastrous "rescue" of the Moscow theatre hostages by the so-called "elite" Russian Alpha Special forces (beware, oh reader, any rescue by "elite" forces, should you be taken hostage), Putin is supported by Bush and Tony Blair in his renewed onslaught against the broken Muslim people of Chechnya.

I'm a cynical critic of the US media, but last month Newsweek ran a brave and brilliant and terrifying report on the Chechen war. In a deeply moving account of Russian cruelty in Chechnya, it recounted a Russian army raid on an unprotected Muslim village. Russian soldiers broke into a civilian home and shot all inside. One of the victims was a Chechen girl. As she lay dying of her wounds, a Russian soldier began to rape her. "Hurry up Kolya," his friend shouted, "while she's still warm."

Now, I have a question. If you or I was that girl's husband or lover or brother or father, would we not be prepared to take hostages in a Moscow theatre? Even if this meant - as it did - that, asphyxiated by Russian gas, we would be executed with a bullet in the head, as the Chechen women hostage-takers were? But no matter. The "war on terror" means that Kolya and the boys will be back in action soon, courtesy of Messrs Putin, Bush and Blair.

BUSH FIGHTS FOR ANOTHER CLEAN SHOT IN HIS WAR

Let me quote that very brave Israeli, Mordechai Vanunu, the man who tried to warn the West of Israel's massive nuclear war technology, imprisoned for 12 years of solitary confinement - and betrayed, so it appears, by one Robert Maxwell. In a poem he wrote in confinement, Vanunu said: "I am the clerk, the technician, the mechanic, the driver. They said, Do this, do that, don't look left or right, don't read the text. Don't look at the whole machine. You are only responsible for this one bolt, this one rubber stamp."

Kolya would have understood that. So would the US Air Force officer "flying" the drone which murdered the al-Qa'ida men in Yemen. So would the Israeli pilot who bombed an apartment block in Gaza, killing nine small children as well as well as his Hamas target, an "operation" - that was the description, for God's sake - which Ariel Sharon described as "a great success".

These days, we all believe in "clean shots". I wish that George Bush could read history. Not just Britain's colonial history, in which we contrived to use gas against the recalcitrant Kurds of Iraq in the 1930s. Not just his own country's support for Saddam Hussein throughout his war with Iran. The Iranians once produced a devastating book of coloured photographs of the gas blisters sustained by their soldiers in that war. I looked at them again this week. If you were these men, you would want to die. They all did. I wish someone could remind George Bush of the words of Lawrence of Arabia, that "making war or rebellion is messy, like eating soup off a knife."

And I suppose I would like Americans to remember the arrogance of colonial power. Here, for example, is the last French executioner in Algeria during the 1956-62 war of independence, Fernand Meysonnier, boasting only last month of his prowess at the guillotine. "You must never give the guy the time to think. Because if you do he starts moving his head around and that's when you have the mess-ups. The blade comes through his jaw, and you have to use a butcher's knife to finish it off. It is an exorbitant power - to kill one's fellow man." So perished the brave Muslims of the Algerian fight for freedom.

No, I hope we will not commit war crimes in Iraq - there will be plenty of them for us to watch - but I would like to think that the United Nations can restrain George Bush and Vladimir Putin and, I suppose, Tony Blair. But one thing is sure. Kolya will be with them.

Load-Date: November 8, 2002

MIDEAST TURMOIL: PALESTINIANS; In Camps, Arabs Cling To Dream of Long Ago

The New York Times
March 10, 2002 Sunday
Late Edition - Final

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Length: 1799 words

Byline: By JAMES BENNET

Dateline: JABALIYA REFUGEE CAMP, Gaza Strip, March 9

Body

Israel has for the first time stormed the fortresses of the Palestinian uprising, sending soldiers backed by tanks and helicopter gunships to raid camps like this one in a hunt, Israel says, for terrorists and their weapons.

Now Jabaliya is awaiting its turn to be hit.

Israeli soldiers have torn other camps apart, punching passages through interior walls to ransack house after house, and killing dozens of Palestinians in firefights.

Those raids have set off echoes of past violence among the three generations of refugees who are trapped by poverty, political calculation and their own longing for plots of the land in what is now Israel.

In attacking the camps, Israel is again joining the half-century struggle at the core of the conflict, as the grandsons of the Jews who won the 1948 war square off with the grandsons of the Arabs who lost it.

For the Israelis, it is a familiar fight for their lives and homes. For the refugees, it is one more attempt to chase them, and their ageless hopes, away.

With a dreamer's smile and one word, Muhammad Aziz summed up his vision of home: "Paradise."

His paradise is a simple mud house with a wooden door with no keyhole and no need for one. In the village of Simsim, the house was set in a golden wheat field, shaded by fig trees and grape arbors, just a 90-minute walk from here to the east.

That home has been gone for more than half a century, more than twice as long as Mr. Aziz, 24, has been alive. He has never seen Simsim, but he has heard his father describe it so often he sees it in his dreams. He means to return home, God willing, one day.

There are millions of Palestinians like Mr. Aziz, yearning to go home, to places where they have never lived. More than a million of the refugees from the 1948 war live in 59 camps scattered throughout the West Bank, Gaza, Jordan, Syria and Lebanon.

MIDEAST TURMOIL: PALESTINIANS In Camps, Arabs Cling To Dream of Long Ago

The refugee camps have supplied the most fighters, Palestinians say, and the most willing to kill themselves in the cause. It is their vision of earthly paradise lost -- not of a heaven full of obliging virgins -- that motivates them, said Dr. Nizar Rayan, a leader here of the Islamic group Hamas.

"We are not doing these military operations because of the women," he said, sitting in the study of his comfortable house here. "We are doing them because of my house in Ashkelon. My house is stolen. I want it to go back to my children."

One of Dr. Rayan's sons was shot dead last fall during a suicidal attack on a settlement in the northern Gaza Strip. "No, no, no, it was very easy," he said when asked if it was hard to lose a son. "If we want to get back our land, it seems we have to lose half this generation."

Most Palestinians have accepted a two-state solution under which they would build a state in the Gaza Strip and West Bank, the lands Israel occupied in the 1967 war. But Dr. Rayan, like many refugees, has no patience for that approach, floated most recently in a Saudi peace initiative. "My house is not within those borders," he said of the initiative.

At 42, Dr. Rayan is too young to have lived in Ashkelon. But before Israel closed Gaza off, he would take his children to the remains of his family's old house, to picnic on its foundations.

Iyad Sarraj, a psychiatrist and refugee in Gaza City, referring to the ache for lost homes, said: "There is a lot of fiction surrounding this, of course. It becomes mythological. But I tell you, it is the most important element of the Palestinian psyche, if you want to understand it."

In his living room, Dr. Sarraj keeps a sewing machine. His father bought it to replace the one his mother lost when the family fled Beersheba. His mother cried whenever she thought of the original machine. "I was haunted for years by this sewing machine," he said.

"Refugee camp" evokes a transience at odds with the reality of this place. When Mr. Aziz's father, Rabah Ahmed Aziz, arrived here, there was only sand. Then there were tents, and with them lice and streams of raw sewage in the sandy lanes. Now there are the cinder-block and mud-brick homes -- some, like his, with satellite dishes on their roofs.

With more than 100,000 people packed into little more than a half square mile, this is one of the most densely populated places on earth. Lacking a field, children play soccer among the dead in the cemetery.

The camps are administered by a United Nations agency created expressly for Palestinian refugees. Unlike the United Nations agency for refugees of other conflicts, this agency was specifically not directed to protect the refugees or to resettle them. It was empowered to house, feed, medicate and educate them, in effect maintaining them as a political running sore.

Like other refugees, Rabah Aziz, the patriarch, does not own his home. He cannot afford to move out, he said, but he seemed startled by the suggestion that he might do so without returning to Simsim.

"I never thought of this," he said. "If I thought this way, I would forget my country."

Other than a trip to take his wife to an Israeli hospital, Mr. Aziz, a dignified man with a voice full of gravel, has not been out of Gaza since the 1950's. Only one of his seven children has been out, to work in Israel, and none of his 16 grandchildren.

To many Israelis, refugees like Mr. Aziz have been manipulated by Arab leaders hoping to retain them as a weapon. Jews who came to Israel lost family and homes in places like Poland, Germany and Iraq. Israel's president, Moshe Katsav, an immigrant from Iran, saw a brother die in an Israeli tent camp.

The refugee camps, many Israelis believe, have prevented the Palestinians from moving on.

MIDEAST TURMOIL: PALESTINIANS In Camps, Arabs Cling To Dream of Long Ago

But, Palestinians counter, in coming to Israel many Jews say they are returning to their biblical homeland. Why, they ask, is it unreasonable for Palestinian refugees to return to homes they left just 50 years ago, rather than 2,000 years back?

"I cannot deny this," Mr. Aziz said when asked about Israelis' own right of return. He functions as an elder, mediating disputes, and he has a capacity rare in this conflict to appreciate the other's position. "They have a right to the land," he said. "I can't take the whole land myself."

But his solution, a return to the 1948 borders drawn by the United Nations for a tiny Israeli state, seems preposterous to Israelis. Rejecting that original state, Arab nations attacked it, and people like Mr. Aziz fled as the Israelis drove them back and took the land, in some cases killing Arabs. Mr. Aziz was 17.

"We left everything," he said, sitting on a mat beneath a print of roses. "And the last image I had was that everything was burning."

Under the United Nations definition, Palestinians qualified as refugees if they had lived in Palestine and lost their homes and their livelihoods in the 1948 war. Their descendants also qualify.

From 914,000 refugees in 1950, the number has grown to around 3.9 million. Seventy percent of the people in the Gaza Strip and 30 percent of those in the West Bank are considered refugees -- 850,000 and 600,000 people, respectively.

More than half of them do not live in camps. But rather than assimilating, many cling to deeds to property in places like Haifa and Jaffa, in Israel.

Andalip Adwan, who is 36, made it out of Rafah refugee camp, at the southern end of the Gaza Strip. She founded a Women's Affairs Center and moved to a new house in Gaza City. Inside, vines twine through trellises against the walls and ceilings, and a metal grape arbor forms the banister of the staircase. "No place like home," reads the embroidered message facing the door.

"Tomorrow, if I could, I would leave everything here, and go home to live in a tent," Mrs. Adwan said. By home, she meant the village of Barbara, near Gaza.

Asked to describe her home, to which she has never been, Mrs. Adwan said, "Barbara village is famous for . . ." and her 14-year-old daughter, Bessan Shahadeh, broke in to supply the noun: "grapes."

In 1977, Mrs. Adwan recalled, her father left their home in Rafah and returned with clippers for tending grapes. "My mother asked, 'Why this scissors?' " she said, speaking in English. "He said, the news is good. We will return to our village soon."

For all her success, Mrs. Adwan is an angry person. She accuses the United Nations of serving Israel by keeping the refugees in the camps, blunting their demands to return. "It should be one state, and Israelis are welcome to live in our state," Mrs. Adwan said.

Israeli and American negotiators were astonished when peace talks foundered more than a year ago, in part over the right of refugees to return. Invoking a United Nations resolution, Palestinians say they should return to their homes inside Israel. Israelis fear that a flood of refugees would achieve through demography and democracy what the Arabs have failed to do by force of arms -- the erasing of the Jewish character of the state.

Hussam Khader, a Palestinian legislator from the West Bank camp of Balata, which the Israelis raided, has no patience for that argument. "Why should they have a state according to religion?" he said. "They should change their ideology, their racism."

Some Palestinian politicians say Israel should offer several options for refugees, including a right of return. Only some would exercise that right, they argue. "I don't think it's realistic to think they would move to Israel to live in ghettos," said Dr. Ziad Abu Amr, a legislator in Gaza.

MIDEAST TURMOIL: PALESTINIANS In Camps, Arabs Cling To Dream of Long Ago

He said the Palestinian leadership could not deny the refugees. "You can't say, 'Sorry, guys, you can't go home,' after keeping them in the camps and socializing them and mobilizing them for the right of return," he said.

Rather than splintering under the pressure of suffering, the visions of paradise have become as hard and flawless as diamonds for the rising generation of refugees.

When asked if Palestinian leaders could compromise on the right of return, Mr. Aziz found himself clashing with a grandson, Rami.

"Even if they reach a compromise, there will be a reaction by the military wings of all the factions," said Rami Aziz, 23. "We won't accept that."

"What's this about factions?" interrupted his grandfather, who fears that his children and grandchildren will take up arms. "We don't have anything to do with this. Truly, all I want is the Jewish people and Palestinians to live in peace."

"But the Koran doesn't say that," Rami Aziz returned, his voice rising.

"Why are you shouting?" asked his grandfather.

"But they don't want peace," Rami Aziz said. "Even the prophet encouraged killing Jews."

"No -- he didn't say that," his grandfather answered. "Get out of here." As the young man stayed seated, the patriarch looked across at a visitor. "The new generation doesn't understand," he explained sadly. "We want to live in peace. They want to fight -- O.K. Then it's destruction for everybody."

<http://www.nytimes.com>

Graphic

Photos: Posters depicting fallen fighters of the military wing of **Hamas**, the militant Islamic movement, adorn a candy store's windows in Jabaliya.; In the Jabaliya refugee camp in the Gaza Strip, boys play soccer in a cemetery. The camps have supplied many fighters in the Palestinian uprising. (Photographs by James Estrin/The New York Times)

Load-Date: March 10, 2002

End of Document

Israelis comb rocky hills for ambushers of bus

Deseret News (Salt Lake City)

July 17, 2002, Wednesday

Copyright 2002 The Deseret News Publishing Co.

Section: WIRE;

Length: 947 words

Byline: By Yoav Appel Associated Press writer

Body

EMMANUEL, West Bank -- An Israeli soldier and a Palestinian gunman were killed Wednesday as Israel mounted a massive manhunt in the rocky hills of the West Bank for militants who ambushed a bus near a Jewish settlement, killing eight Israelis.

Separately, Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat denounced U.S. demands that he be replaced and said he would run in January elections if the PLO leadership approves his candidacy.

The toll of Tuesday's attack reached eight Wednesday when a baby died after being prematurely delivered by Caesarean section, doctors said; the boy's mother, Yehudit Weinberg, 22, was in serious condition. Others who died in the ambush included an 8-month-old girl, her father and grandmother.

Heavy exchanges of fire continued Wednesday between Israeli army forces and Palestinian gunmen in the area of the Jewish settlement of Emmanuel where the attack occurred. A Palestinian gunman and an Israeli soldier, Lt. El'ad Grenadier, 21, were killed in gunbattles, military officials said. Three Israeli soldiers were also injured, one seriously, the army said.

Israel called off a high-level meeting with Palestinians scheduled for Wednesday after the ambush.

The well-planned attack, claimed by three different Palestinian groups, came as officials from a Mideast policy planning group called the Quartet met in New York to try to come up with a formula to try to stop the 221-months of Israeli-Palestinian violence and restart peace talks.

Officials from the United States, Russia, European Union and United Nations expressed concern for the plight of the Palestinians but differed over the role of Arafat.

Israel blamed Arafat for the attack at the entrance to the settlement of Emmanuel, which is located between the Palestinian towns of Nablus and Qalqiliya in the northern West Bank. Israeli forces control those towns and five others after launching an invasion after Palestinian suicide bombings in Israel last month.

Raanan Gissin, spokesman for Israeli Prime Minister Ariel Sharon, warned that Israel would remain in the areas until Palestinian security forces are revamped to stop terrorism.

Israeli Foreign Minister Shimon Peres, who advocates resuming talks with the Palestinians, canceled meetings planned for Wednesday and said the Palestinians were harming themselves by carrying out attacks.

Israelis comb rocky hills for ambushers of bus

Peres met with Sharon and other ministers Wednesday to discuss the situation, Israel Radio reported.

Israel has insisted that Arafat be replaced, and President Bush agreed. However, in the New York talks, the other members of the Quartet disagreed.

Arafat denounced Bush's call for a leadership change, saying in an interview with Associated Press Television News he would run in January elections if the PLO leadership agreed.

"They (the United States) have to understand that this is not Afghanistan and that they can't change things as they want," he said.

The Palestinian Authority, in a rare move apparently aimed at the Quartet meeting, condemned the attack in the West Bank "as part of its continuous policy which rejects targeting civilians, whether they are Israelis or Palestinians."

While the Palestinian leadership has denounced suicide bombings in Israel, it rarely criticizes attacks in the West Bank, where many Palestinians consider Jewish settlers legitimate targets in the struggle for control of the territory the Palestinians want for a state.

U.N. Secretary-General Kofi Annan denounced the "terrorist" ambush as did Amnesty International, which last week called suicide attacks against Israeli civilians crimes against humanity.

Three Palestinian groups rushed to claim responsibility for the first fatal attack on Israeli civilians in nearly a month: Hamas, the radical Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine and the Al Aqsa Martyrs Brigade, affiliated with Arafat's Fatah movement.

The attackers -- numbering either three or four -- were disguised as Israeli soldiers. First they set off a bomb that stopped the bus, which was armor-plated against gunfire. Then they shot at the passengers and threw grenades.

At least three pregnant women -- one Israeli and two Palestinians -- have been killed in the current fighting. But Weinberg's boy, with whom she was eight months pregnant, was believed to be the youngest victim of the fighting. Previously, a 4-month-old Palestinian girl was thought to have been the youngest.

Rachel Gross, a 17-year-old high school student, said the bus lurched into the air when the powerful bomb went off.

"I got down under the seats, as fast as I could, because the terrorists began firing bursts and throwing grenades, it went on and on it seemed like eternity," she said while visiting victims at a hospital. She was not hurt.

In more than 21 months of fighting, 1,759 people have been killed on the Palestinian side, and 574 on the Israeli side, including Tuesday's attack.

The last fatal attack on Israeli civilians occurred June 20, when a gunman killed five Israelis in the Jewish settlement of Itamar, near Nablus in the north West Bank. In that period, 44 Palestinians have been killed.

Tuesday's attack was the second at the entrance to Emmanuel, an ultra-Orthodox settlement of about 5,000 people. Eleven people were killed in a similar Palestinian operation Dec. 12.

Settlers had complained then about inadequate security, and on Wednesday Defense Minister Binyamin Ben-Eliezer met with them and promised to build a fence around Emmanuel as well as a new access road, settlers said.

They also said the government had promised \$20 million to increase security at settlements. Ben-Eliezer's office said in a statement that \$240,000 would be allocated to build a security fence and new access road for Emmanuel.

Load-Date: July 17, 2002

Israelis comb rocky hills for ambushers of bus

End of Document

And justice for all: Israel's efforts to avoid civilian casualties are being ignored by the rest of the world, argues the Jerusalem Post

Ottawa Citizen

July 25, 2002 Thursday Final Edition

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Section: News; Pg. A13; Opinion

Length: 881 words

Body

A remarkable report appeared in Sunday's New York Times titled, "Flaws in U.S. air war left hundreds of civilians dead." What was remarkable, to an Israeli eye, was not so much the item's contents as the two words that were missing: war crimes.

These words seemed absent not because the tragedy of civilian deaths in war necessarily demands a discussion of war crimes. From a journalistic point of view, it is understandable that such a hoary charge is not brought into the picture, since it is understood that some level of civilian casualties is an unavoidable part of war, and that American claims that such casualties were kept to a minimum should be treated with considerable respect.

The Jerusalem Post

As Israelis, we know better than most, the experience of being unjustly accused of an indifference to civilian casualties -- the libelous charges of a "massacre" in Jenin being the most dramatic recent example. We would be the last to question the justice of America's war against terrorism, which we feel must be won for the sake of the entire world, and in particular for our own security.

There comes a point, however, when the contrast between concern over the suffering of the innocent in the branches of the war prosecuted by the U.S. and Israel becomes so blinding that it cannot be ignored. According to that New York Times report, on July 1, an American AC-130 gunship attacked four villages around the hamlet of Kakrak in the Oruzgan province of Afghanistan. Local officials counted 54 dead, most of them **women** and children.

The air strike was called in after Special Forces on the ground reported anti-aircraft guns firing, but the villagers later said the firing was random shooting into the air during two engagement parties that night. The Pentagon says its forces had been taking heavy fire from this region for some time, so it would be wrong to assume that the raid was a total mistake. Yet even if there were legitimate targets in the area, the fact that villages were strafed from the air and many civilians died does not seem to be in question.

Previously, on Dec. 29, the report notes, U.S. forces correctly identified an ammunition dump the Taliban had moved to the village of Niazi Qala, near Kabul. The ammunition store was destroyed from the air, but so was the entire village. Fifty-two Afghan villagers reportedly died there, and six months later the village remains abandoned.

Again, the point here is not to question the legitimacy of the American decision to oust the Taliban and to root out al-Qaeda terrorists, but to note that America fought the terrorists primarily from the air, while Israel chose to fight terrorists primarily on the ground. The result of this tactical choice in Jenin, in particular, was dramatic: almost all of the almost 50 Palestinians who were killed in that city were armed men, and Israel lost 23 of its soldiers in house-to-house fighting in a heavily booby-trapped, built-up area.

And justice for all: Israel 's efforts to avoid civilian casualties are being ignored by the rest of the world, argues
the Jerusalem Post

Despite the extraordinary price Israel paid to safeguard Palestinian civilian lives, it was Israel, not the U.S., that faced an immediate UN investigation and widespread charges of war crimes. Though a somewhat different case, this pattern is continuing with respect to the current debate over "deporting" the families of suicide bombers.

The announcement by Attorney-General Elyakim Rubinstein that, in certain cases, relatives of suicide bombers may be relocated from the West Bank to the Gaza Strip has been met with displeasure by the U.S. State Department and condemnations from the UN secretary-general and the EU presidency. The words "war crimes" are once again being thrown about with abandon. Lost in the shuffle are the facts that Rubinstein stipulated only family members who are "directly involved" in the terrorism of their kin may be affected, the policy must be implemented on an individual -- not collective -- basis, and the idea is not to deport, but to relocate people within the Palestinian Authority. In addition, the entire process would be subject to appeal and to the scrutiny of the Supreme Court.

If anything, Israel has so thoroughly and pre-emptively hamstrung its own policy it is hard to imagine it being implemented in more than a handful of cases. A policy so constrained is reminiscent of the air strikes at empty buildings that characterized an earlier stage of this war, a "signaling" action rendered largely ineffective as a deterrent because the diplomatic costs roughly cancel out the meagre military benefits.

Some cases, such as the parents who proudly encourage their children to destroy themselves in order to murder Israelis, cry out for some form of punishment. In the main, however, one wonders why the "civilian" leadership of Hamas can live relatively freely and how religious leaders can openly espouse suicide bombings.

The government has rightly emphasized the primary responsibility of Palestinian leaders for fomenting terrorism. At a time when U.S. President George W. Bush has bravely struck at the heart of the matter by calling for Palestinian Authority Chairman Yasser Arafat's removal from power, it is somewhat incongruous to see the government reverting toward justifiable, but largely symbolic actions.

This editorial appeared in Monday's edition of the Jerusalem Post.

Graphic

Photo: The Associated Press; Terrorists' Target: An Israeli paramedic helps a victim of a suicide bombing in Jerusalem on April 12 that killed six people and wounded at least 50.

Load-Date: July 25, 2002

Despair, determination fill Israelis

The Record (Kitchener-Waterloo, Ontario)

June 21, 2002 Friday Final Edition

Copyright 2002 Metroland Media Group Ltd

Section: INSIGHT; Pg. A15; OPINION

Length: 817 words

Byline: IAN FISHER

Dateline: JERUSALEM

Body

"There are no words," Abraham Orel, 23, a quietvoiced Talmudic student, said Wednesday night. He was hard to hear for all the shouting of anger and vengeance, all the trucks and ambulances grunting by efficiently. "You have a sick feeling in your stomach."

Never at ease these days, Jerusalem barely had time to swallow the suicide bombing that killed 19 Israelis on Tuesday when a second attacker struck Wednesday night. Another six people were killed, and Orel stood watching medical workers clean up the gore.

New York Times News Service

"I guess you could say I am not scared," he said. "But I'm frustrated and angry. You keep seeing this happen again and again. It's the same thing: People are getting killed for no reason. The general public, they've had enough already."

In front of him, lights flashed; behind him, a group of students chanted in the darkness: "We want revenge!" and "No Arafat, no terror!"

As usual lately, the Palestinian Authority, led by Yasser Arafat, condemned Wednesday night's bombing as the Israeli military again moved against Palestinian targets.

So on both sides, there was some sense of routine, even as many Jews said the strain and sadness were inching toward something unbearable.

A front-page commentary in Yediot Ahronot by Yaron Tzidkiyahu, famed for his cheese and pickle stand in Jerusalem's market, summed up the national mood as "despair, despair, despair."

The Gilo neighbourhood, to the southwest, was feeling the strain the most: Of the 19 people killed on Tuesday, 17 were from Gilo, including two girls, 11 and 15, and young women of 21 and 22.

Gilo itself is one point of contention in this complicated conflict. Palestinians regard the neighbourhood, which Israel occupied in the 1967 war and annexed to Jerusalem, as a settlement.

Some Jews are divided on that question, as became clear at the funeral of one victim when several mourners argued gently whether Gilo actually belongs to them.

Despair, determination fill Israelis

"I am just saying what I heard," said Saul Cohen, 76, who earned rebuke for suggesting that the land may not be legally Jewish.

They had gathered at a synagogue in Gilo for the funeral of Moshe Gottlieb, 70, a chiropractor born on the Lower East Side of Manhattan who used to drive to patients' houses on a black Honda motorcycle until it was stolen. Family members said he had taken the 32A bus, the one that was blown up, to care for a Down syndrome patient he had treated free of charge for 13 years.

People at the funeral said that even though they had grown used to suicide bombings, this one seemed different, and not just in numbers. The 32A bus is the only one that goes from Gilo to downtown Jerusalem, and is well known for carrying students.

"It's crazy someone could take responsibility for killing children on a bus," said Eliezer Cohen, 60.

Saul Cohen added: "This bus carried students. They went after kids."

Joe Schonwald, 52, another of Gottlieb's patients, said bitterly: "Is there anything that's different with this one? We're just not going to take it any more."

In the house of Dr. Tuvia Nagari, a dentist, the family sat shiva for one of the dead young women, his daughter, Shiri, 21, who had returned in March from a year's trip to North and South America. Not only did she come back safely, but she learned Spanish and was expecting a visit in the next few days from a friend, a young man from Chile.

"Tonight, in the middle of the night, I had to talk to him and tell him she was murdered -- and that he was still invited," said her sister Shelly, 24.

"She was so brave, I can't believe something could happen to her. I can't understand how so much good and so much evil can meet."

Another sister, Sharon, 28, turned her attention to the bomber, a Palestinian named Muhammad al-Ghoul, who was just a year older than Shiri.

"What did that guy think?" she asked. "What gave him the right to take her, to murder people? That's not politics. That's murdering a whole world."

Hamas, the Islamist group, claimed responsibility for the attack, saying that it was conducting a "war of buses" and that its bomber had proved Israel's defences fruitless.

In fact, many Israelis were angered Wednesday at their security forces' inability to prevent the Gilo bombing. Others said they were feeling more fatalistic as this struggle wears on.

"I'm afraid but I'm not hysterical," said Anat Moshkovitz, 45, whose younger daughter was in the same dance troupe as the 15-year-old killed. "This is our life. We don't have any other place to go."

On Wednesday morning, Moshkovitz's older daughter asked her for a ride in their car downtown, where she goes to college. "She said, 'Mom, will you take me?'"

Moshkovitz said. "But it's a long way. In the end, she went on the bus."

"There is no alternative," Moshkovitz said. "This is our country, and we're not giving up on it."

Summary - "I'm afraid but I'm not hysterical. This is our life. We don't have any other place to go."

Graphic

Despair, determination fill Israelis

Photo: ASSOCIATED PRESS; Medics evacuate a wounded Israeli woman from the site of a suicide bombing in northern Jerusalem, Wednesday after a suicide bomber blew himself up and killed six people. More than 35 people were wounded, many critically. On Tuesday, 19 Israelis were killed in another suicide bombing. Many of these victims were children.

Load-Date: June 21, 2002

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LIFE AFTER ARAFAT Just a matter of time for new breed of leaders waiting in wings

Daily News (New York)

May 19, 2002, Sunday

SPORTS FINAL EDITION

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Section: EDITORIAL;; COLUMN,OPINION

Length: 881 words

Byline: BY ZEV CHAFETS

Body

Israeli Prime Minister Ariel Sharon wants to give him the boot. President Bush hopes to reform him. Young men with guns dream of taking his place. But Yasser Arafat, the capo di tutti capi of Palestine, intends to stay around, empowered and unreformed, for a long time.

Arafat is old, sick and often appears confused. But there was no confusion in the speech he gave to the Palestinian "parliament" last week. He promised reforms without naming any, because he has no intention of making any.

Instead, the Palestinian leader offered "elections." That word goes in quotes because Palestinian politics are a sham. In 1996, Arafat was "elected" head of the Palestinian Authority with 87% of the vote. His handpicked "opponent" was an aged, anonymous **female** social worker. Arafat controlled the media during that campaign, and his people counted the votes.

But he would have won a fair election. He was, and remains, an iconic figure among the Palestinians. Mob boss John Gotti enjoyed a similar status in Howard Beach, Queens, and for many of the same reasons.

Like Gotti, Arafat shot his way to the top. For nearly 40 years, he has been the boss of the Palestinians because he was the guy with the most guns and the most dough. At last count, he controlled 12 militias (or crews, as they are known in north New Jersey). He has hundreds of millions of dollars - mostly European and Saudi aid (aka protection money) - stashed in foreign accounts, including, reportedly, one in Israel.

Arafat has used his muscle and money to stay in control. But he also has achieved results. It was he, after all, who basically invented the "Palestinian people" and put their cause on the international agenda.

But then, in the summer of 2000 at Camp David, he did the one thing no godfather can ever do: Given an offer he couldn't refuse - a Palestinian state in exchange for peace with Israel - he refused it.

He'll Play along

Now he's got the State Department, the CIA and the rest of the feds nipping at his heels. They want him to reform or turn over power. He could say no, but why bother? It's easier to play along. He'll hold an election with another handpicked opponent, count the votes once more and declare victory.

LIFE AFTER ARAFAT Just a matter of time for new breed of leaders waiting in wings

The Americans want a constitution? He'll write one. They want independent judges? He'll appoint them. Democracy is easy when you can do it yourself.

Arafat has seen to it that he has no obvious successor. The best predictor of a change in Palestinian leadership is the actuarial table. No matter what he tells the Americans, he intends to stay wedded to absolute power until death do they part.

And then what? Even if Arafat died tomorrow, it's too late for the current cadre of Palestinian politicians - men like Abu Mazen, Abu Ala and the other petit bourgeois Abus of the Oslo accords. They can't take over because they have no real muscle. Same for Palestinian media stars like Arafat mouthpiece Saeb Erekat, Peter Jennings' chum Hanan Ashrawi or The New Yorker magazine's candidate, Prof. Sari Nusseibeh.

Until recently, a duo of gunslingers was regarded as mostly likely to succeed. But Gaza security capo Mohammed Dahlan and West Bank strongman Jabril Rajub both had a bad war. Rajub is accused by Hamas of turning over some of its operatives to Israel. Dahlan has quarreled more or less openly with Arafat and sulked through the Israeli incursion. They aren't out of the race, but the odds against them are longer.

Marwan Bargouti, the Fatah militia commander, is another contender. But Bargouti is in a ticklish position at the moment. Captured by Israel, he reportedly has been ratting out Arafat's personal involvement in terrorism, including the murder of American citizens. These rumors may be Israeli disinformation, but if they're true, Bargouti is going to need the witness protection program.

During the West Bank fighting, some new names emerged. They include Husam Hader, leader of the Balata refugee camp near Nablus; Hussein a Sheikh, scion of a prominent Ramallah-area family, and Kamal H'med, head of the Tanzim militia in Bethlehem and one of the 13 Church of the Nativity gunmen who were deported by Israel last week. They are youngish men, veterans of both the first and second intifadehs, with Israeli prison records and radical credentials.

The dealmakers

"These guys are tough, and they talk wild," says an Israeli intelligence officer who has dealt with them for many years. "But they're practical, they have real popular support and they want a state here and now. The 'right of return' for Palestinians to Israel is an abstraction - as far as they're concerned, the refugees in Lebanon and Syria can fend for themselves. These are people we can ultimately sign a deal with."

None of these guys is a democrat. None will provide the transparency and constitutional rule of law the State Department is talking about and Israel now demands as a condition for Palestinian statehood. They are, like Arafat, gunmen. The most anyone can reasonably expect from them in a post-Arafat era is cold pragmatism.

Perhaps this is enough for a land-for-peace deal. Perhaps not. But don't expect to find out anytime soon. We won't know until Yasser Arafat departs for the land of the 72 virgins and some other Palestinian statesman shoots his way to the top.

E-mail: zchafets@aol.com

Graphic

ILLUSTRATION BY WILLIAM BRAMHALL

Load-Date: May 20, 2002

LIFE AFTER ARAFAT Just a matter of time for new breed of leaders waiting in wings

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UN envoy blames Israel for 'dire' situation; Islamic Jihad claims responsibility for suicide bombing at Gaza Strip checkpoint

The Record (Kitchener-Waterloo, Ontario)

April 20, 2002 Saturday Final Edition

Copyright 2002 Metroland Media Group Ltd

Section: FRONT; Pg. A8; NEWS

Length: 899 words

Dateline: JERUSALEM

Body

A rebel blew himself up at a Gaza Strip checkpoint and Israeli army fire killed seven Palestinians yesterday, even as Israeli troops withdrew from one West Bank town.

In Jerusalem, the UN envoy to the Middle East, Terje Roed-Larsen, said Israel's three-week-old military campaign in the West Bank created a "dire" humanitarian situation and was largely counterproductive.

Islamic Jihad claimed responsibility for the suicide bombing at an army checkpoint near the Kissufim crossing between Israel and Gaza, the first such attack in the strip in five months. The assailant was killed and two soldiers were lightly wounded.

Associated Press

In the past 19 months of fighting, scores of suicide bombings have been launched from the West Bank, but none from the Gaza Strip, which is separated from Israel by a high fence. However, the command centre of the largest rebel group -- ***Hamas*** -- is in Gaza, which has not been targeted in the Israeli offensive.

In funerals in the strip, supporters of rebel groups and Palestinian President Yasser Arafat's Fatah movement threatened to carry out new attacks in Israel to avenge the deaths of more than 200 Palestinians.

Leading a procession in Gaza City, a masked Fatah activist told mourners he had a message for Israeli Prime Minister Ariel Sharon: "You have opened the gates of hell . . . Murder for murder, and destruction for destruction."

About two million people have been under tight closures in the West Bank and Gaza Strip for months, and more than 600,000 have been under around-the-clock curfews for extended periods during the past three weeks, UN envoy Terje Roed-Larsen said.

"Israel's operation may have dismantled the physical infrastructure of terrorism, but that is possibly easy to be rebuilt," Roed-Larsen said. "Meanwhile, the mental infrastructure of terrorism is building up, the mentality of hate and confrontation, and this is very difficult to undo."

He said food supplies were dwindling, the water supply was inadequate and suspended garbage collection posed risk of outbreak of disease. He estimated that 75 per cent of the work force was now idle.

UN envoy blames Israel for 'dire' situation; Islamic Jihad claims responsibility for suicide bombing at Gaza Strip checkpoint

In the West Bank, soldiers refused to let aid organizations deliver food and medicines to the West Bank city of Nablus, a relief worker said.

"We got the green light in the morning, but when we got to Nablus it seems the situation had changed," said Peter Holland, of Oxfam Quebec, adding that troops gave no reason for the reversal.

Israeli Defence Minister Binyamin Ben-Eliezer said a gradual withdrawal from Palestinian cities would continue.

He said by tomorrow morning, troops will have pulled out of Nablus, and of most of the town of Ramallah. Israel has said it will maintain its siege of Arafat's headquarters in Ramallah, where the Palestinian president is confined to several rooms.

In Ramallah, troops enforcing a curfew shot dead a 14-year-old Palestinian boy yesterday morning as he walked from his house to the adjacent bakery where he worked, Palestinian doctors said. In neighbouring Beitunia, troops shot and killed a nine-year-old boy as he played in his backyard on Thursday evening, doctors said.

The army said it was checking the reports.

Early yesterday, troops pulled out of the town of Jenin and the adjacent refugee camp, scene of the heaviest fighting of the offensive.

Yesterday, residents picked through heaps of debris, salvaging what possessions they could. Dozens of homes in the centre of the camp were pounded into rubble by Israeli shelling and bulldozers during the weeklong battle between scores of Palestinian gunmen and advancing Israeli troops.

The United Nations has declared Jenin camp a disaster area.

So far, area hospitals have listed 43 bodies as having been retrieved from the camp, six of whom were women, children or elderly men.

Israel has denied Palestinian allegations that hundreds of civilians were buried under the rubble of homes demolished by army bulldozers. Israel says it believes several dozen people, most of them gunmen, were killed in the fighting.

In the Gaza Strip, Israeli troops briefly raided the Rafah refugee camp and three civilians were killed in exchanges of fire, doctors said. Also yesterday, soldiers killed two armed Palestinians who tried to enter the Jewish settlement of Netzarim in Gaza. Islamic Jihad claimed responsibility for the attempt.

Meanwhile, an Israeli official told UN Secretary General Kofi Annan yesterday that it would welcome a fact-finding mission to look into Israeli military action in Jenin and other Palestinian cities, a UN spokesman said.

Israeli Foreign Minister Shimon Peres' phone call to Annan in New York was disclosed as the United States circulated a draft Security Council resolution which would welcome the secretary general's initiative "with the co-operation of the government of Israel to develop accurate information regarding recent events in the Jenin refugee camp."

The United States has threatened to veto an Arab-backed resolution expressing shock at reports of a "massacre" at Jenin and requesting the secretary-general to investigate "the full scope of the tragic events" there.

Arab countries were meeting privately to discuss the surprise U.S. draft which also "emphasizes the urgency of access of medical and humanitarian organizations to the Palestinian civilian population."

Diplomats said one likely problem for the Arabs is that the U.S. draft never mentions the word "Israel."

UN envoy blames Israel for 'dire' situation; Islamic Jihad claims responsibility for suicide bombing at Gaza Strip checkpoint

Graphic

Photo: ASSOCIATED PRESS; An Israeli explosives expert examines the wreckage of a car after a Palestinian blew himself up in the vehicle at an Israeli military checkpoint in the southern Gaza Strip yesterday.

Load-Date: April 20, 2002

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THE PALESTINIANS MUST SEIZE BACK THEIR PRIDE

The Independent (London)

May 3, 2002, Friday

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Section: COMMENT; Pg. 21

Length: 924 words

Byline: Adrian Hamilton

Body

One can imagine Ariel Sharon's look as he watches on television the pictures of Yasser Arafat prancing around proclaiming his new freedom. It would be one of pure contempt.

For the past year the central focus of his policy has been to isolate, humiliate and marginalise his old enemy. Now, under American pressure, he has to watch him strengthened by his weeks under siege. If I were a betting man I wouldn't give much odds on the Palestinian leader living much longer, never mind being allowed back if he ever goes abroad.

Short of that, what we will see is a return to the old game of escalating tit for tat as Sharon awaits further acts of bombing so that he can move against Arafat again, while Arafat waits for the counter-measures so he can claim the role of heroic victim. **Hamas** has already declared its determination to commit new attacks. Ariel Sharon has made clear the primary interests of Israeli security can be achieved only by the total neutering of the Palestinians. The dance of death goes on.

Arafat's release is only one side of the coin. On every other front Sharon has got his way. Blair, and President Bush, huffed and puffed about immediate Israeli withdrawal from Palestinian territory. And what have they got? Israeli tanks rolling into Tulkarm yesterday, another assassination (or "targeted killing" as the Israelis term it) and dozens more arrests. Operation Defensive Shield goes on with no sign of an early end and the UN's attempts to investigate allegations of massacre at Jenin have been finally disbanded.

Of all the developments of the past few weeks it is the collapse of the Jenin committee of investigation that is the saddest. Not that it would necessarily have found that there had been a massacre. In the sense that there was a "massacre" in the terms of Srebrenica or Rwanda, it remains hard to conceive. But that does not mean, as the Israeli ambassador suggested yesterday, that the Palestinian feeling that there was one is just a piece of propaganda. If you believe them, the ambassador joked on the Today programme, "the Israelis would be responsible for every traffic accident in the West Bank". Ho, ho, ho. He clearly feels the Palestinians are comic people.

Well no, they're not in fact. The rumours of a massacre started when the emails and the mobile phones started buzzing in the hours after the Israeli invasion. Shooting started; civilians were shot at; houses were broken into. Then access was prevented and even the ambulances couldn't go in. All sorts of rumours started to circulate.

In the bitter aftermath of that military assault, there are - as the Human Rights Watch reported yesterday - very real concerns that the Geneva conventions were broken. Civilians, it is said, were used as shields; houses were

THE PALESTINIANS MUST SEIZE BACK THEIR PRIDE

pounded without warning to the occupants; unarmed civilians were shot crossing the streets; grenades were thrown into rooms full of women and children; ambulances were stopped coming to the aid of the wounded.

Ultimately it is up to Israel itself - and it has a strong civil rights movement within - to investigate these charges and to determine whether the boundaries of reasonable military force were breached. The American did it after My Lai; we British are still at it in the inquiry into Bloody Sunday. There is a greater role for outside intervention, and particularly the Red Cross, in an aspect which has hardly received any attention so far but will emerge in the weeks to come: the treatment of the Palestinians seized as suspected terrorists.

But a UN investigation could have at least sifted the evidence and begun to define the terms for all to see. Was it a massacre? If not, were crimes against civilians perpetrated? The extremists on both sides would have rejected the conclusion. The Israeli government would have shouted foul. But those concerned but uncommitted - and I still think they are the majority - would have had the chance to read and decide for themselves.

An investigation into Jenin would have also done something else even more important, I think. It would have shown that the world cared. Jenin has become a symbol for the Palestinians not just of one incident but a whole process of humiliation and castration by an occupying force. The successive occupations of Palestinian towns have in almost every case been accompanied by a trashing of homes and offices, a humiliation of individuals and a wanton destruction that goes way beyond the stated aim of suppressing the means of terrorism.

The files of the Palestinian Authority's health and education departments were all destroyed. The Culture Centre in Bethlehem was invaded and all its books and material ripped up. The office of a prominent lawyer in Ramallah was taken over as a sniper post and every single bit of office equipment broken and the floors covered with excrement. In Bethlehem, the soldiers broke into a neighbour of a friend, gathered the children's clothes, unzipped their trousers and pissed on them.

This is not massacre. It is not even a war crime. But it is something else - a deliberate desecration, signalling that you don't even regard your enemy as human. Real peace is not possible in the Middle East until the Palestinians are allowed back their pride, or seize it back for themselves by acts of violence. A UN investigation into Jenin might just have gone a little way to recognising this. The folding of the international community before Israeli objections just confirms the worst fears of the Palestinians about their plight.

a.hamilton@independent.co.uk

Load-Date: May 3, 2002

THE LIES LEADERS TELL WHEN THEY WANT TO GO TO WAR

The Independent (London)

March 30, 2002, Saturday

Copyright 2002 Independent Print Ltd

Section: COMMENT; Pg. 4

Length: 908 words

Byline: Robert Fisk

Body

HOW MUCH longer can Ariel Sharon pretend that he's fighting in the "war against terror"? How much longer are we supposed to believe this nonsense? How much longer can the Americans remain so gutlessly silent in the face of a vicious conflict which is coming close to obscuring the crimes against humanity of 11 September? Terror, terror, terror. Like a punctuation mark, the word infects every Israeli speech, every American speech, almost every newspaper article. When will someone admit the truth: that the Israelis and Palestinians are engaged in a dirty colonial war which will leave both sides shamed and humiliated?

Just listen to what Sharon has been saying in the past 24 hours. "Arafat is an enemy. He decided on a strategy of terror and formed a coalition of terror." That's pretty much what President Bush said about Osama bin Laden. But what on earth does it mean? That Arafat is actually sending off the suicide bombers, choosing the target, the amount of explosives? If he was, then surely Sharon would have sent his death squads after the Palestinian leader months ago. After all, his killers have managed to murder dozens of Palestinian gunmen already, including occasional women and children who get in the way.

The real problem with Arafat is that he has a lot in common with Sharon: old, ruthless and cynical; both men have come to despise each other. Sharon believes that the Palestinians can be broken by military power. He doesn't realise what the rest of the world learned during Sharon's own 1982 siege of Beirut: that the Arabs are no longer afraid. Once a people lose their fear, they cannot be re-inoculated with fear. Once the suicide bomber is loose, the war cannot be won. And Arafat knows this.

No, of course he doesn't send the bombers off on their wicked missions to restaurants and supermarkets. But he does know that every suicide bombing destroys Sharon's credibility and proves that the Israeli leader's promises of security are false. Arafat is well aware that the ferocious bombers are serving his purpose - however much he may condemn them in public.

But he - like Sharon - also believes his enemies can be broken by fire. He thinks that the Israelis can be frightened into withdrawing from the West Bank and Gaza and East Jerusalem. Ultimately, the Israelis probably will have to give up their occupation. But the Jews of Israel are not going to run or submit to an endless war of attrition. Even if Sharon is voted out of power - a prospect for which many Israelis pray - the next Israeli prime minister is not going to negotiate out of fear of the suicide bomber.

Thus the rhetoric becomes ever more cruel, ever more revolting. Hamas calls its Jewish enemies "the sons of pigs and monkeys", while Israeli leaders have variously bestialised their enemies as "serpents", "crocodiles", "beasts" and "cockroaches". Now we have an Israeli officer - according to the Israeli daily Ma'ariv - advising his men to study

THE LIES LEADERS TELL WHEN THEY WANT TO GO TO WAR

the tactics adopted by the Nazis in the Second World War. "If our job is to seize a densely packed refugee camp or take over the Nablus casbah, and if this job is given to an (Israeli) officer to carry out without casualties on both sides, he must before all else analyse and bring together the lessons of past battles, even - shocking though this might appear - to analyse how the German army operated in the Warsaw ghetto."

Pardon? What on earth does this mean? Does this account for the numbers marked by the Israelis on the hands and foreheads of Palestinian prisoners earlier this month? Does this mean that an Israeli soldier is now to regard the Palestinians as sub-humans - which is exactly how the Nazis regarded the trapped and desperate Jews of the Warsaw ghetto in 1944?

Yet from Washington comes only silence. And silence, in law, gives consent. Should we be surprised? After all, the US is now making the rules as it goes along. Prisoners can be called "illegal combatants" and brought to Guantanamo Bay with their mouths taped for semi-secret trials. The Afghan war is declared a victory - and then suddenly explodes again. Now we are told there will be other "fronts" in Afghanistan, a spring offensive by "terrorists". Washington has also said that its intelligence agencies - the heroes who failed to discover the 11 September plot - have proof (undisclosed, of course) that Arafat has "a new alliance" with Iran, which brings the Palestinians into the "axis of evil."

Is there no one to challenge this stuff? Just over a week ago, CIA director George Tenet announced that Iraq had links with al-Qa'ida. "Contacts and linkages", have been established, he told us. And that's what the headlines said. But then Tenet continued by saying that the mutual antipathy of al-Qa'ida and Iraq towards America and Saudi Arabia "suggests that tactical cooperation between them is possible?" "Suggests?" "Possible?" is that what Mr Tenet calls proof?

But now everyone is cashing in on the "war against terror". When Macedonian cops gun down seven Arabs, they announce that they are participating in the global "war on terror". When Russians massacre Chechens, they are now prosecuting the "war on terror". When Israel fires at Arafat's headquarters, it says it is participating in the "war on terror". Must we all be hijacked into America's dangerous self-absorption with the crimes of 11 September? Must this vile war between Palestinians and Israelis be distorted in so dishonest a way?

Load-Date: April 9, 2002

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Israel won't back down from armed campaign

St. Petersburg Times (Florida)

April 11, 2002, Thursday, 4 State / Suncoast Edition

Copyright 2002 Times Publishing Company

Section: NATIONAL; Pg. 1A

Length: 879 words

Dateline: HAIFA, Israel

Body

On the eve of a crucial U.S. diplomatic drive, Israel on Wednesday again refused to withdraw from the West Bank cities it invaded 13 days ago and said a deadly suicide bombing on a bus earlier in the day showed why the offensive must continue.

As the Israeli army reported that it had finally succeeded in conquering the embattled Jenin refugee camp, Prime Minister Ariel Sharon and members of his government told the United States that while they appreciate America's friendship, Israel will wage its war on Palestinian militants as it sees fit.

"I hope our great friend the United States understands that this is a war of survival for us," Sharon told reporters during a visit to troops at an army base overlooking the Jenin camp. "It is our right to defend our citizens, and there should be no pressure put on us not to do that."

Compiled from Times WiresMIDEASTMAIN

In Madrid, Secretary of State Colin Powell and officials from three other major powers called for an immediate end to Israel's military operation in the West Bank and for both Israelis and Palestinians to end "this senseless confrontation."

Powell is expected to arrive in Israel late today in an attempt to broker a cease-fire.

In the West Bank, the Israeli operation continued. In the Jenin camp, mass surrenders were reported, along with large numbers of deaths. Scores of Palestinians and about 30 Israeli soldiers were killed in a week of fighting. Israel said Palestinian gunmen put up their stiffest resistance in Jenin; Palestinian officials accused Israel of "massacres."

In Bethlehem, a monk was shot and wounded when he stuck his head out of the besieged Church of the Nativity. Israeli troops said it was unclear who shot him.

And outside the Israeli port city of Haifa, a Palestinian man with explosives strapped to his waist boarded bus No. 960 bound for Jerusalem during Wednesday morning's rush hour. About 20 minutes later, he detonated his bomb, killing himself and eight Israelis, most of them police on the way to work.

Fourteen people were injured. The radical Islamic group **Hamas** claimed responsibility.

As he was being wheeled to surgery, bus driver Yehuda Akst said the bomber didn't do anything to rouse suspicion. He may even have been wearing an Israeli army uniform, Akst said.

Israel won't back down from armed campaign

In the wake of the attack, the first suicide bombing to target civilians in a week, Sharon again rejected American and international pleas that Israeli forces pull out of the West Bank.

Hundreds of right-wing Israelis rallied Wednesday night outside the U.S. consulate in West Jerusalem to demand that the United States cease its pressure on the Sharon government. "Bush, Don't Push!" read one gigantic banner.

Early today, Israeli forces moved into the central West Bank village of Ber Zeit. Troops occupied the police station and searched house to house, witnesses said. The soldiers met no resistance.

At the same time, the Defense Ministry announced a pullout from three villages: Yatta, Qabatya and Samua.

The Jenin refugee camp, site of the last Palestinian resistance, succumbed after a week of shelling by Israeli tanks and helicopters. By midmorning, the resistance appeared to be all but over, although sporadic shooting was reported throughout the afternoon.

One group of about 50 holdouts was reported to have become trapped deep inside the camp without ammunition as Israel bulldozers were bearing down. Jamal Hweil, one of the men, telephoned the Al-Jazeera television network to claim that the Israeli army was refusing their surrender.

Hweil said the men feared that the bulldozers would demolish their hideout with them inside.

Residents of Jenin who were contacted by telephone said Israeli helicopters continued flying over the camp throughout the day without firing. But they said bulldozers went into action around noon, knocking down homes damaged by the assault and opening wide, dusty avenues between those left standing.

Omar abu Rashid, a Jenin businessman whose house overlooks the camp from half a mile away, said he saw five bulldozers demolish several hundred of the camp's 2,000 to 2,500 homes.

Refugee families, ordered into the streets by the army, were dispersed to various neighboring villages. Men were separated from **women**. Residents complained of a large number of civilian casualties and the destruction of water, electrical and sewage infrastructure along with large amounts of private property: homes, stores and cars.

Journalists were barred from Jenin. Two convoys, from UNICEF and the International Committee for the Red Cross, were allowed into the city to drop off food, medicine, other relief supplies and a generator for the city's hospital but were barred from the camp.

"In Jenin, people talked about 500 people killed in the camp," said Bertrand Bainbel, UNICEF coordinator in the occupied territories. "I cannot tell you whether it's reliable or not."

Saeb Erekat, a top Palestinian official, also claimed about 500 Palestinians had been killed in Jenin and in Nablus, the second-largest West Bank city, since the offensive began late last month in what he labeled a string of "Israeli massacres."

Among the dead was Mohammed Nursi Tawalbeh, the head of the radical Islamic Jihad in Jenin.

- Information from the Los Angeles Times and Associated Press was used in this report.

Graphic

PHOTO, Associated Press, (3); Ariel Sharon speaks during a visit to the West Bank.; Police officers and rescuers work at the site of a bus bombing near the city of Haifa that killed eight Israelis.; A woman makes her way through debris in Nablus on Wednesday, a day after hundreds of Palestinians surrendered.

Israel won't back down from armed campaign

Load-Date: April 11, 2002

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MIDDLE EAST CRISIS: SCHOOLGIRL SUICIDE BOMBER KILLS TWO IN SUPERMARKET

The Independent (London)

March 30, 2002, Saturday

Copyright 2002 Independent Print Ltd

Section: NEWS; Pg. 4

Length: 877 words

Byline: Eric Silver In Jerusalem The scene outside the shop where 16-year-old Ayat Akhras, right, blew herself up, killing two others and injuring 20 Lefteris Pitarakis/AP

Body

AS IF in defiance of Israel's declaration of war on terror, a schoolgirl suicide bomber killed herself and two Israelis in a suburban Jerusalem supermarket yesterday. Another 22 Israelis were wounded.

Family members identified the bomber as Ayat Akhras, 16, from Deheisheh refugee camp near Bethlehem, who was engaged to be married. Like two Palestinian men who killed themselves on the way to the nearby Malcha shopping mall on Wednesday, she was a member of the al-Aqsa Martyrs Brigade, a militia affiliated to Yasser Arafat's Fatah movement.

In a prerecorded video broadcast last night on Arab television, Ayat Akhras said she was sacrificing herself for the al-Aqsa mosque, the third most sacred in Islam, and for Palestine. Wearing an Arafat-style kefiyah, she said: "Now even **women** are martyring themselves for the Palestinian cause. Where are the Arab leaders?"

She left a mother, father, four brothers and two sisters. One brother, Lutfi, was shot in the head during the first intifada in the late 1970s, and has remained paralysed in the right arm and leg ever since.

The bomber left for a Bethlehem high school as usual yesterday morning, but never returned. Her mother collapsed on hearing of her death, but thousands of residents marched through the refugee camp chanting her name, firing shots in the air and scattering sweets.

Her father, Mohammed, who worked as a carpenter in Israel, said he was proud of her. "She died to avenge our martyrs," he said, "and in protest at the invasion of Ramallah."

She was the third Palestinian woman suicide bomber. The first blew herself up in Jerusalem's Jaffa Road on 27 January, the second in February at a checkpoint between Jerusalem and Tel-Aviv.

The supermarket, in the working-class Kiryat Yovel neighbourhood, is one of the biggest in Jerusalem. It was crowded with shoppers stocking up after the Passover holiday. Many had come from other parts of the city, assuming that it would be safer there than in the town centre, the target of many recent attacks.

The bomber detonated an explosive charge strapped to her body after a security guard challenged her at the supermarket entrance. The guard and a woman shopper were killed on the spot. Plate-glass windows were

MIDDLE EAST CRISIS: SCHOOLGIRL SUICIDE BOMBER KILLS TWO IN SUPERMARKET

shattered, a portion of roof caved in. Produce was scattered, and the ground was awash with white paint from tins stacked just inside.

One shopper told Israel Radio: "The blast was huge. She was a few metres from the entrance inside."

Despite the deployment of 2,500 police in Jerusalem, the bomber managed to slip through the cordon. All leave has been cancelled because of the holiday emergency, but many of the police were concentrated around the Old City, where Muslims praying at al-Aqsa stoned Jewish worshippers at the Wailing Wall below.

The commercial centre of Jewish West Jerusalem has been almost deserted since before the Passover festivities. A man selling nuts in a shop off Jaffa Road said he had seen only a few customers. A bureau de change closed early for want of tourists. Many cafes, which shut for the holiday, did not bother reopening yesterday.

ISRAEL'S DEADLY CONFLICT

27 January: Two people - one a **female** suicide bomber - die in an attack in a busy shopping area of central Jerusalem.

16 February: Two teenagers killed and 30 people injured in suicide bomb attack in the town of Karnei Shomron.

18 February: Two Palestinian bombers die at an Israeli checkpoint, killing a policeman.

2 March: Two babies are among nine dead after a suicide bomb attack in an ultra -orthodox area of Jerusalem, in revenge for Israeli raids on West Bank camps which killed 30.

5 March: Suicide bomber kills one person and injures several others at Afula central bus station, above. Less than 48 hours later, Israel attacks Gaza Strip, killing at least nine.

9 March: At least 11 people killed and 50 injured in suicide bomb attack on a cafe in west Jerusalem after Israeli forces kill 44 Palestinians. Israeli jets attack Yasser Arafat's headquarters the next day.

20 March: Suspected suicide bomber blows up a bus carrying mainly Arab labourers near the town of Umm el-Fahem, killing seven.

21 March: Suicide bomber kills three people and injures more than 20 in the centre of West Jerusalem. The attack is claimed by the al-Aqsa Martyrs Brigade, linked to Mr Arafat. Another man blows himself up at a checkpoint on the green line, injuring one Israeli officer. Israel cancels ceasefire talks.

22 March: An Israeli officer is wounded at a military checkpoint, above, in the West Bank by a suicide bomber.

26 March: Car carrying two Palestinians refuses to stop in southern Jerusalem. Driver detonates explosive killing himself and his passenger.

27 March: A suicide bomber kills 20 people and wounds 130 at a hotel in Netanya as guests gather for Passover. The bombing is claimed by **Hamas**.

28 March: The Arab summit, above, endorses a Saudi peace plan calling for the Arab world to establish "normal relations" with Israel if it withdraws from lands seized in 1967. Mr Arafat offers "unconditional ceasefire" as Israeli tanks head for Ramallah.

29 March: Israeli troops storm Mr Arafat's Ramallah compound, killing five people and wounding 51. A woman suicide bomber kills herself and two Israeli civilians, and wounds at least 19.

Load-Date: April 9, 2002

MIDDLE EAST CRISIS: SCHOOLGIRL SUICIDE BOMBER KILLS TWO IN SUPERMARKET

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Letters from readers

Star Tribune (Minneapolis, MN)

April 12, 2002, Friday, Metro Edition

Copyright 2002 Star Tribune

Section: NEWS; Pg. 14A

Length: 975 words

Body

Gridlock at the Capitol too

I don't know if gridlock is what you call it when the lights allow fewer cars through than approach an intersection, but that's what was happening during rush hour Wednesday on 36th Street near Interstate Hwy. 35W.

So I was really burned up to learn in an e-mail from the Neighborhood Revitalization Program that budget reductions mandated by the 2002 Legislature will force Metro Transit to cut some bus routes and reduce service on others. I'd have been on the bus instead of stuck in traffic if there had been buses that went where I was going.

What doesn't our Legislature (I'm sorry, but especially the Republicans) understand when We the People call for top priority to transit alternatives?

_ David Griffin, Minneapolis.

Gophers sports

I'd like to know something. Exactly when did Baseball Commissioner Bud Selig take over the University of Minnesota?

First Major League Baseball announced contraction immediately following a wonderful World Series, now the University of Minnesota announces the elimination of men's and women's golf and men's gymnastics following a great NCAA Hockey Championship and back-to-back wrestling championships. Shame on you, President Yudof.

_ Tom Schmidt, New Hope.

In the beginning I was sad for student-athletes having financially marginal programs cut, but something bothered me. The coaches are each moaning that they should have a year to find somewhere for their athletes to transfer and be happy.

If these students were worthy of the tax money we are paying for their attendance at the university, the whining would be about finding other ways to support their ability to learn from world-class faculty and finish their educations _ not whining about finding somewhere to transfer that will continue to pay them to play a game. Shouldn't our tax dollars go to support athletes who actually came to the university to learn something besides a game?

_ Cheryl Poling, Eden Prairie.

Middle East conflict

Letters from readers

The Star Tribune's latest example of unbalanced coverage is doing a disservice to Minnesotans who are grappling to understand the Israeli-Palestinian conflict. The top headline on April 10 read, "Ambush kills 13 soldiers: Suicide blast in booby trapped street kills Israeli troops." The Star Tribune waits until the last sentence of the article to state that "as many as 150 Palestinians have been killed this week in Jenin alone."

Of course, probably half the readers are so disheartened and frustrated by the conflict they don't even get to the end and learn how many Palestinians have died as a result of the illegal Israeli military incursions. A sad amendment is that likely hundreds more Palestinian civilians have been killed by sniper fire, building demolition and lack of access to medicine and doctors in the last couple days.

With the majority of outside observers, I condemn acts of violence on both sides of this conflict. I believe the lives of Palestinians and Israelis are as precious as the lives of Americans and all other human beings. The Star Tribune seems to feel that the deaths of 13 Israeli soldiers deserve more attention than the deaths of hundreds of Palestinians.

_ Derek B. Reise, St. Louis Park.

Of course negotiation and civilized dialogue are preferable to violence. Some adversaries are not willing to negotiate or discuss but wish only to destroy. Therefore I support President Bush's efforts to destroy the organization that perpetrated mass murder against thousands of innocent Americans.

I also expect the president, the American people and the world at large to support Israel in its efforts to destroy the organizations _ Hamas, Islamic Jihad and the Al Aqsa Martyrs Brigade, among others _ that have time and again perpetrated mass murder against innocent Israelis, and have shown themselves, time and again, unwilling to discuss or negotiate, and eager only to murder and destroy.

_ Beth Ann Rosenschein, St. Paul.

I applaud your editorial of April 9 asking Ariel Sharon and his gang not to take the United States for granted. President Bush must take a leaf out of his father's book and tie the massive annual financial and military aid to Israel's compliance with U.N. resolutions.

_ Zafar Siddiqui, Fridley.

Is the governor leading?

Your April 8 editorial on campaign finance reform clearly states that our governor does need to lead on this issue, but with many issues our governor talks big and walks quietly.

Initially he supported real change supporting a nearly total public financing system similar to those working in Maine and Arizona. Rather than supporting the Fair and Clean Elections bill that is truly reform he now supports a watered-down version that doesn't really meet the reform benchmark. Let's hope that our next governor will stand up and be counted, not just sound good.

_ Julian Loscalzo, St. Paul.

Bush's energy policy

What happened to hydrogen? Not too long ago, the Bush administration was encouraging hydrogen fuel cells to keep us energy-independent. His estimate is, with government backing, we're about 10 years away. So why the push for oil from the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge, which is 20 years out? And, by the way, have we learned who those energy advisers are?

_ Harriet Horwitz, Wayzata.

Champs at the opener

Letters from readers

Tonight a deserving University of Minnesota Men's Hockey Team will be throwing out the first pitch at the sold-out Twins home opener. While we honor our most recent NCAA champions, let us not forget that two weeks ago arrived back home an equally deserving team of wrestlers with champion NCAA medals and trophies.

Perhaps a representative from each team could walk to the pitcher's mound as equals, having both accomplished the great feat of bringing home an NCAA title.

_ Karla Beck and three others, St. James, Minn.

Graphic

CARTOON

Load-Date: April 12, 2002

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MIDEAST TURMOIL: GUERRILLAS; Fighters in Gaza Set Traps And Wait for Israeli Prey

The New York Times

April 17, 2002 Wednesday

Late Edition - Final

Copyright 2002 The New York Times Company

Section: Section A; Column 1; Foreign Desk; Pg. 8

Length: 806 words

Byline: By C. J. CHIVERS

Dateline: JABALIYA REFUGEE CAMP, Gaza Strip, April 16

Body

The three hard-faced Palestinian gunmen, all wanted by Israel for their membership in Al Aksa Martyrs Brigades, emerged in the evening, easing through the refugee camp's alleys and lengthening shadows in a white subcompact car. On the back seat was a homemade antitank mine, ready to be hidden in the road in anticipation of an Israeli attack.

"During the night, we set these explosives," said one of the men, who stepped from the car and hid in the darkness of the camp's maze-like market. "If Israel comes here, we will fight them with every weapon we have."

As if to demonstrate that he meant it, the man slung a loaded M-16 rifle over his shoulder and ran his fingers along a 15-inch-long pipe bomb stuffed into his bandoleer.

In Gaza, which has been spared the fighting that in recent weeks has raged in the West Bank, Palestinians have turned cities and refugee camps into fortified urban traps, where gunmen offer insight into the evolution of their street tactics while waiting for an Israeli incursion that may not come.

Gaza today is a collection of sandbags, parapets and barricades, a zone where fighters have piled steep earthen walls at intersections, set up sniper nests and peppered streets with large bombs.

Throughout Gaza's northern zone -- in Beach Camp, in Gaza City, along the coastal road and in this refugee camp, the strip's largest, with 100,000 residents -- the preparation is as apparent as the bravado of men who coordinated it. When one Al Aksa commander, Sami Abu Samhadanah, was asked if Israel would attack, he said, simply, "I wish."

Another man, a naval police captain who supervised camouflage-clad men at the beach, said he, too, was eager. "The Israelis are stronger than us, with their F-16 planes and American tanks," said the captain, Ziad Abu Ahmad. "But we must fight them here, and we will."

The allegiance of these two men -- one a member of a group that President Bush has declared a terrorist organization, the other an officer in the Palestinian Authority's shattered government -- demonstrated a sense of common purpose among men here in the wake of the Israeli operation of the West Bank.

MIDEAST TURMOIL: GUERRILLAS Fighters in Gaza Set Traps And Wait for Israeli Prey

Like many others interviewed today, they said military urgency had compelled many factions of Gaza's population to cooperate almost as never before.

"All political factions, we are united as one," said Tayseer Shalayl, who owns a plumbing supply store in north Gaza City. "Every street, every neighborhood has its own group working on security, and they are working together to be ready when the Israelis attack."

Near Mr. Shalayl's shop, a wall of sand and crushed automobiles blocked the road, except for a slot through which single cars could pass. At night, fighters from different factions -- Al Aksa, ***Hamas***, Islamic Jihad and the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine, as well as the Palestine Authority's police and security forces -- guard similar choke points throughout the strip.

Some barricades are doubly covered, as fighters bury mines in them, with hopes of detonating the charges should an Israeli tank or armored vehicle pass through and expose its treads or flanks.

This was the aim tonight of the three members of Al Aksa, whose mine had been made from a propane gas cylinder packed with high explosives and rigged with electrical wire. The cylinder had been scored with a grinder to ensure that it would break into nearly uniform pieces of shrapnel. It weighed about 30 pounds.

The men boasted that their bomb makers, working in hidden factories, had developed makeshift munitions that could destroy tanks, as two traps did earlier this year. "Other Arabs have failed to blow up tanks, but not us," one said.

The fighters and their commander also said that they had studied their peers' recent defeats in the West Bank, and that they had modified tactics accordingly.

"We learned from mistakes in Jenin and Ramallah and Nablus, when our soldiers started to fight as soon as the tanks came, and they were killed," Mr. Samhadanah said. "We will not do that. We will wait for them to get out of their tanks and walk, and then we will kill them. This we can do, because have bombs and mines, a huge number of them, to force them out of their tanks."

Israel has said in its recent campaign that it reserved the right to attack in Gaza, where about 6,000 Jewish settlers live among 1 million Palestinians, and where skirmishes have not been uncommon in the last year and a half. But it has refrained from doing so.

Mr. Samhadanah now says his biggest worry is not a fight. Rather, he said, he is worried that now that Secretary of State Colin L. Powell had met with both sides, there might be a political solution and the Israelis will not begin raids into Gaza.

"If we wasted a lot of money and our time getting ready, and the Israelis do not come, then they did cheat us," he said.

<http://www.nytimes.com>

Graphic

Photos: In Gaza, Palestinians have turned cities and refugee camps into fortified traps set for Israelis. Palestinian ***women***, top, passed a barricade yesterday at Beach Camp in northern Gaza. Below, a member of Al Aksa Martyrs Brigade sat next to an antitank mine in a car in the Jabaliya refugee camp. (Photographs by Tyler Hicks/The New York Times)

MIDEAST TURMOIL: GUERRILLAS Fighters in Gaza Set Traps And Wait for Israeli Prey

Load-Date: April 17, 2002

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***U.S. role still critical to Middle East peace;
The Bush administration's new urgency ought to be welcomed.***

Portland Press Herald (Maine)

April 6, 2002 Saturday, FINAL Edition

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Section: EDITORIAL; OUR OPINION; Pg. 7A

Length: 920 words

Body

When it comes to Middle East policy, there's no such thing as benign neglect. Failing to act may be just as damning as failing to achieve diplomatic success.

That's why President Bush's decision to speak clearly on the crisis - and his decision to send Secretary of State Colin L. Powell to the region - is long overdue. As the Middle East teeters on the brink of all-out war, the United States can play a critical role in achieving a cease-fire. With the assistance of moderate Arab nations, Powell may even be able to bring Israelis and Palestinians back to the negotiating table.

In a national address on Thursday, Bush adopted a new tone of engagement. Instead of vaguely defending Israel's right to protect itself, as he has on previous occasions, the president said "Enough is enough." Israel should halt its incursions into Palestinian-controlled areas, Bush urged, and Palestinians should end their suicide-bombing campaign.

THAT'S EASILY SAID, but to his credit the president went even further. He called on Israel to immediately withdraw from Palestinian cities and relax its restrictions on "peaceful people (who want) to go back to work." Finally, he reiterated the Mitchell Report's insistence that Israel end construction of settlements in the occupied territories.

To call on Israel to take such steps is not to forsake an important friendship or blame an ally for the violence from which it has suffered. Bush rightly aimed his harshest words for Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat, who has "missed his opportunities and thereby betrayed the hopes of his own people."

We agree with that assessment. In failing to stop the suicide attacks against Israel, Arafat has revealed either his weakness or his duplicity, or both. His own promises will not be sufficient to bring a permanent end to this conflict.

A cease-fire, by definition, is a temporary respite from the shooting. Unless it is followed by negotiations involving not only the Palestinians and Israelis, but other possible guarantors of peace, a cease-fire is an interlude, not an end.

The United States, member nations of the European Union and, most importantly, other moderate regimes in the Middle East all have roles to play in restoring peace to the region.

The United States, as it has done on previous occasions, should work to bring officials from Israel and the Palestinian Authority together to talk. It should provide the time, the place and the logistical assistance to get discussions started.

U.S. role still critical to Middle East peace; The Bush administration's new urgency ought to be welcomed.

In a departure from its previous stance, the United States has rightly sent its special envoy Anthony Zinni to Ramallah to deal with Arafat face-to-face, despite the Israeli siege.

The European Union, meanwhile, ought to provide medical assistance, food and emergency aid for Palestinians who have been under siege and unable to work since the Israeli incursion began earlier this week. Leaders of Europe should also continue to pressure both sides to seek a truce.

Finally, Arab nations should understand that their support of organizations such as Hamas, Hezbollah and Islamic Jihad serve no end other than to prolong the blood-letting. Israel will not be bombed into submission, and has shown both the capacity and the will to strike back with brutal effect.

Obviously, countries like Iraq should end "payments" to the families of suicide bombers, which essentially puts a bounty on the heads of innocent men, women and children. Equally important, however, is the role of moderate Arab countries and nongovernment entities. They should cut all funding to groups that claim responsibility for suicide bombings, including "relief" for the bombers' families. Suicide attacks are not the work of freedom fighters and martyrs, but that of terrorists and murderers.

Occupation and bombs aren't the only roadblocks to the negotiating table. Preconditions to negotiations have to be cleared away as well. "Israeli withdrawal back to 1967 borders," the right of return for displaced Palestinians and the fate of Jerusalem cannot be prerequisites for peace talks, but the subjects of the talks themselves.

NONETHELESS, THERE IS HOPE in the latest Arab proposal for reciprocal recognition. That plan is imperfect, as it includes a full right of return for refugees, making East Jerusalem the capital of an independent Palestine, and full Israeli withdrawal from occupied lands. Still, it puts on the table new incentives for the Israelis to make peace.

That should drive the negotiations forward. In return for recognizing a Palestinian state, Israel is being promised recognition by Arab countries that, in the past, have sworn themselves to one goal: destroying it. This is a sea change in attitude, an opportunity too promising to ignore.

Although it will come with some costs, Israel should see that a Palestinian state will be a far more responsible neighbor than an occupied territory. It's hard to see how much control Arafat (or his successor) could have over militants when he is confined to a building in Ramallah, cut off from other Palestinian cities. National borders, furthermore, are also more secure than constantly changing lines on a map.

It's unfortunate that President Bush has waited so long to make the Middle East a foreign policy priority that requires high-level involvement. Still, the United States' renewed engagement in the crisis is a hopeful sign, especially with the process for negotiation already in place: a cease-fire, followed by implementation of the Mitchell Plan, followed by negotiations based on the Saudi Arabian peace plan.

Graphic

The Associated Press

Without greater U.S. leadership in peacemaking, the Middle East could be headed toward a full-scale war.

Load-Date: April 7, 2002

Israeli aggression breeds 'terrorism'

University Wire

April 9, 2002, Tuesday

Copyright 2002 Daily Trojan via U-Wire

Section: COLUMN

Length: 956 words

Byline: By Yahya Shaikh, Daily Trojan

Dateline: Los Angeles

Body

With increasing access to information, it is surprising that so many people know so little about the most volatile region in the world -- a region that can potentially spark the third world war.

It is not only because of the potential threat to world peace, but also for the sake of truth, that all those concerned with the situation in Palestine should strive to learn more.

The situation in the Middle East is more than the innocent state of Israel (all it wants to do is live in peace) being attacked by crazy people who insist on blowing themselves up for no reason at all.

These suicide bombers are your age. They have families, dreams about their future, a girl they want to marry. Yet they blow themselves up. The girls who recently committed suicide bombings obviously worried about the same things other girls do: school, their future, who they will marry, etc., yet they went and blew themselves up. Isn't it time you knew why?

U. Southern California

Unlike many of our European counterparts, there is a prevalence of ignorance or "misinformation" in the United States, where the Israeli Foreign Ministry employed the services of two American public relations firms to promote Israel to Americans, and with good reason: American tax dollars are given as aid to Israel.

The misinformation in America consists of portraying Palestinians as "terrorists" who spontaneously blow themselves up to kill Israelis. The act is known, but its context is not.

Suicide bombings are a product of asphyxiating circumstances created by Israeli aggression where a person is oppressed and humiliated by a superior military might to the extent that they feel it is better to die while killing the aggressor than to live under their oppression.

A report submitted to the U.N. Commission on Human Rights stated, "around 70 percent of children in the Gaza Strip have been exposed to four or five traumatic events such as tear-gas inhalation, night raids on the home, humiliation and/or beating of parents in front of them by Israeli forces and imprisonment."

The Israelis are viewed by the freedom fighters of Palestine as "settlers" who have annexed their land to form a Jewish state. During the war of 1948 alone, 750,000 Palestinians (which include both Muslims and Christians) were

Israeli aggression breeds 'terrorism'

uprooted leading to the formation of the Khan-Younnis and Dheisheh refugee camps with the refugees still living there after 50 years, waiting for the day they will return home.

After the 1948 war, Israel possessed 75 percent of the land, while the native Palestinians possessed 25 percent, even though Palestinians far exceeded Israelis in terms of population. Yet more resources are allocated to the latter. For example, according to the Palestine Monitor, Israel allocates 85 percent of the water resources to Jews, while the remaining 15 percent is divided up among all Palestinians. Thus in Hebron, 85 percent of the water is given to about 400 "settlers," while the remaining 15 percent must be divided up among Hebron's 120,000 Palestinians.

Today, Israel sits on the site of 417 of the original 475 Palestinian villages: The villages were demolished and colonies built for "settlers." According to the Independent, a European media outlet, some of the villages have had their names changed to Hebrew names so one no longer recognizes the original site.

Yes, a suicide bombing does kill Israelis who are not directly involved in the front lines of the battle. But the precedent of killing innocents was first set by Israel in the massacres in Yehida, Deir Yassin, Naser Al-Din and other villages, which are now sites to Israeli communities.

Recently Robert Fisk, Britain's most distinguished foreign correspondent, explained the case of Deir Yassin. Deir Yassin was a village whose inhabitants were massacred April 9 and 10, 1948, and is now Givat Shaul.

It was here that Israeli grenades tore Palestinian women to pieces and two truckloads of Arab prisoners were taken and paraded through the streets of Jerusalem, many of whom were subsequently executed. The villages of Yehida (where the first Zionist settlement was established), Al-Sheikh, Naser Al-Din, Beit Daras, Dahmash mosque and Dawayma were also sites of massacres.

Fifty years later, Palestinians are still subjected to torture. Human Rights Watch, in its World Report of 1999, stated, "The Committee Against Torture reviewed Israel's periodic report on May 14 and 18, and reiterated its position that Israeli interrogation practices violated Articles 1, 2, and 16 of the convention, which define torture as cruel, inhuman or degrading punishment or treatment and the state's obligation to prevent it."

The oppression of the Palestinian people is not unseen by the world. The United Nations has made approximately 70 resolutions against Israel concerning the Palestine issue, including deploring Israel's refusal to accept a U.N. mission to probe the occupation (U.N. Resolution 259), the deportation of Palestinians (799) and many other such condemnations. No other country has had more resolutions passed against it.

Is there any hope for peace? Yes, but it would come through educating ourselves about the reality of the situation. Very few people know that even the most militant groups in Palestine (including the Hamas) are not opposed to the principle of peace as long as Israel withdraws to its pre-1967 borders as requested by the United Nations, the settlers are disarmed, the settlements dismantled and international forces are placed on the borders.

It is in the academic and moral interests of all who have a conscience to seek out both sides of the story before forming a judgment before it's too late and we are faced with the onset of WWII.

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Load-Date: April 9, 2002

Stalking Terror

The Tampa Tribune (Florida)

May 18, 2003, Sunday,

FINAL EDITION

Copyright 2003 The Tribune Co. Publishes The Tampa Tribune

Section: COMMENTARY,

Length: 976 words

Byline: MICHAEL FECHTER , mfechter@tampatrib.com; Michael Fechter has covered the Al-Arian case for the Tribune since 1995.

Body

TERRORIST HUNTER. By Anonymous. HarperCollins. 335 pages. \$25.95.

Readers who follow the continuing saga of indicted former University of South Florida computer science professor Sami Al-Arian will want to read the anonymously authored "Terrorist Hunter."

It offers tremendous new detail and behind-the-scenes events that help explain why the investigation took nearly eight years to complete. It also gives a sometimes brutal critique of the FBI's behavior in multiagency investigations.

The author is not a federal agent. She is an Iraqi-born woman who researches radical Islamist movements and sometimes dons the concealing robes of religious Muslim women to infiltrate and record their meetings.

Quite understandably, she doesn't want to advertise her identity. She has been a source for Tampa Tribune stories on Al-Arian.

"Terrorist Hunter" is half memoir and half expose of U.S.-based terrorist fronts. Her life story, though, is its most riveting part.

Unending Abuse

She was a young girl in the Iraqi city Basra when her father was hanged as an alleged spy in 1969. "Baba" confessed after he and his pregnant wife were tortured.

"The execution was conducted in the middle of the day," she writes, "in a spirit of great national jubilation, attended by a half million cheering spectators" in Baghdad's central square.

Then her grandmother was run down by a government vehicle. The family felt at risk and her mother set up an escape to Israel. It's a breathtaking adventure in which the family, with siblings and young cousins in tow, dodged Iraqi security and fought the elements in a desperate race to the border.

At the time, she knew the family was in danger, but was too young to understand why. She researched her father's life while studying in Israel, stumbling onto a photograph of his hanging while she was working for a parliamentarian.

Stalking Terror

The personal journey through old Arabic newspapers taught her how to conduct research and prepare dossiers. "It determined the course of my life," she writes.

Upon moving to America, she fell into a job with a research group that focused on Islamic militants. She has a leg up on most Americans in the field because she's a native speaker of Arabic. She even uses that knowledge to call on suspected terrorists in Arabic, a tactic that takes her far further than the FBI's by-the-book habit of canvassing neighborhoods and asking people whether they know Osama bin Laden.

The Al-Arian case is a significant part of "Terrorist Hunter." The author describes meeting with her boss and federal agents in 1998. Clearly as confident in her physical attributes as in her terrorist-tracking, she also describes how the agents ogled her in her "tight white shirt, tight jeans, a wide, western-style belt and high heeled boots."

She says she wowed the agents with her detailed knowledge of Al-Arian's think tank and charity and their alleged connections to the Palestinian Islamic Jihad. "I'd become the authority on PIJ in the United States," she writes. "Not even government agents who are assigned to investigate the group, I daresay, know as much as I do about it."

She breaks new ground a few times, including news that immigration officials researched a deportation case against Al-Arian a year ago.

She also describes helping the agents arrange meetings with key Israeli officials in the fall of 2000, a move she says ended up doing more harm than good. FBI officials revolted when the Israelis considered John Canfield, a Customs agent, the delegation's leader.

The FBI, in a "pathetic quest for fame and prestige," pulled a power play, she says, telling the Customs agent that it would run the case from then on. Canfield, credited with driving the investigation to that point, would take orders from the bureau's case agent.

Canfield offered a two-word reply, an act that removed him from the case entirely.

"The FBI assigned some [20] new agents to the investigation," she writes, "none of whom knew the subject. And at the point when the indictments John and [FBI agent] Barry [Carmody] drafted were ready to go, the FBI set the investigation back years, flushing almost seven years of hard work down the drain."

Then the FBI investigated her to determine whether Canfield gave her classified material. She says her information came from public records.

The FBI didn't realize that one document Canfield allegedly leaked had been public for more than two years, she writes. Canfield was never told if the investigation ended, but he subsequently earned a promotion and works abroad.

Other sections focus on her work on other suspected terrorist fronts, such as the Texas-based Holy Land Foundation for Relief and Development and the Islamic Association for Palestine. Each is suspected of funneling support to Hamas.

"What was amazing to me was how these groups operated with such ease, with such nerve, on U.S. soil," she writes.

But as the Tribune has learned, detailing the connections can lead to convoluted, confusing prose. There are lots of Arabic names and an alphabet soup of charitable and corporate entities to digest. It can get a bit confusing, but that's the point. Money and connections can hide in the thicket.

"This book is not a textbook on terrorism, nor is it The Encyclopedia of Vile Creatures. But this is my story as I see it, and these people have come to be a part of it."

She's not very kind to the FBI, which in her assessment, is a selfish, glory-hogging agency that couldn't find a public record without a guide.

Stalking Terror

She also takes credit for some investigations and discoveries that predate her work. Collaborative research among a number of people triggered many other discoveries, but there's no doubt she has contributed mightily to investigators and journalists tracking the confusing morass of U.S.-based terrorist fronts.

"Terrorist Hunter" gives readers a good sense of just how vast that world is.

Notes

BOOKS

Graphic

PHOTO

(book cover)

Load-Date: May 19, 2003

End of Document

FILM REVIEW; For Children, Peace Seems Easy if They Get to Connect

The New York Times
March 15, 2002 Friday
Late Edition - Final

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Section: Section E; Part 1; Column 4; Movies, Performing Arts/Weekend Desk; Pg. 13

Length: 927 words

Body

"Promises" was broadcast in the "P.O.V." series on PBS in December. Following are excerpts from Julie Salamon's review, which appeared in The New York Times on Dec. 13; the full text is available at nytimes.com. The film, which has been nominated for an Academy Award for best documentary, is in English, Arabic and Hebrew with English subtitles. It opens today at the Quad Cinema, 34 West 13th Street, Greenwich Village.

A Palestinian boy named Faraj tells a documentary filmmaker about his desire to avenge a friend who threw stones at an Israeli soldier and was killed. But when the filmmaker arranges to have Faraj meet Israeli twins -- who are as sports-obsessed as he is -- he prepares for the rendezvous as if it's a date. On the telephone he asks them what kind of food they like. Before they arrive, he spritzes himself with cologne.

Their meeting is a humanist's dream. The Israeli twins speak of holding their breath in fear whenever they take a bus downtown, half expecting a terrorist bomb. Yet like Faraj they are willing to check out an enemy whose interests are so closely aligned with theirs (track, volleyball). They come to the Palestinian's neighborhood -- a refugee camp that resembles a housing project. They agree to speak the neutral language of English, resulting in a conversation that is far more friendly than fluent. They wrestle, play ball, have a meal.

But mirroring so many moments of potential rapprochement in Middle East history, this one turns out to be far more heartbreaking than heartwarming. Their connection -- captured so emotionally on camera -- appears very real but doesn't last. It's doomed by the inherent fickleness of youth but, more pointedly, by the political reality of checkpoints and propaganda.

This moment of confounded possibilities lies at the heart of "Promises," an intensely personal and insightful documentary that looks at the Palestinian-Israeli conflict from the vantage point of seven children living in or near Jerusalem. "Promises" demonstrates the unusual power of thoughtful, subjective filmmaking. This extraordinary enterprise was distilled from 170 hours of filming between 1997 and the summer of 2000; since Sept. 11 it has acquired an even greater sense of sorrow and frustration.

The film was made by Justine Shapiro, B. Z. Goldberg and Carlos Bolado, but it is Mr. Goldberg whose face becomes familiar in front of the camera. Born in Boston, he grew up just outside Jerusalem and then returned to the United States to study film at New York University. Though he maintains a resolute nonpartisanship, his quiet, thoughtful interviews with the children reveal his own deep -- perhaps quixotic -- yearning for peace. It's a tribute to his open spirit that all the children, the most dogmatic and the most reasonable, seem to have great affection for him.

FILM REVIEW For Children, Peace Seems Easy if They Get to Connect

He has captured these children as they must really be, much too old in their political thinking but buoyantly childish. On the streets of Jerusalem he interviews a 13-year-old rabbi-in-training named Shlomo, who talks not only about being cursed and punched by Arab boys but also about Jewish and Palestinian adults he knows who have civil relationships. As he speaks, a Palestinian boy about his age comes close and starts belching, not hostilely but teasing. Shlomo, in Orthodox black and white, tries to ignore him but starts giggling. Finally he belches back, and for a moment the universal language of boys prevails.

An angelic-looking Palestinian boy named Mahmoud fiercely denounces Israelis and says he doesn't even want to meet one. This same boy, who urges the filmmakers not to tell his mother that he has sneaked cups of coffee, also says: "I support Hamas and Hezbollah. They kill women and children, but they do it for their country." He seems shocked when Mr. Goldberg tells him that he, Mr. Goldberg, is half-Israeli.

Mahmoud is unmoved. "You're half-American," he said. "I'm talking about authentic Jews. Not Americans."

An equally fierce, chubby 10-year-old named Moishe, son of a Jewish settler family, says, "If I could make my own future, all the Arabs would fly away."

The children repeat the rhetoric they're taught by adults, and they reflect the wide range of response to the region's history. Moishe makes the cameraman wait while he searches the Bible for the specific reference that marks Jewish claim on the land. Mahmoud explains that the Koran has marked the spot for Muslims. Others are willing to compromise.

The film's personal focus may assume too much knowledge on the part of viewers, especially since this film would be a valuable teaching guide. The filmmakers supply some history, not going back to ancient Judea but more recently to what Israelis call the 1948 war of independence and Palestinians call "the catastrophe." A bit more geopolitics would provide useful context.

Still the documentary illustrates through imagery and interviews Jerusalem's uneasy convergence of history and modernity, Arab and Jew, fanaticism and reasonableness. The camera sweeps by Burger King signs and Hasidic Jews dressed as in the Middle Europe of centuries ago. Palestinian children wear T-shirts that say, "I have a dream," and cars and camels still share the road in places. It records the checkpoints on the borders of the Palestinian territories, seen by Israelis as necessary safety measures and by Palestinians as insults.

Wisdom does emerge from the mouths of these children, who are anything but innocent. "In war both sides suffer," one of the twins says. "Maybe there's a winner, but what is a winner?"

<http://www.nytimes.com>

Graphic

Photo: Faraj, a Palestinian, is among the children in the documentary "Promises." (Justine Shapiro/Cowboy Pictures)

Load-Date: March 15, 2002

Killers revel in kudos of a US terrorism designation: Relentless atrocities attain dubious form of distinction for al-Aqsa Martyrs' Brigades

The Guardian (London)

March 23, 2002

Copyright 2002 Guardian Newspapers Limited

Section: Guardian Foreign Pages, Pg. 15

Length: 891 words

Byline: Suzanne Goldenberg in Balata

Body

Al-Aqsa Martyrs' Brigades members at the funeral of a gunman in Nablus on Monday Photograph: Jaafar Ashtiyeh, EPA

For three months the al-Aqsa Martyrs' Brigades pursued a relentless and efficient campaign of violence, shooting down soldiers at Israeli army roadblocks and dispatching suicide bombers to the Jewish heartland. At long last, they gloated yesterday, they were recognised: the US state department branded the Palestinian militant group a terrorist organisation.

"We are really grateful and thankful. It is a great honour for us to be called a terrorist organisation by the greatest sponsor of terrorism in the world," its joint-founder Nasser Badawi said.

"Our reaction will be more action - the work of al-Aqsa Brigades will be accelerated."

His words were punctuated by the second al-Aqsa suicide bombing in two days, an attack on an Israeli army checkpoint which injured one soldier.

Mr Badawi, 36, a former sociology student, is one of the original seven founders of the militia, an offshoot of Yasser Arafat's Fatah movement.

Al-Aqsa demonstrated its power on Thursday with a suicide attack in Jerusalem: a brazen challenge to the American ceasefire mission, Israel, and even Mr Arafat, to whom the group is supposedly loyal.

Its doggedness serves as a harsh counterpoint to Mr Arafat's efforts to gain America's approval by vowing to punish those responsible for Thursday's bombing and continuing discussions on a ceasefire.

He met the US envoy, General Anthony Zinni, in Ramallah yesterday and sent his security officials to talks with their Israeli counterparts.

An Israeli security source told Reuters: "The meeting ended with no concrete accomplishments as far as we were concerned.

"We agreed to hold another meeting early next week, possibly on Sunday."

Killers revel in kudos of a US terrorism designation: Relentless atrocities attain dubious form of distinction for al-Aqsa Martyrs' Brigades

The Jerusalem bombing encapsulated the limits of Mr Arafat's influence over his own people, let alone his radical Islamist opponents such as **Hamas** and Islamic Jihad.

Al-Aqsa's proficiency has convinced many Palestinians that they can drive Israel out of the occupied West Bank and Gaza, just as the Hizbullah guerrillas forced Israeli forces to withdraw from Lebanon.

The brigades were born in the narrow alleys of Balata, a refugee camp in the West Bank city of Nablus, after a dispiriting day of clashes with the Israeli army in the early months of the uprising.

The seven, in their late 20s and early 30s, came of age during the first uprising against occupation in the late 1980s, did stints in Israeli jails, and received training in Palestinian camps in Lebanon and Iraq. Most important, they were trusted friends.

More than a year later, al-Aqsa - which takes its name from the mosque on hallowed ground in Jerusalem - has advanced from sporadic drive-by shootings at Jewish settlers to meticulously planned ambushes of Israeli army posts.

Nobody knows how many fighters it has. It was purposely built as a loose network of regional cells.

Its commanders, who grew up together in the Fatah youth movement, answer to no higher authority - and certainly not to Mr Arafat, who has made fitful attempts to disband the group.

"It was formed by itself and it acts on its own, and we do not receive decisions from officials," Mr Badawi said.

15That autonomy has produced a curious hybrid. While the fighters of al-Aqsa remain part of the mainstream secular Fatah movement, they have adopted the strategies of the Islamist radicals.

Their suicide bombings this year have broken two taboos: a Fatah ban on such tactics, and the use of **women** bombers. They have also sanctioned attacks in Israel, in defiance of Fatah's policy of confining the uprising to the West Bank and Gaza.

1515After Israel threw its airforce, navy, tanks and ground forces against Palestinian refugee camps in its biggest military offensive in a generation, al-Aqsa decided to concentrate its attacks in Israel.

"So long as Israel comes into our homes in the refugee camps, we are going to come into theirs, and take action inside Israel," its leader Mohammed Atitti said.

In Balata, Palestinians are highly suspicious of the US ceasefire mission.

They say it is a ruse, born of America's desire for war on Iraq.

"I don't think there is a ceasefire in the atmosphere, even after these negotiations, and I don't think there is a ceasefire on the ground," Mr Badawi said.

"We are not going to stop because there is no deep desire to stop anything on the ground - neither Israeli or American."

TRAIL OF BLOOD

Jan 14 Al-Aqsa says it shot dead an Israeli near Nablus

Jan 17 Member of al-Aqsa kills six at a batmitzvah in Hadera, northern Israel

Jan 22 Al-Aqsa gunman opens fire on a bus queue in Jerusalem, injuring 16 people

Jan 27 A **female** volunteer for Palestinian Red Crescent in Ramallah becomes first woman suicide bomber

Killers revel in kudos of a US terrorism designation: Relentless atrocities attain dubious form of distinction for al-Aqsa Martyrs' Brigades

Feb 19 Al-Aqsa claims joint responsibility for a raid on a West Bank checkpoint, killing six Israeli soldiers

Feb 25 Al-Aqsa gunman injures eight Israelis at a bus stop in Jerusalem

March 3 Ten Israelis shot dead by al-Aqsa sniper at a West Bank checkpoint

March 2 Al-Aqsa suicide bomber blows himself up in a crowd of mothers and babies in Jerusalem, killing nine

March 14 Al-Aqsa gunmen kill two suspected informers in Bethlehem, dragging their bodies through the streets

March 21 Al-Aqsa suicide bomber kills three Israelis and wounds dozens more in Jewish west Jerusalem

Load-Date: March 23, 2002

End of Document

Israelis pull out of 2 towns; Tanks, soldiers continue to push farther into Palestinian territory

The Record (Kitchener-Waterloo, Ontario)

April 9, 2002 Tuesday Final Edition

Copyright 2002 Metroland Media Group Ltd

Section: FRONT; Pg. A1; NEWS

Length: 884 words

Dateline: NABLUS, WEST BANK

Body

Even as Israel appeared to cede to international pressure by pulling out of Tulkarem and Qalqiliya before dawn today, reports emerged that its troops were moving into the West Bank town of Dora.

Witnesses in Dora said tanks and armoured personnel carriers rolled into the town before dawn as helicopters provided cover from the air. The sound of gun battles could be heard, witnesses said.

Tanks were rumbling out of Tulkarem and Qalqiliya as troops left buildings after about a week's occupation, Palestinian security sources said.

Associated Press

A statement issued by Defence Minister Binyamin BenEliezer late last night said that the operation to wipe out militant networks in the two cities had been successful.

As Israel announced the limited pullback, its forces pushed deeper into other Palestinian strongholds yesterday in house-to-house fighting backed by helicopters and bulldozers.

A heavy Israeli presence remained in the major West Bank cities of Ramallah, Bethlehem, Nablus and Jenin.

Israel announced the pullback from Tulkarem and Qalqiliya yesterday, hours after U.S. Secretary of State Colin Powell demanded "a clear statement from Israel that they are beginning to withdraw."

Nevertheless, Prime Minister Ariel Sharon pledged to continue the offensive he launched March 29 in response to a wave of suicide bombings.

"It's a start," White House press secretary Ari Fleischer said in Washington.

Yesterday's developments unfolded as Powell arrived in Morocco on the first stop of his peacemaking mission and was bluntly asked by King Mohammed: "Don't you think it was more important to go to Jerusalem first?"

World oil prices spiked as much as six per cent in a fresh wave of anxiety after Iraq said it was halting crude exports for 30 days to demonstrate support for the Palestinians. U.S. National Security Adviser Condoleezza Rice said it would not deter President George W. Bush from seeking the Iraqi leader's ouster.

Israelis pull out of 2 towns; Tanks, soldiers continue to push farther into Palestinian territory

"We ought to remind them that they're going to have a hard time eating their oil," Rice said in a speech in Texas, suggesting that Iraq needs money from oil exports more than the United States needs Iraq's oil.

Also yesterday, at Bethlehem's Church of the Nativity, fire broke out in the compound during a gun battle between Israeli soldiers and the more than 200 armed Palestinians holed up inside.

In the West Bank's largest city, Nablus, dozens of gunmen surrendered to Israeli troops while scores more lay wounded on blankets on a mosque floor. Some of the men were dying, and doctors without even the most basic supplies operated on others without anesthetics.

Israeli helicopters also pounded the Jenin refugee camp with missiles, and bulldozers flattened homes as gunmen retreated. Israeli officials estimated more than 100 Palestinians have been killed in the camp in recent days.

Israeli Brig.-Gen. Eyal Shline said the armed men "seem to have decided to fight to the last, to make the battle as bloody as possible," and that several blew themselves up in suicide attacks on soldiers.

Addressing Parliament, Sharon accused Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat of heading a "regime of terror" and said Israel would press on "until it has dismantled Arafat's terror infrastructure and the murderers hiding in different places have been arrested."

After the operation, Israeli forces will withdraw to unspecified buffer zones in the West Bank, Sharon said. But in a statement that suggested he questions the legitimacy of the Palestinian Authority, he added that "the places we leave must have a responsible Palestinian leadership that will take over the areas."

Palestinian cabinet minister Saeb Erekat said Israel would not find Palestinians to go along with such a plan.

Sharon told U.S. envoy Anthony Zinni that Israel must complete the anti-terror campaign to prevent the return of suicide bombers.

Palestinian residents of Qalqiliya and Tulkarem, the two cities troops were leaving, had offered relatively little resistance to the Israeli occupation. Militants in other cities, such as Jenin and Nablus in the north, have been battling Israeli forces for several days.

There was a widespread feeling in Israel that the timing of Powell's trip -- he'll reach Israel late this week -- suggests an acquiescence with continuing the offensive for a few more days.

Israeli troops and tanks rumbled into the West Bank on March 29, beginning a hunt for weapons, explosives and militants who have terrorized the country with suicide bombings and other attacks.

More than 1,500 Palestinians have been arrested by Israel since then, including 500 to 600 fugitives, among them 70 to 80 involved in planning attacks on Israelis, Israeli military officials said.

Troops have confiscated 2,000 rifles and uncovered 15 labs for making explosives, the officials said.

Before daybreak yesterday, Israeli attack helicopters began firing missiles at the Jenin camp after militants ignored calls to surrender.

By early afternoon, Israeli forces controlled almost the entire camp, the army said. The military said about 150 men put down their weapons and emerged early in the day, but Hamas activist Jamal Abdel Salam said only women, children and the elderly left the camp. The militants were ready to fight to the death, he said.

Two Israeli soldiers were killed in the camp yesterday, the military said.

Graphic

Israelis pull out of 2 towns; Tanks, soldiers continue to push farther into Palestinian territory

Colour Photo: ASSOCIATED PRESS; Palestinian men and boys surrender to Israeli forces in Nablus yesterday. Israeli military officials said troops controlled about half the city and that dozens of people had surrendered.

Load-Date: April 9, 2002

End of Document

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

St. Louis Post-Dispatch (Missouri)

February 27, 2002 Wednesday Five Star Lift Edition

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Section: EDITORIAL; Pg. B6; LETTERS

Length: 903 words

Body

Religion, violence and democracy

It deeply saddened me to read about what happened at the Pattonville PTA meeting. Perhaps those who claimed Islam to be a violent religion never sang "Onward Christian Soldiers marching as to war." Maybe they never learned about the Crusades, the Inquisition and the Salem witch trials. Maybe they don't read those pages of the Bible that drip with blood.

Christians and Muslims alike have a history filled with violence in the name of God.

As a Christian, I won't get anyone to seriously consider the claims of Christ by pointing accusatory fingers and promoting insulting literature. While I firmly believe that Christianity and Islam are very different religions, with very different teachings about God and Jesus, I also know that as people who believe in God we have much in common.

Our dialogue about religion, life and our beloved but less than perfect country should start on that common ground.

Richard T. Young

Greenville, Ill.

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I read the Feb. 12 letter from Shahinshah N. Ahmed on Islam and democracy and agree that religion offers a moral and ethical basis for our politics.

But religion also sets up fences around its group, and when religion has political power it becomes corrupt, at least to the minorities within its power.

Go back in history to Spain with its Inquisition and murder of Muslims, England expelling the Jews, and Constantine reclaiming the Holy Land from the infidels, aka Muslims. Or look to the Muslim countries that now deny full citizenship to Christians and Jews.

In America, our democracy is far from perfect, but it was developed with checks and balances, keeping religion out of its politics.

Therefore, in the United States, we are free to worship or not, according to our beliefs and culture. Which Muslim country allows Christians and Jews in its governing bodies? Which Muslim country allows Christians and Jews to worship freely?

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Lillian Goldman

University City

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In regard to the Feb. 17 article on the Muslim woman attending the Pattonville PTA, a PTA meeting is no place for a person to try to define or explain his or her religion. I don't mean just Islamic faith, but any religion. Religion in any form should not be on any PTA agenda for any reason. This is not the time or the place.

By the way, I attend church regularly, but I would never take it to a PTA meeting or to a public school.

Charles J. DeClue

De Soto

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A life-saving test

I was dumbfounded to read the sub-headline on the Feb. 22 article regarding the United States Department of Health and Human Services recommendations for mammograms: "Although value is debated, it saves lives, official says."

As the daughter and sister of women whose lives have been saved by mammograms and as the mother of three daughters and aunt to nine nieces whose lives I hope will be saved by mammograms, I do not believe the value is debatable.

Debbie Gilbert Genung

University City

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Arafat's failure

Winston Churchill was right. There is no moral equivalence between the arsonist and the firefighter.

The Feb. 22 editorial, "Edging toward war," and accompanying cartoon on the violence in the Middle East implies such parity by placing equal blame on both parties to the conflict.

A review of facts is in order. Yasser Arafat rejected a historic opportunity to establish a Palestinian state on more than 97 percent of the West Bank, Gaza Strip and most of old Jerusalem. Instead, he unleashed a bloody reign of terror against Israel and its civilian population, thus unmasking his true intentions, peace not being one of them.

Now in its 17th month, the intifada has claimed hundreds of innocent victims. The preferred modus operandi is sending suicide bombers to crowded areas, such as buses and pizza parlors to maximize the carnage. Hamas, among other terrorists, calls for the outright destruction of Israel, while some of the "moderate" factions, such as Arafat's militia, ostensibly want to establish a state on the land, which they were offered and rejected.

It seems disingenuous to characterize Israel's legitimate right of self-defense as contributing to the "cycle of violence." Tragically, the Palestinian people at large suffer greatly as result of Arafat's refusal or impotence to assert his leadership and uproot terrorism.

Leon Bialecki

St. Louis County

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

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Tax the gas-guzzlers

The two letters printed Feb. 16 arguing against raising the Corporate Average Fuel Efficiency standards were a welcome addition to an important debate. But neither offered an acceptable solution to the problem of excessive gasoline consumption in this country.

There is another solution, one that would reduce gas consumption, allow consumers full choice and relieve the auto industry of regulatory burdens.

It would work like this: The government would set a mileage target -- say, 25 mpg, then tax the sale of cars that achieve poorer mileage, and subsidize the purchase of cars that achieve better mileage. For instance, if the tax/subsidy were \$200 for each mpg over or under the target, a vehicle getting 15 mpg would have a \$2,000 surcharge added to the final purchase price, while a vehicle getting 45 mpg would come with a \$4,000 "rebate" from the government.

This system would allow consumers to purchase whatever vehicle they wanted or needed, while leaving gas prices at their relatively low level. Automakers could build a range of vehicles, from super luxury gas guzzlers to efficient models.

David Corley

St. Louis

Graphic

PHOTO; Photo - (a portable gasoline can)

Load-Date: February 27, 2002

**Bush made it plain: If you threaten Americans, you'll pay for it;
Do most of us really understand the full import of his forceful words?**

Portland Press Herald (Maine)

February 4, 2002 Monday, FINAL Edition

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Section: EDITORIAL; Pg. 9A

Length: 858 words

Byline: M.D. Harmon

Body

It's been common to say over the past few months that "Everything's changed since Sept. 11," and nearly as common to deny it. In fact, for those people not directly affected by the terrorists' attacks of that day, things have gone on fairly normally as the shock receded.

True, the armed forces have gone from training to security and limited combat missions, while emergency workers, FBI and CIA agents and immigration services have seen their focus sharpen. Most of us, though, encounter such things only tangentially, through travel or the stories of our friends. We carry on our lives as we did prior to that day.

But last Tuesday, we were put on notice by no less of an authority than the president of the United States that as far as the nation's leadership and its conduct of foreign policy was concerned, the world as it existed before Sept. 11 is a fading memory.

I wonder if most of us understand just how much this nation is now committed to taking charge of events around the globe that affect our security, and how broadly that concept is being defined.

In his post-attack speech to Congress and the nation on Sept. 20, President Bush pledged to pursue terrorists and their supporters no matter where they tried to hide or find shelter. Subsequent events in Afghanistan have proved he was completely sincere.

Taliban and al-Qaida gangsters were hit with everything from leaflets to daisy cutters, and last Tuesday Bush was able to display the fruits of our victory: an interim Afghani leader, Hazid Karzai, and the (**female**) member of his staff in charge of **women**'s development, the remarkably burqua-free Sadoozai Panah.

They proved our victory is also Afghanistan's. That warlord-laden land has long deserved a chance for change, and if the developed countries keep their word, it will get it.

That wasn't the main point of the State of the Union address last Tuesday, however: What Bush promised, in the clearest, most direct language possible, is that this nation will no longer take a passive, let's-be-nice-to-the-bad-guys stance on serious threats to our lives and prosperity.

Terrorism isn't the only danger that we will now confront head-on (although he named several groups in addition to al-Qaida, including **Hamas**, Hezbollah and Islamic Jihad, as part of the "terrorist underworld" that threatens us and others).

Bush made it plain: If you threaten Americans, you'll pay for it; Do most of us really understand the full import of his forceful words?

Bush, to the reported dismay of State Department softies, told the American people that there were three countries that have for years pursued major, significant actions that threatened both the safety and security of the United States and the peace of the entire world.

This "axis of evil" - yes, like Ronald Reagan, he dared to use the e-word - is composed of Iraq, Iran and North Korea. Each has not only supported terror, but has striven to build or acquire nuclear, chemical or biological "weapons of mass destruction" and the means to deliver them.

This astounding burst of candor and realism is so new, so valuable (and so unlike what his predecessor said and did), that I wonder if most of us have fully internalized what it means. While certainly not making a promise of immediate, all-out war on these nations, Bush in effect said that America will now mobilize all its resources - political, economic, diplomatic and military - to take away these nations' ability to slaughter us or others by the thousands.

Some of that will be defensive, as his pledge to develop an anti-ballistic missile force illustrates. Much of it, however, will require positive action to isolate, control and eventually encourage the removal of the tyrants, autocrats and dictators who not only threaten us, but keep their own peoples in deepest misery.

Recall the predictions that an attack on the Taliban would mobilize the entire Muslim world against us? Instead, we saw ordinary Afghans dancing in the streets when they were finally set free.

Such dancing was only a foretaste of the celebrations that will occur in Baghdad, Tehran and Pyongyang if and when those peoples are liberated from their cruel, oppressive rulers.

As Bush noted, we have to take action in these cases for our own defense. In doing so, however, we will, as the quote from Leviticus inscribed on the Liberty Bell puts it, "Proclaim liberty throughout all the land unto all the inhabitants thereof."

Or, in the words of Todd Beamer, American hero: "Let's roll."

A FEW WEEKS ago I used a word, blogger, confessing that it was new to me. Now I've been informed that it's a cyberspace term, a shortened version of Weblogger. Webloggers use their personal Web sites to discuss their daily lives, or just ramble on about various topics, in paragraphs called blogs. So, a print column can't be composed of blogs, because it's not online; it's "ondeadtrees," as one cyberjournalist puts it.

However, local columns and editorials on these pages are available online at www.portland.com. Click on "Viewpoints" on the red task bar near the top of the home page for that day's offerings, and check out the past week's writings using the links at the bottom of the Viewpoints page.

- M.D. Harmon, an editorial writer and editor, can be reached

at mharmon@pressherald.com

or 791-6482.

Load-Date: February 4, 2002

Israel bomber a woman: Blast kills two, injures more than 100 in Jerusalem shopping district

The Gazette (Montreal, Quebec)

January 28, 2002 Monday

Final EDITION

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Section: NEWS,; Crime

Length: 901 words

Byline: MATTHEW KALMAN

Dateline: JERUSALEM

Body

A Palestinian woman yesterday became the first **female** to launch a bomb attack against Israel as terror returned to the streets of central Jerusalem with the detonation without warning of a huge explosive device in a crowded shopping street.

The bomber and an 81-year-old Israeli man died in the blast, and more than 100 people were injured.

Palestinian sources said the bomber was Shahnaz Amouri, a student from Al-Najar University in Nablus, a **Hamas** hotbed that has produced five suicide bombers in recent months.

Amouri is the first **female** bomber involved in the more than 100 bombings in the region since the mid-1990s. Southam News; AP; Cox News Service and Knight Ridder, Newspapers contributed to this report

The bomber blew herself up in the Jaffa Rd., the main street of Jerusalem, which was filled with pedestrians and traffic shortly after midday on a sunny Sunday morning - an ordinary working day in Israel.

Israeli police said they were not sure whether the woman intended to kill herself or whether the bomb exploded prematurely.

It was the seventh terrorist attack along lower Jaffa Rd. in five months. Five days ago, a Palestinian with an assault rifle raked pedestrians at a bus shelter about 30 metres away.

He killed two **women** and wounded 14 others, then was slain by a police officer.

Yesterday's bomb was studded with nails and metal objects designed to maim and kill. It was so powerful it destroyed shopfronts and property over a wide radius. Some of them had only just been repaired after last week's shooting attack.

The Israeli killed was 81-year-old Pinchas Toktaly, father of three and grandfather of 13, who was walking home from an art class when the explosion occurred about 12:30 p.m.

Israel bomber a woman: Blast kills two, injures more than 100 in Jerusalem shopping district

Among the wounded was New York attorney Mark Sokolow, a survivor also of the Sept. 11 terrorist attack on the World Trade Centre. He, his wife and two daughters suffered multiple cuts from glass and shrapnel.

"I felt the blast, the whoosh, and heard the boom," said Sokolow, 43, of Woodmere, N.Y., who was visiting a daughter studying in Israel. "When I felt myself being able to run down the street, even though I was wounded, I felt grateful."

Sokolov was on the 38th floor of the World Trade Centre's south tower when a hijacked airliner hit the north tower. His office was evacuated and he escaped before the south tower fell.

No group had claimed responsibility for the explosion by late last night, but Israeli officials said they held Arafat ultimately responsible.

Arafat is "encouraging terrorism, he's sending (attackers) to Jerusalem," said Raanan Gissin, a spokesman for Israeli Prime Minister Ariel Sharon. "We will continue to systematically dismantle the terrorist infrastructure."

The Palestinian leadership, meanwhile, "strongly condemned the suicide attack" and called on U.S. President George W. Bush to send Mideast envoy Anthony Zinni back to the region. However, Bush has been sharply critical of Arafat, and U.S. Vice-President Dick Cheney suggested yesterday that Zinni will not return soon.

"At this stage, we need to see some positive signs that his return would do some good. And that means we've got to see some positive results out of Arafat," Cheney said.

Arafat must "make a 100-per-cent good-faith effort to put an end to terrorism. So far he hasn't done that," he said.

The Palestinian leadership on Saturday called for a halt to attacks against Israel. However, several Palestinian groups have said recently that they would no longer observe a ceasefire declared by Arafat in December.

Israel has dismissed the Palestinian ceasefire calls as meaningless and says Arafat has simultaneously been encouraging rebels.

Yesterday's bombing shattered storefront windows of about 20 businesses, twisted metal doorframes and left body parts scattered on rooftops across Jaffa Rd.

Dozens of dazed, bloody victims wandered around, waiting for ambulances.

Police spokesman Gil Kleiman said 111 people were treated at hospitals, two of them in serious condition and five moderately serious. Dozens of those sent to hospitals were treated for shock.

"It was a very powerful bomb, judging by the destruction it has caused in the area," said Jerusalem police chief Mickey Levy, who was himself rushed into intensive care after suffering a massive heart attack while touring the scene of the blast.

As a huge cloud of smoke rose over the street, shopfront dummies from a women's fashion store lay amid the broken glass and pools of blood on the pavement, lending the scene a grotesque sense of theatre.

Dozens of ambulances and private cars ferried the wounded to hospitals as doctors issued a radio appeal for volunteers to help deal with the sudden influx of traumatized victims and their relatives.

The blast was the second bomb attack in less than three days. On Friday, a Palestinian suicide bomber killed himself and injured more than a dozen bystanders in Tel Aviv.

While the Palestinian Authority officially condemned the attack, it seemed likely to increase Arafat's growing international isolation.

The Palestinian leader has been trapped in Ramallah for more than a month after failing to arrest the killers of Israeli Tourism Minister Rechavam Ze'evi.

Israel bomber a woman: Blast kills two, injures more than 100 in Jerusalem shopping district

Arafat continued to receive organized groups of supporters yesterday at his Ramallah headquarters.

Ironically, as the bomber blew herself up in Jerusalem, Arafat's guests were representatives of Palestinian women's organizations.

Graphic

Photo: BRIAN HENDLER, AP ; Israeli police, medical personnel, and journalists are seen through the shattered window of an Israeli, public bus damaged at the site of a suicide bombing on Jaffa Road in, downtown Jerusalem yesterday.

Load-Date: January 28, 2002

End of Document

Higher Education: What makes a martyr?: Why do people become suicide bombers? Religion? To find an identity? Chris Arnot talks to the professor of economics at Warwick who has a new theory

The Guardian (London)

April 29, 2003

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Section: Guardian Education Pages, Pg. 14

Length: 963 words

Byline: Chris Arnot

Body

Opportunities for economic advancement are not immediately evident if you happen to be young and reasonably well educated in a Palestinian camp, or what remains of a heavily bombed Iraqi city. There is no careers officer to suggest a training scheme with a firm of chartered accountants or computer analysts. More likely a representative from your local branch of **Hamas**, Hizbullah or al-Qaida will whisper in your ear: "Have you considered being a warrior martyr?"

For some of the more fanatical recruits to terrorist organisations, the destruction of what they see as illegal occupiers of their homeland might be compensation enough for their own deaths. But is that explanation enough for the phenomenon of the suicide bomber?

Professor Mark Harrison, of Warwick University, thinks not, and his paper, the Logic of Suicide Terrorism, is causing some interest among academics in the UK and the Middle East, particularly Israel, since it was published on the internet. Harrison is an economist, not a psychologist nor a sociologist of religion.

He is sceptical of the notion that Muslim martyrs believe they can leave the squalor of the West Bank or a technical education in Saudi Arabia for the pleasures of being attended by 72 virgins in paradise. "If the promise of a better after-life was the prime motive," he muses, "then how did the human race survive the middle ages? There must be more to this than religious belief. Religion is only part of someone's identity. It's a symptom rather than a cause." He goes on to point out that suicide bombing has been a factor in parts of the world, such as Chechnya, where the primary motivation is nationalism.

Harrison began to dwell on the issue of "warrior martyrs" in the wake of the September 11 terror attacks, by far the most spectacularly horrific, devastating and far-reaching event in 20 years of suicide terrorism. "The existing explanations are all about communities being occupied and traumatised," he says. "But that can only be part of the story.

"It doesn't tell us why individuals put themselves forward. There are cases where young people are bamboozled into taking part, but that can't be the sole explanation for the many hundreds of cases that there have been over the past two decades.

Higher Education: What makes a martyr?: Why do people become suicide bombers? Religion? To find an identity? Chris Arnot talks to the professor of economics at

"As an economist, I try to understand the world in terms of people following their self-interest," he adds, before going on to point out that we all have an interest, when growing up, in establishing an identity. So is he saying that suicide bombing stems from an identity crisis?

"It's hard to construct an identity in a society where nothing works and opportunities are severely restricted. In communities like this, a man is expected to be the provider. Young women have the option of motherhood."

There have been exceptions, women who, for one reason or another, step outside their traditional caring roles to become suicide bombers themselves. But Harrison suggests that young men are generally more vulnerable to offers that will give them not only an identity but a place in community history for themselves and their families. "I see it as a contract between the young person and the terrorist faction to exchange life for identity."

For obvious reasons, the bomber is not going to be around to see that the other party has carried out its side of the bargain. "So as a way of enforcing the contract, there are pre-suicide ceremonies or rituals that can go on for several days. A video is made in which the would-be martyr says how happy he is to spill the blood of the occupiers as well as himself. Letters are written to friends and, once they're sent out, there's no going back.

"Community pressures are very strong, and you have to remember that families collude. I've seen many TV clips of parents sending off a son." They know that his name will be immortalised, and a substantial cheque from a government that sponsors terrorism will, in some cases, go some way to ease the pain of his passing.

"The Israelis say they've found that punishing families can have a deterrent effect. If a young man thinks that his parents' home is going to be bulldozed after he's gone, they maintain, then he might think twice about going."

Unsurprisingly, perhaps, Harrison believes that the long-term solution in Palestine, Iraq, Chechnya or any other cradle of warrior martyrs is not punitive but economic. "The objective must be to offer more positive alternatives to young people," he says. "If our markets are made more accessible to poor countries then investment will flow there.

"Also, we have to make it easier for people to move. All the political pressure at the moment is to make it more difficult. But if we free up the prospects of people in poor countries, reducing their frustrations, then ultimately we'll gain from it."

Since his paper was published, Harrison has been contacted by Professor Ariel Merari, director of the political violence research unit At Tel Aviv University, one of the best known empirical researchers in the field. Even he has struggled to build up a profile of a stereotypical warrior martyr.

"From a psychological point of view, they have very little in common," he said after investigating 34 case studies. "Few are likely to have been compelled to act by a desire for personal revenge. Of the 34, only three had a family member killed by the Israeli army." None were suicidal in the pathological sense, he added.

Acquiring an identity through suicide bombing is one thing. Trying to define the identity of a typical suicide bomber, it would seem, is quite another.

Professor Mark Harrison's paper, the Logic of Suicide Terrorism, was published in the Royal United Services Institute Security Monitor, vol 2, no 1 (2003). It can also be viewed at <http://makeashorterlink.com/?C4AC12334>

Load-Date: April 29, 2003

Suicide bomb 'just the beginning': Iraq

Ottawa Citizen

March 31, 2003 Monday Final Edition

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Section: News; Pg. A1; News

Length: 993 words

Byline: Peter Goodspeed

Dateline: KUWAIT CITY

Body

KUWAIT CITY -- The suicide bombing attack at a U.S. army checkpoint has injected an ominous new element into the Iraq war.

Following Saturday's bombing, which killed four U.S. soldiers, Taha Yassin Ramadan, Iraq's vice-president, told foreign reporters in Baghdad "battalions" of Arab militants are flocking to Iraq ready to die as martyrs in attacks against U.S. and British troops. Iraq says it has the support of 4,000 Arabs from other nations who have volunteered to fight.

Mr. Ramadan promised the foreign volunteers would "turn every country in the Arab world into a battlefield, not only against those who wear the military uniforms of the United States and the United Kingdom, but against all who support them.

CanWest News Service; with files from The Associated Press

"We will use any means to kill our enemy in our land, and we will follow the enemy into its land," Mr. Ramadan told a news conference in Baghdad. "This is just the beginning."

Four U.S. soldiers were killed instantly near the central Iraqi city of Najaf on Saturday when a junior Iraqi officer disguised as a civilian taxi driver drove up to a U.S. military checkpoint and told soldiers he needed help. As the soldiers approached, he set off a bomb.

Iraq's state television reported that the Najaf bomber -- identified as Ali Jaafar al-Noamani, a non-commissioned officer with several children -- was posthumously promoted to colonel and awarded two medals by Saddam Hussein.

His family was thought to have been awarded the equivalent of \$50,000, a fortune in Iraq.

It praised the bombing, saying: "This is the blessed beginning on the road of sacrifice and martyrdom to inflict on them what they did not expect."

Although perhaps unexpected by coalition forces, suicide attacks are a tactic well known to the Iraqi leader.

Last year, as the Israeli-Palestinian conflict staggered under the weight of a bloody second intifada, Mr. Saddam began paying \$25,000 to the family of each Palestinian suicide bomber.

Now he is endorsing the same tactic in a bid to preserve his own regime.

Suicide bomb 'just the beginning': Iraq

Yesterday's suicide bombing in Israel that wounded 30 in a crowded cafe was called "Palestine's gift to the heroic people of Iraq," by Hamas, the bomber's sponsor.

Iraq's threat to carry out attacks against the United States and its supporters came as U.S. and British intelligence officials announced the discovery of several plots by Iraqi nationals to launch a wave of terrorist attacks against Western targets in Yemen and Jordan and 10 other countries worldwide.

Police in Yemen raided a house in the capital city, San'a, on Wednesday and arrested a group of Iraqis along with a cache of explosives which they believe were to be used against the U.S. and British embassies.

In Jordan's capital, Amman, a group of Iraqis were arrested with explosives they planned to use to bomb a hotel frequented by foreigners.

Around the same time last week, border police in Kuwait are said to have intercepted 11 Iraqis who were trying to infiltrate the northern border with Iraq with explosives.

And in an apparently unrelated incident yesterday afternoon, an unidentified civilian drove a pickup truck into a group of U.S. soldiers as they stood outside a store at a military camp in northern Kuwait.

Up to 15 soldiers were said to have been injured in the incident, which is still under investigation.

Since the war in Iraq started, coalition forces have had to defend against a variety of guerrilla-style attacks as they march on Baghdad. Members of Saddam's Fedayeen militia -- the name translates as "Saddam's Martyrs" -- have been posing as civilians in a variety of situations to attack coalition troops while using women and children as human shields or to pretend to surrender and then open fire on U.S. and British troops.

Yesterday, British newspapers reported that suicide squads are targeting Royal Marine units near the besieged city of Basra in southern Iraq. Intelligence reports gleaned from Iraqi prisoners are said to show that four teams of suicide bombers are using ambulances to move around Basra with the aim of attacking a military patrol or a British base.

Suicide attacks will make it difficult for U.S. and British troops to distinguish between combatants and civilians and could undermine coalition attempts to win over Iraq's civilian population.

By embracing a tactic pioneered

by Muslim radicals, Iraqi suicide bombers may also create the impression that Saddam is allied with Osama bin Laden and other similar radicals in waging a Muslim holy war.

Mr. Bin Laden used a tape-recorded message last February to urge Muslims to strike at U.S. targets in Iraq and elsewhere.

Since the war began, extremist Islamic clerics in Iraq and throughout the Middle East have issued "fatwas" or decrees calling for a holy war on U.S. interests around the world.

The fact Saturday's suicide attack took place outside Najaf, one of the Shiite Muslim faith's most sacred cities, also raises the possibility it had a religious element to it. The Iranian-backed Shiite terrorist group Hezbollah is said to have sent operatives into Iraq.

Hezbollah has used suicide and truck bombs as standard tactics in the past, killing 241 U.S. marines in Beirut in 1983 and in trying to drive the Israeli army out of southern Lebanon for 18 years after that.

U.S. officials have attempted to downplay the significance of Saturday's suicide attack. Maj.-Gen. Victor Renuart, the coalition director of operations in Qatar, described the bombing as a "terrorist attack," saying: "These kind of actions are symbolic of an organization that is getting a little bit desperate."

Still, U.S. and British troops have been issued with new orders on what to do when manning roadblocks.

Suicide bomb 'just the beginning': Iraq

They have been told not to approach civilian cars, but to order the occupants to stop and leave their vehicles. If they don't comply, the soldiers will fire a single warning shot. If that doesn't work, they are authorized to shoot to kill.

Load-Date: March 31, 2003

End of Document

Israeli cabinet split by demolition of Palestinian houses

The New Zealand Herald

January 14, 2002 Monday

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Section: NEWS; World

Length: 975 words

Body

JERUSALEM - Israel's prime minister Ariel Sharon has blasted several members of his own cabinet for adding their voices to a growing chorus of internal criticism over the Israeli army's most destructive house-razing mission since the start of the intifada.

Mr Sharon began a cabinet meeting by accusing Labour ministers in his coalition government of fuelling anti-Israeli "propaganda" by questioning the operation, which came a day after the killing of four Israeli Bedouin soldiers by Hamas guerrillas.

Outrage over last week's demolition of around 60 homes in Rafah refugee camp, southern Gaza -- collective punishment against civilians which violates the Geneva Conventions -- has abruptly galvanised Israel's liberal minority, which has been subdued since the conflict with the Palestinians turned violent in September 2000.

The operation went ahead despite appeals from several of the relatives of the dead soldiers, as well as Bedouin community leaders, for the Israeli army to refrain from acts of vengeance.

Mr Sharon, who authorised the assault, yesterday awoke to newspaper headlines in the liberal domestic press which were among the most critical that he has faced since taking office last March.

Gideon Levy, a respected left-wing columnist, declared that the wrecking mission -- which collectively punished hundreds of impoverished Palestinian men, women and children by rendering them homeless in the height of winter -- was a war crime.

In a stinging editorial on the subject, the newspaper described the operation as an act of "blind cruelty", a case of "destruction on a systematic collective and indiscriminate level against Palestinians, whoever they may be. As far as is known the only sin of most of them - perhaps even all of them - was the place where they lived."

Several Labour ministers, including Shimon Peres, yesterday raised questions about the demolitions. It was followed by the sinking of two Palestinian naval boats in a Gaza City port by Israeli navy commandos, and the blowing up of another part the already damaged runway at the closed Palestinian airport in the south of the strip.

"Destruction of homes causes us very bad media damage. In the matter of destroying homes we have to be very, very careful," said Mr Peres.

The row has exposed the tensions between Labour ministers and the predominant right wing within Mr Sharon's government. These are complicated by the fact that Labour's leader, Benjamin Ben-Eliezer, is Defence Minister - and authorised the Gaza demolitions.

Israeli cabinet split by demolition of Palestinian houses

The furore has also been confused by conflicting claims over the scale of the damage. Mr Sharon last night told a gathering of foreign journalists that it was part of an attempt to crack down on a "major effort by the Palestinian Authority" to smuggle weapons to Rafah in Gaza from Egypt.

Most of the destroyed buildings were empty, he said, and were used by the Palestinians as cover for large tunnels through which the arms were transferred. "My role and the role of the government I lead is to provide security," he said. The army said its forces only destroyed 21 abandoned homes.

But evidence gathered at the scene by correspondents, international human rights workers, and the testimony of the stricken Palestinians themselves wholly contradicted this, showing that the number of homes flattened was around 60. The International Committee of the Red Cross said 93 families, or about 600 people, were left homeless. They are now living in tents supplied by the UN.

The issue has arisen at a time of agonised self-examination in Israel over its handling of "hasbara" - the Hebrew term for the national endeavour to explain its case to the outside world through public relations and propaganda.

This has been brought to a head by the wariness with which the international community, and the foreign press, initially responded to the "Karine-A" guns smuggling affair - the arrest by Israeli commandos of a vessel in the Red Sea which was allegedly carrying 50 tons of weapons to the Palestinians.

There was widespread criticism in Israel over the military's handling of the matter. Israeli security officials claim the operation was personally approved by Yasser Arafat. They have told the United States that it is evidence that Iran - which they say was the source of the arms - is using the Palestinian Authority as a proxy in its war on Israel. Mr Sharon last night emphasised the alleged Palestinian-Iran link, and accused Iran of being the "centre of world terror".

Mr Arafat, still stranded in his West Bank headquarters in Ramallah, has denied that he or the Palestinian Authority were involved but has launched a commission of inquiry. His officials are questioning Fuad Shobaki, a senior official, in connection with the ship, and have named two other naval officials whom they wish to interview.

The commando raid on the Karine-A on January 3 was warmly applauded by Israelis, who compared it with the rescue of hostages at Entebbe airport in 1976. However, the army's brief burst of pride and improved stature has now been squandered amid the ruins of Gaza.

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<http://www.nzherald.co.nz/storyarchive.cfm?reportID=56522> Feature: Middle East

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Map

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Israeli cabinet split by demolition of Palestinian houses

<http://www.israelwire.com/su1.html> Israel Wire

http://www.state.gov/www/regions/nea/peace_process.html US Department of State - Middle East Peace Process

Load-Date: December 17, 2002

End of Document

Your turn

Sydney Morning Herald (Australia)

December 7, 2002 Saturday

Late Edition

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Section: GOOD WEEKEND; Letters; Pg. 8

Length: 1001 words

Body

Thank heavens, finally a voice of awareness ("Enough Is Enough", November 16).

I imagine Janet Hawley's report is the tip of the iceberg. Where did we go so wrong? When did society give this darling generation the message that they have the right to enjoy (using the term as loosely as they do) themselves at the expense of their parents and family?

From the breathtaking, heartbreaking experience of my once darling three sons, we apparently got it ever so wrong. We're educated, we adored them, we did not abuse, we spent time with them ... it doesn't add up.

At least the public debate has begun; let's see if we can get to the crux of the matter.

Name and address withheld

What ToughLove proponents ignore is the importance of encouraging all family members to accept responsibility for their own contribution to a problematic family situation, rather than just apportioning blame or entering into combat, and to work towards a solution from this point of shared responsibility.

The ToughLove credo encourages parents to become militant towards their offspring, perhaps reversing a power imbalance, but taking neither party any closer to an honest, balanced, loving and respectful relationship.

Adela Holmes

Richmond, Vic

I felt very angry when I read Dr Michael Fairley's comments about the teenagers who might take their own lives if the parents call their bluff. Ultimately, the children are responsible for their own behaviour.

The parents will grieve and ask themselves what else they might have done, yet they've already been to hell and back with an out-of-control child. They have been blackmailed and harassed by powerful young people.

To break the cycle of co-dependence, the parents have to change and get tough, as the article suggests.

I myself had a bargain with the Almighty. If I worried enough and ruined my own health, my daughter would be okay. It doesn't work like that. When I stepped back emotionally, the vibes of a new approach reached my daughter. I am grateful that she is now happy and well, with a fledgling family and lots of possibilities for the future.

Your turn

Heather Vander Reest

Mount Waverley, Vic

I am deeply grateful to Craig Gore and his late father "of Sanctuary Cove fame" ("Heir to the White Shoes", November 16) for locking up those one-dimensional, isolationist residents of his adults-only enclave, leaving the rest of us to enjoy the challenge of the rich and diverse life outside.

Joan Parke

Wollstonecraft, NSW

What a wonderful idea, Craig Gore; well done! Just one little recommendation - in the interests of security and wellbeing, of course: when you and the Chosen Ones settle in, can the rest of us put an extra lock on the outside of the gate, just in case any of you change your mind?

Alan Lander

Black Mountain, Qld

By Craig Gore's own admission, his father's concept of "real" love included burning his children with hot teaspoons and financially and physically deserting them.

It is little wonder therefore that Craig Gore describes today's youth as "little dickheads on skateboards". Oblivious to the innumerable joys and advantages of normal family life, Gore is perhaps ideally qualified to establish what he perceives to be a child-free Utopia.

Aurora, like its earlier model, Sanctuary Cove, promotes a self-indulgent, elitist and rarefied lifestyle. I'll take the graffiti and skateboards any day over a community built exclusively for "well-heeled" seniors who, according to the article, drink copious amounts of alcohol and drive around in golf buggies.

Kristine Schreiber

Heidelberg Heights, Vic

After reading the Craig Gore story, may I reassure your readers that there are people on the Gold Coast who do not bleach their hair, wear white shoes, shave their lawns, play golf or live in gated communities! There are people who go to their corner shop, grow flowers and weeds, love their kids, read and do not renovate. Long may the Sanctuary Cove set stay there!

Caroline Deane

Labrador, Qld

What times we live in! "The XXX Files" (November 16) is pornography at a

remove: people writing about themselves writing about people representing the doings of prostitutes and their clients.

But it is still distasteful; it still coarsens the popular culture. While admitting that the authors are fashionably ironical, detached and so clever, let me suggest that the "frightening the horses" rule should still apply to the Saturday morning magazine.

Stuart Robinson

Haberfield, NSW

Your turn

Mark Dapin's reflections on driving in France ("Drive, He Said", November 16) had us in stitches. Not least because we have just returned from Europe and spent a good part of our time in France driving in Provence and from Bordeaux via the Loire Valley to Paris.

In our case, the gender roles were reversed, with the male driving and the **female** navigating. The memory lingers. My daughter has, since my return home, commented on my tendency to indicate by turning on the wipers. At least I no longer bounce off the kerb.

John Morath

Northcote, Vic

I have another proposal in response to Naomi Wolf's proposal of bringing Americans and Jews to help in the Occupied Territories (Weekender, November 16). I'd like to bring Yasser Arafat and **Hamas** members to the site of a bus bombing and teach them methods of collecting dispersed body parts.

Rachel Kleiner

Dover Heights, NSW

Paul Sinclair of Thornbury is concerned about the Bear Gully Cottages next to the Cape Liptrap Coastal Park (Your Turn, November 16). Trees will grow to make these cottages blend in. There are 80,800-tonne, 100-metre-tall wind turbines proposed in the area, with 46 of them directly adjacent to the Cape Liptrap Coastal Park. Where will we look then? Away?

Tim Le Roy

Walkerville, Vic

Write to: Your Turn, Good Weekend, GPO Box 506, Sydney, NSW 2001.

Fax: (02) 9282 1628. Email: yourturn@mail.fairfax.com.au

Letters must be kept to 200 words, contain writer's full name, home address and daytime telephone number, and may be edited for purposes of clarity or space. NOTE: Writers using email must include details of their home suburb and state.

Load-Date: July 17, 2007

Jenin mourns in its own Ground Zero

The Australian

April 23, 2002, Tuesday

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Section: FEATURES; Pg. 9

Length: 2152 words

Byline: Marie Colvin

Body

Scene of an Israeli massacre or a clinical operation to weed out terrorists? Marie Colvin seeks the evidence

THE first medical teams allowed into the Jenin refugee camp last week follow the chickens. Human senses are overwhelmed by the devastation and stench of death, but the birds are not distracted. They are hungry.

Two rusty-coloured fowl pecking away at a bundle in the street draw a Red Cross team to the remains of Jamal Sabagh. He isn't really recognisable to an untrained eye. His body has been lying there for more than a week. The Israeli army banned ambulances from the camp for 11 days and neighbours have been too terrified to go to him. The Sunday Times

Tank tracks lead to his body, over it and onwards through the mud. What once was a young man is rotting flesh mingled with shredded clothing, mashed into the earth. One foot is all that looks human.

Sabagh was no fighter, his brother and friends say. He was 28 and a father of three. His wife and children fled on the first day of the Israeli invasion, April 3, but he stayed because he was diabetic and was too ill to run away. Two days later, he left his house when the Israelis yelled over megaphones that they were going to blow it up. He walked, directed by soldiers in armoured personnel carriers, with other men to Seha Street at the centre of the camp, carrying his bag of medicines. He joined the crowd. Soldiers yelled at him to take off his shirt, then his trousers. He clung to his bag of medicine as he tried to unbuckle his belt and he was slow. The soldiers shot him, friends say.

Across the narrow street is a forlorn pile of men's jeans, tracksuit tops and cheap shoes -- left by those who got their clothes off in time, to prove they had no bombs strapped to their bodies.

As the rescue teams spread out over Jenin camp last week after the Israeli army claimed victory in its battle against several hundred armed Palestinian radicals, it was clear something cataclysmic had occurred.

Stunned and dusty in this new world, returning Palestinians wander around a moonscape the size of two football pitches. It is littered with the detritus of human life -- blankets, a little girl's tartan skirt, a child's orange boxing glove, shoes. **Women** in hijab headscarves dig at the rubble with buckets and bare hands. Five-year-old Ahmed Hindi cries: "I want to go home." He doesn't know he is standing on it.

Images of this man-made earthquake zone have flashed around the world as evidence that Israeli Prime Minister Ariel Sharon is responsible for another war crime in Jenin on a par with the massacre in the Shatila and Sabra

Jenin mourns in its own Ground Zero

refugee camps in Beirut 20 years ago. Israel has responded that the devastation was the consequence of a pitched battle against entrenched terrorists.

What really happened? Tragedy doesn't necessarily breed truth. The propaganda war began before the white dust settled over Jenin.

Rafi Laderman, a personable Israeli reserve major, emerges from the battlefield and makes the rounds of the media in his rumpled green uniform. His clear plastic spectacles signal his real job as a marketing consultant. Laderman insists that all the buildings in the refugee camp have been destroyed by explosive booby traps set by the terrorists or levelled by Israeli bulldozers because they "presented additional engineering difficulties" that could endanger civilians. He stopped the fighting to lead Palestinian civilians to safety.

All that seems disingenuous. Equally unlikely are Palestinian claims that the Israelis have killed 500 Palestinians in cold blood, most civilians, and buried them in mass graves under the rubble after running them over with tanks. Israel says about 70 have been killed.

UN Middle East envoy Terje Roed-Larsen cuts through the propaganda by stating the obvious: "No military operation can justify this scale of destruction. Whatever the purpose was, the effect is collective punishment of a whole society."

To get an objective idea of what happened in Jenin requires an almost forensic investigation, weeding out lies and half-truths and the rumours that a stunned and terrified population has come to believe are true. By doing so, I have come to conclusions that are unlikely to satisfy the propagandists of either side.

Jenin was bound to be a prime target for the Israeli military backlash after a Palestinian suicide bomber killed 28 Israelis as they sat down to dinner in Netanya on Passover eve three weeks ago.

There has been a refugee camp in Jenin since the foundation of Israel in 1948, when Palestinians fled there from the Haifa area. Since then, Jenin has become a stronghold of radical Palestinian nationalism, with a population of 11,000 refugees. The Israeli Defence Force believes half the suicide bombers who have struck Israel in the past year were from Jenin.

When the Israelis invaded Ramallah on March 29 in retaliation for the suicide bombings, radicals in Jenin knew they would be next. Sources there said local leaders of Hamas, Islamic Jihad and Fatah, including its militant Tanzim and Al-Aqsa Martyrs Brigades offshoots, organised small fighting cells that included members from each group.

At 2am on Wednesday April 3, five days after the invasion of Ramallah, Merkava tanks and armoured personnel carriers rumbled through Jenin and headed for the refugee camp on the edge of the city.

In a tiny battlefield, the radicals not only resisted the might of the Israeli army longer than the combined Arab armies did in the 1967 Six-Day War but turned themselves and their militant cause into the stuff of instant Palestinian legend. "The fighting was the fiercest urban house-to-house fighting Israel has seen in 30 years," says Laderman.

A serious ambush sealed the fate of the Hawamish area. By Monday, April 8, most of the surviving gunmen had been forced into this neighbourhood. Early the next day, 16 reservists of the Fifth Brigade moved into an alley in Hawamish, searching for a house to use as a lookout post. Their leader, Major Oded Golomb, set charges to blow the door. As he did so, Palestinians threw a bomb from a balcony and gunmen began firing from the opposite roof. Thirteen Israelis were killed.

Israel's retribution was swift. Armoured bulldozers, two-storey behemoths as impregnable as tanks, began knocking down houses in Hawamish.

By Thursday, April 11, Hawamish had disappeared. That was the day the Israeli operation officially ended, but hours after the Israelis announced that the last 35 fighters had surrendered (they ran out of ammunition) I stood in a

Jenin mourns in its own Ground Zero

village called Borqin, looking down into the camp. The sound of heavy machine-gun fire still rose from the valley. Helicopter gunships shot bursts of heavy-calibre bullets.

The Israelis let in the outside world slowly and grudgingly. The camp was finally opened to international aid agencies on April 14, but journalists were barred. The obstruction fuelled speculation that the Israelis were trying to hide something. There were mass graves, some said; others swore hundreds of bodies were under the bulldozed homes. Israelis bridled. "Our mission was to penetrate into Jenin area and dismantle the terrorist infrastructure and we did that," insists Laderman.

I eventually gained access last Tuesday, walking in with as open a mind as I could muster.

Late in the day, when all is quiet, I walk past the Jenin hospital. Nearby, women and children are slowly making their way back to temporary lodgings after a day trying to find their homes and relatives. An armoured personnel carrier pulls up at the end of street behind us. The Palestinians take no notice -- until the soldier in the turret opens fire straight down the street with his machine-gun.

I dive for shelter. Children cry in terror. The soldier initially fires over our heads, but then bullets flash by at chest height. The screams turn to moans as the armoured personnel carrier heads towards us down the street.

It rolls into sight, stops the gunfire and swivels the huge barrel to point directly at us. Then the bespectacled soldier waves his hand in anger, yelling: "Go, go." I think he just wanted everyone off the streets.

If I am now convinced by claims that Israelis opened fire indiscriminately on civilians, weighing up the truth of other allegations will be much more difficult. Even what can seem obvious is not necessarily true.

From a house hit by a missile in the centre of what the Palestinians call their own Ground Zero, rescue workers pull human remains that people say is of a small child. They lay on a rug and seem indeed very small to the eye. But when I find a doctor, he is dubious.

"This person has been reduced; I think in a fire," the doctor says. "See that bone?" He pokes around and finds a large thigh bone. Not a child. When I track down the owner of the house, he says that four fighters were holed up in his house, firing on the Israelis, when a missile hit it.

Scores of interviews in the camp do show consistency, however. Story after story -- from people who have not yet met one another since they fled -- indicates the Israelis used Palestinians as human shields and took families hostage to protect their makeshift posts set up in their houses.

Ismahan Stati is a pretty, shy university student. Israeli soldiers came to her house on the third day and blew open the door, she says. "They took me as a hostage," she says. "They were afraid." They knocked on a nearby house and, when nobody answered, they blew open the door with a grenade fired from a gun. In fact Afaf Dusuqi, 52, had been slow coming to the door and was killed instantly by the shrapnel. Afaf's mother held her daughter's body, covered in blood, and screamed for an ambulance but the soldiers fired into the house to drive her back.

Afaf's body stayed in the house for five days until the family could smuggle it to the cemetery for burial in a hurried mass grave. I find her name scrawled on a stone where she will lie until her family can give her a proper burial.

There is a bizarre twist to this story. A rumour began that Stati was a suicide bomber. The story started, her family believes, when a neighbour saw her standing in the group of soldiers, heard an explosion and ducked, then looked again to see the body of a woman.

The rumour is still around the camp, illustrating why every fact must be tracked down here. Stories of cold-blooded executions are told to me in detail but can't be substantiated. A woman says she saw "with my own eyes" the execution of eight Hamas members and a 16-year-old boy who was the son of one of the men but had nothing to do with politics.

Jenin mourns in its own Ground Zero

It sounds difficult to believe of the Israeli Defence Force, but she has a name. In the end, I find the true story; an awful tale, but not a cold-blooded assassination.

Fathi Chalabi, a bird-like elderly man, shows me where the Israelis had blown a hole in his door to enter his home at night. About 30 soldiers had forced their way in and separated out Chalabi, his son Wada'a, 32, and another man, Abed Sa'adi, 27, in the courtyard.

"They told us to face the wall and take off our shirts," Chalabi says. "They were looking for suicide bombers. But we were not. My son was the caretaker at school. He was one month from getting his university degree."

It was dark and, as Wada'a picked up his shirt, the Israelis spotted an elastic bandage he wore for back pain. Someone shouted in Hebrew. Chalabi remembers the officer's name was Gabi. They opened fire, hitting the two younger men, who fell on Chalabi.

The last he remembers is some kind of argument between the soldiers. Then they shone lights on the bodies and he played dead. "I was covered in Wada'a's blood," he says. The Israelis left up the alleyway. Dark dried bloodstains still mark the concrete when Chalabi speaks to me.

My conclusion after interviewing scores of refugees is that there is no evidence Israeli troops entered the camp aiming to massacre Palestinian civilians. But in many cases they shot first and did not take much care to find out if the target was a civilian or not.

Under the fourth Geneva convention, they are required to protect the civilian population and wilful killing of a civilian is a potential war crime.

I am also certain that numerous Palestinians were held hostage in their homes while Israeli troops used the building as a base or a firing post, and that others were taken door to door as human shields, sometimes thrown into rooms ahead of Israeli troops.

Both are violations of international law, which protects civilians in wartime.

As for the bulldozing of the Hawamish area, this seems to have been out of a combination of fear and revenge rather than premeditated.

I ask Laderman how he feels now. He says he is satisfied that the "nest of snakes" has been snuffed out. As for the new generation of suicide bombers the military operation has probably created, he says: "They would have become suicide terrorists anyway."

Load-Date: April 22, 2002

USF's Police Chief Has Changed With Times, Crimes

The Tampa Tribune (Florida)

October 12, 2002, Saturday,

FINAL EDITION

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Section: NORTHEAST,

Length: 883 words

Byline: MICHELE SAGER , msager@tampatrib.com; Reporter Michele Sager can be reached at (813) 977-2854, Ext. 32.

Body

PAUL URAVICH PLANS TO RETIRE AFTER 30 YEARS ON THE JOB

USF CAMPUS - When Paul Uravich became police chief at the University of South Florida nearly 30 years ago, he couldn't imagine the path his job would take.

"The role of university police has dramatically changed over the years," Uravich said. "Bike thefts and panty raids used to be the big concerns on a campus. Now, you have much more serious crimes to worry about."

During his career, Uravich has seen just about everything on campus from protests and racial tension to bomb threats and talk of terrorism. After almost three decades, Uravich will retire Oct. 31 as head of the USF Police Department.

Uravich came to USF in September 1973. He was the director of public safety at the University of West Florida from 1971 to 1973. Prior to that, he worked as the assistant police chief at Florida State University, where Uravich attended school.

In fact, it was after Uravich got a ticket on the Florida State campus that he became interested in law enforcement. When he went to get the ticket dismissed, he was offered a job at the department as a student assistant.

Uravich has seen many changes, including the size and environment of the USF campus. When Uravich started, USF had about 22,000 students. That number has grown to nearly 40,000.

Uravich said one big change is the caliber of the officers.

"University police used to be more like security guards waiting for retirement," he said. "We have had the opportunity to hire highly qualified personnel over the years, which has helped improve the performance of the department."

The neighborhoods that surround the university have also drastically changed in the past 30 years, Uravich said. The area west of USF, known as the University Area, has experienced a dramatic rise in crime.

"It's definitely been a concern for us," Uravich said. "What goes on there directly affects what goes on here."

USF's Police Chief Has Changed With Times, Crimes

Uravich said his department has worked closely with state Sen. Victor Crist, R-Tampa, and other community leaders to combat off-campus crime. The USF Police Department also implemented some of its own initiatives, including an apartment inspection program.

USF police officers will inspect off-campus apartments for free at a student's request to point out any potential safety hazards.

Another major challenge for Uravich and his department is the controversy surrounding Sami Al-Arian. The USF professor is accused of supporting terrorism, and USF President Judy Genshaft has threatened to fire Al-Arian since last year after allegations that he had ties to terrorists were aired on Fox News Channel's "The O'Reilly Factor."

He is on paid leave while the university waits for a court to review whether USF's case would violate Al-Arian's right to free speech.

Uravich isn't sure Al-Arian should come back to work.

"I couldn't tell the president that it is completely safe for Al-Arian to be back on campus," he said. "We simply can't predict the reaction of the public and what kind of threats we would get."

Of course, years before Al-Arian or Sept. 11, 2001, the campus faced another threat.

In March 1996, the Oracle student newspaper received a threatening letter signed by "The One, The Leader of the War Purgers."

The letter writer claimed connections to Islamic Jihad and Hamas and threatened to blow up a building on campus, kill a female professor and plant fake bombs in public places April 29 unless the letter was published in the paper.

In response to the threat, the university moved up finals a week and spent \$15,000 in overtime for campus police to virtually shut down the university April 29. Six months later, 19-year-old sophomore Damian Hospital was charged with writing the letter. He later pleaded guilty to the crime.

"It was a very unfortunate event," Uravich said. "But it did a lot to prepare us for incidents of that nature. I think it demonstrated how well we could coordinate with other agencies, including the FBI."

Uravich faced more controversy in 1997 when a former USF police detective sued the university and Uravich, alleging sex discrimination. Jane Krause claimed Uravich subjected her to a barrage of insults, discrimination and retributions.

The case was later settled under an agreement that included Uravich's denial of any wrongdoing.

"A lot of people were hurt and frustrated by that," Uravich said. "It certainly hurt me to be accused of something I didn't do. It probably put more people on alert and made them more cautious."

Uravich said he stands behind his department and the quality of his personnel.

Maj. Pat Johnson is the interim police chief until a permanent person is hired. Johnson has been interim police chief since May while Uravich took his collected annual leave.

Uravich said he decided it was a good time to leave.

"A lot of the administrators who were here when I was hired have retired," he said. "I could have worked with the new bosses, but I decided it was the right time to retire."

And as Uravich gets ready to part ways with his job for a more relaxing life with his family, he hopes the next chief will get continued support from the state.

USF's Police Chief Has Changed With Times, Crimes

"We definitely need to see an increase in salaries for our officers if we are going to stay competitive with other agencies," he said.

"We need to continue to support the people who protect our campuses."

Graphic

PHOTO (C)

Tribune photo by CANDACE C. MUND

(C) Paul Uravich got interested in law enforcement when he went to pay a ticket while a student at Florida State University.

Load-Date: October 15, 2002

End of Document

NEWS SUMMARY

The New York Times
July 25, 2002 Thursday
Late Edition - Final

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Section: Section A; Column 3; Metropolitan Desk; Pg. 2

Length: 1013 words

Body

INTERNATIONAL A3-9

Palestinian Cease-Fire Was Near Before Airstrike

Tanzim, a Palestinian militia linked to Yasir Arafat's Fatah faction, was preparing to announce a cease-fire before an Israeli jet bombed a ***Hamas*** leader's home on Tuesday, Palestinian officials and Western diplomats said. Israeli officials said they had known of a possible cease-fire but dismissed it as futile. Palestinian factions have vowed retaliation for the bombing, which killed at least 15. A3

A senior State Department official said Israel could face "consequences," including possible sanctions on arms sales, if it improperly used American-made weapons during attacks on Palestinian targets. A3

Dispute in U.N. Over Torture

The United States lost a bid to rewrite a measure intended to reinforce the 1989 convention against torture. The Bush administration feared it would lead to demands by monitors to gain access to American prisoners and detainees. A7

Afghans Say Aid Lags

A group of senior officials from Afghanistan said international donors, including the United States, had been slow to deliver reconstruction aid and warned of social unrest if assistance was not increased. A6

More Arrests in Greece

The authorities arrested two more suspected members of the November 17 group, including a hospital telephone operator believed to be the organization's second in command. In all, 13 suspects are in custody. A4

A Former Spy's Lonely Life

Edward Lee Howard, a former C.I.A. agent who fled to the Soviet Union in the mid-1980's, led a lonely life in exile, a former K.G.B. colonel said. Mr. Howard died this month at 50. A6

Blair Warns Ulster Militias

Prime Minister Tony Blair called on Northern Ireland's paramilitary groups to disband and warned that the government would become more "rigorous" in punishing them for violating their cease-fire claims. A9

NEWS SUMMARY

World Briefing A9

NATIONAL A10-15

House Expels Traficant After a Rambling Defense

Members of the House voted overwhelmingly to expel one of their own, James A. Traficant Jr., a maverick Ohio Democrat who was convicted in April of bribery, racketeering and corruption. Mr. Traficant took the floor to say witnesses had lied and the government was out to get him. A13

No Senate Deal on Drug Benefit

The Senate was again unable to muster enough votes for a Medicare prescription benefit, this one an attempt at compromise a day after Republican and Democratic plans failed. A13

Movement on Security Bill

Senator Joseph I. Lieberman backed away from his insistence that a Department of Homeland Security be allowed to issue directives to the C.I.A. and the F.B.I. A14

Sex Abuse Review Panel

Roman Catholic bishops announced the appointment of a sexual abuse review board made up entirely of active Catholic laypeople, including some who work for church organizations, but no one from the victims' advocacy groups that have been most critical of the church. A10

Fire Imperils Ancient Sequoias

A 45-year-old camper was arrested in California after law enforcement officials concluded that she was the woman who announced in a Johnsondale convenience store on Sunday that she had just set a wildfire. The blaze, which has grown to more than 50,000 acres, threatens some of the world's oldest trees. A12

Traveler Held Without Bond

Omar Shishani, 47, who was stopped at Detroit's airport last week with \$12 million in fraudulent checks, was ordered held without bond after prosecutors said he had indicated links to terrorism. His lawyer denied he had made such an admission. A14

Pressure on State Finances

States have used up two-thirds of available cash and rainy-day funds trying to cope with budget crises, legislative leaders from across the country said in calling for federal aid. A15

NEW YORK/REGION B1-7

Police Union Appoints 1st Black Board Member

The P.B.A., which has often played a divisive role in the Police Department's sometimes difficult relations with minorities, elevated Mubarak Abdul-Jabbar, a 19-year veteran, to its five-member governing board. B1

Mayor's Advice: Buy Low

Mayor Bloomberg, a billionaire entrepreneur, suggested that "thoughtless despair" was contributing to the stock market's decline and that people should buy equities. B1

Schooner Saved From Sinking

The Coast Guard saved the 108-year-old tall ship Ernestina, the official ship of Massachusetts, and all 28 hands after it began taking on water en route to Nantucket. B1

SPORTS D1-7

NEWS SUMMARY

CIRCUITS G1-8

SCIENCE/HEALTH

Tracking Asteroid's Path

An asteroid large enough to wreak worldwide destruction will cross Earth's path in 2019, although the chance of a collision is slim. A10

Bowel Drug Approved

The F.D.A. approved Zelnorm, the first drug for women with a form of irritable bowel syndrome, a painful disorder afflicting millions. A12

HOUSE & HOME F1-12

ARTS E1-10

EDUCATION

Prep School Must Yield Files

The Groton School must give a grand jury files on sexual abuse of students by fellow students, the Massachusetts Supreme Court ruled. A12

BUSINESS DAY C1-14

Deal on Corporate Crackdown

House and Senate negotiators agreed on an overhaul of corporate fraud, accounting and securities laws. Final approval is expected in days, and President Bush says he will sign it. A1

Stocks Break Losing Streak

The Dow surged 488 points, or 6.4 percent, to 8,191.29. The S. & P. 500 gained 5.7 percent, and the Nasdaq rose 5 percent. A1

Cable TV Executives Arrested

John J. Rigas, 78, the founder of Adelphia Communications, and two sons were arrested on charges that they had looted more than \$1 billion from the cable company. A1

AOL Accounting Inquiry

AOL Time Warner said the S.E.C. was investigating accounting at its America Online division. A1

Stewart Company Feels Effects

Martha Stewart Living Omnimedia said Ms. Stewart's legal problems were cutting into the business. C1

Business Digest C1

World Business W1

OBITUARIES B8

EDITORIAL A16-17

NEWS SUMMARY

Editorials: No way to fight a war; up, down and all around; a fairer trade bill; the Central Park centipede.

Column: Bob Herbert.

Bridge E8

TV Listings E10

Crossword E8

Weather D8

Public Lives B2

<http://www.nytimes.com>

Graphic

Photos

Load-Date: July 25, 2002

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UNDERSTANDING YOUR WORLD: PUT FOCUS ON AVERTING, NOT FIGHTING WAR

Santa Fe New Mexican (New Mexico)

July 28, 2002 Sunday

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Section: OUTLOOK; Pg. F-1

Length: 967 words

Byline: William M. Stewart

Body

The Bush administration tells us repeatedly that we are at war. But are we? And if so, against whom? At the moment, U.S. forces total some 6,000 in Afghanistan, where the last major battle took place months ago. However, there are more than 8,000 U.S. soldiers in Bosnia and Kosovo, where there is no fighting. Despite presidential rhetoric, there has been no declaration of war.

The al-Qaida network is not a legal entity, though because of its worldwide reach, its finances, communications and equipment, it might be termed a virtual state. It is composed of terrorists, criminals and the misled, against whom we rightly struggle. The victims include not only American and coalition servicemen and women but civilians, both Afghan and U.S., most notably Daniel Pearl.

Nevertheless, this is not World War II, nor the Korean War, nor even the Vietnam War. There is no draft, nor has there been a rush of volunteers to join the fight despite the attack on American soil and the death of some 3,000 people. More Americans seem to be flying the flag but not many rushing to join it. Is this because of a decline in patriotism or the result of confusion? I believe it is the latter. The president's goal -- the defeat of terrorism -- is both popular and worthwhile, but the means to achieve it seem nebulous and unfocused.

Just where are we headed to justify the extraordinary security measures called for by the administration and the constant, numbing drumbeat of fear? In an article in the "Financial Times," historian Philip Bobbitt notes that "under U.S. constitutional law, Congress does not have to make a declaration of war for a state of war to exist; nor under international law do acts have to be either crimes or acts of war -- they can be both, as the defendants at Nuremberg learned."

There was no declaration of war in Korea, though we still have some 35,000 troops there as a result of President Harry S. Truman's "police action" (joined by tens of thousands of U.N. troops). Nor was there a formal declaration of war over Vietnam, though that conflict grew incrementally, taking the lives of some 58,000 Americans and more than 1 million Vietnamese. In those days, at the height of the Cold War, we had the draft, so there was no need for volunteers. Neither President Clinton nor President Bush, though each was eligible, ever saw active duty. In the short term, at least, it obviously pays to be either smart or rich, and preferably both.

Does it really make any difference, Bobbitt asks, whether we are legally at war when a state of war actually exists? After all, Osama bin Laden said in 1995 that al-Qaida was at war with the United States. But many historians and members of the military maintain that we are not at war.

UNDERSTANDING YOUR WORLD: PUT FOCUS ON AVERTING, NOT FIGHTING WAR

Since the Renaissance, Bobbitt says, war has been the prerogative of states. We may fight against pirates, as the world did in the 18th and early 19th centuries, but the struggle against that particular international menace was never regarded as a war. The Dutch East India Co. and the British East India Co. (which once ruled most of India and was one of the world's great powers, though not legally recognized as such) often took up arms in the acquisition of their semiprivate empires, but their battles were never recognized as wars.

Clearly bin Laden and the leaders of Hamas and other radical organizations believe they are at war, though much of the world regards their activities as terrorism. But the world has changed greatly since the days of piracy and economic buccaneering, when small wars were just that, small, isolated and containable.

Today's pirates and ideological fanatics have ready access to such multinational support as money, weapons, scientific research and personnel. They regard the power of the United States as a fundamental threat to their way of life in such places as the Middle East and Pakistan. They seek the support of others such as the Palestinians who find themselves on the front lines of a national struggle.

Do we deal with these people as criminals or as soldiers? Does it make any difference? For many years in Northern Ireland, Bobbitt says, the British government was careful to define Irish terrorism from any quarter as a civil conflict and not as a war. To do otherwise would have accorded terrorists a status they both craved and yet did not deserve. Yet in the end, the British government was forced to deal with the Irish Republican Army through its political front, Sinn Fein.

So if we are not fighting a sovereign state, what are we fighting? A gang of mindless criminals? An idea? An historical process? I suspect in the case of al-Qaida, it's a little of all these things.

We clearly needed to take action to prevent the repetition of the horrendous events of Sept. 11.

The first part already has been done in Afghanistan, with the destruction of the Taliban government as well as the al-Qaida headquarters. But this part of the operation appears to be over, even though we have not captured bin Laden.

Further military action in Afghanistan may well prove to be counterproductive, with the increased likelihood of civilian casualties.

We need to consolidate, not expand.

Instead of emphasizing war, when clearly the nation does not really feel itself to be at war, we should emphasize prevention of further attacks. This means greatly increased intelligence coordination and renewed support for the kind of multilateral cooperation, especially the International Criminal Court, that will gain us international cooperation.

This struggle does not belong to us alone. Unilateral action, no matter how tempting, cannot protect us. Just as our friends need us, so we need them.

William M. Stewart, a former U.S. Foreign Service officer and Time magazine correspondent, lives in Tesuque. He writes weekly on foreign affairs.

Load-Date: July 29, 2002

Talks on Israeli withdrawal fail

Prince George Citizen (British Columbia)

August 8, 2002 Thursday

Final Edition

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Section: WORLD; Pg. 14

Length: 1017 words

Byline: Associated Press

Dateline: RAMALLAH, West Bank

Body

RAMALLAH, West Bank (AP) -- Palestinians and Israel agreed Wednesday on a plan for a gradual Israeli withdrawal from areas of the West Bank of the Jordan River and Gaza Strip but the deal appeared to flounder later in the day when Palestinian officials said Israel changed the terms.

Israeli Defence Minister Binyamin Ben-Eliezer laid out a proposal last week under which Israeli troops would gradually begin withdrawing from Palestinian-ruled parts of Gaza and the West Bank town Bethlehem, in exchange for Palestinian guarantees no attacks would be launched from those areas.

The Palestinian cabinet accepted the proposal Wednesday and Palestinian security officials and members of Israel's Shin Bet security services met later in the day to map out the details.

However, Palestinian officials emerged from the meeting and accused Israel of changing its offer. They declared the session a failure.

Calls placed to Israeli officials early Thursday were not immediately returned.

Regardless, the cabinet approval had been provisional pending the outcome of the meeting and obstacles were still likely even if it were finalized.

Earlier, top officials of Palestinian President Yasser Arafat's Fatah movement denounced the cabinet decision, saying it had been taken without their consultation and amounted to a betrayal of the Palestinian struggle for the last 22 months of fighting.

In Washington, meanwhile, a senior Palestinian delegation arrived for talks with U.S. Secretary of State Colin Powell and other officials.

The delegation's head, Saeb Erekat, bristled at a blunt critique of the Palestinian leadership by U.S. Defence Secretary Donald Rumsfeld a day before.

Rumsfeld said the Palestinian Authority was entangled with terror and he doubted Israel could turn over territory to it because of its poor track record.

Talks on Israeli withdrawal fail

Rumsfeld also referred to the West Bank as "so-called occupied territory," signalling he does not share the U.S. administration's view of Israel's presence on the land, captured by Israel in the 1967 war.

After the meeting between Palestinian and Israeli security officials, Arafat aide Nabil Abu Rdeneh said Israel had imposed new conditions on the Palestinians in the talks that were "impossible to accept or even to implement."

He wouldn't elaborate except to say that Israel hadn't mentioned withdrawing from Bethlehem in the talks, just Gaza, and he declared the meeting a failure.

Israeli troops have been holding some Palestinian-run areas of Gaza since sometime after the outbreak of fighting nearly two years ago and reoccupied seven of the West Bank's eight major towns and cities in June in an attempt to prevent attacks on Israelis.

Fatah's rejection of the pullout plan -- presented by Israeli Defense Minister Binyamin Ben-Eliezer -- cast a shadow over any potential deal. Fatah officials said the group's central committee -- made up of 17 Palestinians whose support is critical to Arafat -- would meet Thursday to discuss the decision.

"The Ben-Eliezer plan is like treating cancer with aspirin," said Jibril Rajoub, a central committee member and the recently fired head of preventive security on the West Bank.

He said Fatah now must act on its own to represent the true needs of Palestinians "far away from personal interests of a group of individuals within the Palestinian Authority."

In other developments Wednesday, a truck carrying diesel fuel exploded after a small bomb underneath it detonated, police said. The driver was slightly injured.

Police spokesman Gil Kleiman said it was too early to tell if criminals or Palestinian militants were responsible.

Also Wednesday, police said two 19-year-old Arab-Israeli women had been arrested on suspicion they failed to tell authorities about an impending suicide-bomb attack on a bus Sunday that killed nine people.

The two left the bus in northern Israel after the bomber told one of them "something horrible" was going to happen, said Ilan Harush, a local police chief in northern Israel.

Israeli troops, meanwhile, launched several strikes against Palestinian terror suspects Wednesday that left six people dead.

In the deadliest, Israeli troops killed Ziad Daas, a local leader of the Al Aqsa militia in the West Bank town Tulkarem and three other Palestinians.

Daas had been wanted by Israel for alleged involvement in the execution-style killing of two Israeli restaurant owners in Tulkarem in December 2000. Israeli security sources said he also was responsible for a shooting attack on a Hadera banquet hall in January that killed six people.

Witnesses said Israeli commando troops, backed by Jeeps, armoured vehicles and helicopters, surrounded Daas's hide-out Wednesday morning. Gunmen opened fire from inside the building and witnesses said Daas was on the roof when he was shot by a sniper.

Three other people died, including one taken to an Israeli hospital, Israeli security sources said. An army spokesman said 16 militants were arrested in the operation.

In the Gaza Strip town Khan Yunis, a 26-year-old Hamas activist, Hussam Hamdan, was shot and killed while sitting on the roof of his house, relatives said.

Israeli security sources said Hamdan was planning attacks on Israelis and had overseen militants who planted bombs in the Gaza Strip and fired mortars at Jewish settlements and army outposts.

Talks on Israeli withdrawal fail

Early Wednesday, Israel sent 15 to 30 tanks and armoured vehicles into the northern Gaza Strip, firing shells and machine-guns at houses near the Jebalya refugee camp.

A 28-year-old Palestinian policeman died after being shot in the head, apparently by a stray bullet, as he slept on his roof, hospital officials said.

The Israeli military said troops were shot at and returned fire. It said three wanted Palestinians were arrested during searches.

In Bethlehem, troops arrested Yehiyeh Daamseh, a local leader of the Al Aqsa Martyrs' Brigade militia accused of dispatching several suicide bombers to Israel. In one attack attributed to Daamseh, 11 Israelis were killed in a Jerusalem bombing in March.

Palestinian security officials said troops discovered an explosives belt in the one-storey house Daamseh had rented.

Load-Date: February 17, 2006

End of Document

Parents defusing children: Palestinians seek help to keep kids from suicide bombings

The Gazette (Montreal, Quebec)

May 26, 2002 Sunday Final Edition

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Section: News; Pg. A1 / FRONT

Length: 994 words

Byline: ALFONSO CHARDY

Dateline: RAMALLAH, West Bank

Body

Some Palestinian parents are doing what Israeli tanks and bullets have been unable to do - stopping suicide bombers.

Palestinian psychologists say that a growing number of parents in the West Bank and Gaza have been seeking help to keep their children from becoming suicide bombers.

"This has been happening more and more often in the last few months as the Palestinian resistance has deepened," said Dr. Mahmud Sehwal, the general director of the Treatment and Rehabilitation Centre for Victims of Torture in Ramallah.

"The parents say they have detected a significant change in the behaviour of their children and they desperately want to know if their children are candidates to become human bombs."

Knight-Ridder; AP contributed to this report

This is the first sign since the second intifada broke out in September 2000 that Palestinian support for suicide bombings might be weakening.

If it is, that could pit parents against militants in a battle over Palestinian children.

On Wednesday, 16-year-old Issa Bdeir, carried out a suicide bombing that killed two Israelis just south of Tel Aviv.

The parents of a 17-year-old Palestinian girl recently prevented what could have been a similar tragedy, Sehwal said.

The girl ran away about two weeks ago, leaving a note saying she was going to blow herself up in Israel.

Her father refused to let it happen, Sehwal said.

"The father called the Palestinian security officials and the Israeli security officials," he said. "And just a few days ago, the girl was found safe and sound and her suicide was averted."

Her parents went one step farther. The girl is now under psychiatric care to deal with her depression and anger. She wanted to become a suicide bomber, Sehwal said, because "a cousin had recently been killed by Israel soldiers and she wanted revenge."

Parents defusing children: Palestinians seek help to keep kids from suicide bombings

Some parents are quietly seeking help from private clinics to avoid angering militants who encourage suicide bombings. Many of these same parents still say they support suicide bombings as a weapon against Israel, but don't want their children to be the weapon.

Yesterday, on a West Bank road, Israeli troops stopped a taxi and found a 16-year-old Palestinian boy with an explosives belt strapped to his waist, on an apparent suicide mission.

The belt was removed from the youth and blown up in a controlled explosion, the army said.

Most of the estimated 120 suicide bombers who have blown themselves up inside Israel in the last two years have been teenagers or men in their early 20s. Several have been young women. Many of their parents said they had no idea their children were preparing to become suicide bombers, which is exactly what is prompting some Palestinian parents to learn about the warning signs.

Palestinian mental health authorities said they believe many Palestinian parents were shocked when the first female suicide bomber, 18-year-old Ayat Akhras, blew herself up at a Jerusalem supermarket March 29, killing a 17-year-old Israeli girl and a security guard.

Palestinian parents got another jolt in late April when three Gaza teen-agers armed with knives and makeshift bombs set out on a suicide mission against an Israeli settlement. Israeli soldiers guarding the settlement shot and killed them - Yusef Zaqout, 14, Ismael Abu Naji, 15, and Anwar Hamdonah, 15.

Palestinian psychologists said the large number of young people taking such drastic actions reflects the rage that many Palestinians in the West Bank and Gaza feel against Israel.

"It's horrible what has been happening, but a suicide bomber acts because of accumulated trauma, going back generations, in some cases back to 1948," said Dr. Elia Awaad, director of mental health at the Palestine Red Crescent in Beit Sahur.

Most of the suicide bombers in the last two years have come from refugee camps crammed with thousands of people who fled their homes in 1948, when the state of Israel was created.

Islamic militants say the misery of their lives and the daily humiliation of their parents motivates young Palestinians for "martyrdom missions." Militants say their organizations need only to provide equipment and logistical help.

Israeli officials say militant Islamic organizations such as Hamas and Islamic Jihad are exploiting the naivete of Palestinian children, who cannot properly assess the risks. And Palestinian Authority leader Yasser Arafat has repeatedly condemned suicide bombings.

Although mental-health professionals, religious leaders and many ordinary people in the West Bank and Gaza said many Palestinians still support suicide bombings, parental fears might account for a slight decline in its support.

The Palestinian Centre for Policy and Survey Research in Ramallah released a poll last week showing that Palestinian support for suicide bombings dropped from 58 per cent in December to 52 per cent now.

Sehwail said he treats potential suicide bombers by getting them to talk about their anger. He said he and other mental-health professionals frequently appear on radio and television talk programs, urging young people not to undertake suicide missions.

Sehwail says he warns parents to look for behavioural changes in their children, such as expressions of sympathy for suicide bombers, participation in their funerals or in demonstrations hailing them as martyrs. They tell parents to take seriously any talk about becoming a suicide bomber.

Sehwail and other psychologists say many parents do everything in their power to prevent their children from joining the ranks of suicide bombers. But if they fail, they are likely to join the militants in hailing their children as heroes and praising suicide bombers.

Parents defusing children: Palestinians seek help to keep kids from suicide bombings

Hussein Taweil, 59, a Ramallah journalist, is the father of a suicide bomber. His 20-year-old son blew himself up at a Jerusalem bus stop on March 27, 2001, injuring about 20 Israelis. Taweil praises him as a martyr.

"Suicide bombings," Taweil said, "are a valid weapon of resistance against Israel."

Graphic

Color Photo: AP; Issa Bdeir, 16, killed two Israelis and himself in a suicide bombing Wednesday south of Tel Aviv.

Load-Date: May 26, 2002

End of Document

No stand-down, Sharon vows: On the eve of U.S. Secretary of State Colin Powell's arrival in Israel, Prime Minister Ariel Sharon tells his troops there will be no withdrawal until the "mission is accomplished."

The Gazette (Montreal, Quebec)

April 11, 2002 Thursday Final Edition

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Section: News; Pg. A1 / FRONT

Length: 964 words

Byline: MARTIN MERZER and ELISE ACKERMAN

Dateline: JERUSALEM

Body

A heavy barrage of rockets pounded Israel's northern border with Lebanon yesterday and suicide bombing resumed, one day before U.S. Secretary of State Colin Powell arrives here on a difficult peace mission.

Prime Minister Ariel Sharon stiffened his resolve and said the military offensive on the West Bank would continue, despite mounting international pressure for a swift withdrawal.

"We have to accomplish our mission," Sharon told cheering soldiers at an Israeli base near the embattled West Bank city of Jenin.

Early this morning, witnesses said Israeli forces moved into the central West Bank village of Ber Zeit, just hours after Israel announced it was leaving three other villages - Yatta, Qabatya and Samua.

Knight Ridder Newspapers; Newsday; The Los Angeles Times and AP contributed to this report

Tanks rolled into the village - north of the commercial centre of Ramallah - and troops quickly occupied the police station and began doing house-to-house searches, witnesses said. The soldiers met no resistance, they said.

Powell huddled in a crisis session in Madrid with ranking officials from the United Nations, the European Union and Russia.

They issued a tough joint statement that warned of the growing risk that the violence will ignite a wider conflict.

"Believing that there has been too much suffering and too much bloodshed, we call on the leaders of Israel and the Palestinian Authority to act in the interests of their own people, the region and the international community and to immediately halt this senseless confrontation," they said in a statement read at a press conference.

worst in generation

The four parties specifically called for a meaningful ceasefire to end the worst fighting in a generation and a full Israeli withdrawal from Palestinian cities, including an end to the siege of Palestinian Authority leader Yasser Arafat's headquarters in Ramallah.

No stand-down, Sharon vows: On the eve of U.S. Secretary of State Colin Powell's arrival in Israel, Prime Minister Ariel Sharon tells his troops there will be

They then called on Arafat to make the "maximum possible effort" to end the terrorist attacks on Israel and to immediately take all possible steps to dismantle the terrorist network, end the incitement to violence and block financing of extremist groups.

In response to the rocket attacks from Lebanon, Israeli warplanes repeatedly blasted suspected guerrilla positions.

The guerrilla attack was the most vigorous along the border since Israel withdrew from Lebanon nearly two years ago, and it ignited new concerns that an Israeli response could reach into Syria, which Israeli leaders hold responsible for the barrages.

UN Secretary-General Kofi Annan said the leaders of Syria and Lebanon have assured him that they will try to stop the attacks. "They will do everything they can," Annan said in Spain, where he met with Powell.

Day 13 of Israel's Operation Defensive Wall, which came in response to terror attacks on Israeli civilians, also saw the continued standoff at the Church of the Nativity in Bethlehem.

An Armenian monk in the church compound, Manger Square, was seriously wounded. Each side blamed the other for the incident.

In a letter to Pope John Paul II, Israeli President Moshe Katsav said the week-long siege of the church would end only when the Palestinians surrendered.

Israeli troops declared partial victory in their costly battle for Jenin after the surrender of 300 Palestinians. Some were women, some were children and some were fighters out of ammunition and flushed by bulldozers from hiding places in a refugee camp.

But small-arms fire still sounded from the camp.

After nearly a week of pitched fighting in the twisting central alleyways of Nablus, the West Bank's largest city, the battle for the casbah was over.

The conflict that raged in the oldest quarter of Nablus was probably not the most tactically significant clash of the 13-day-long Israeli military offensive. Nor was it the bloodiest - fighting in the Jenin refugee camp caused many more deaths, more than 100 on the Palestinian side and more than a dozen Israeli combat troops.

But for both sides, the fight for the casbah was fraught with symbolism.

In the al-Ayn refugee camp at the edge of Nablus, hundreds of Palestinian men surrendered and sat quietly on a sidewalk as an Israeli armoured vehicle pointed its Gatling gun at them.

men summoned

Across the West Bank's towns and refugee camps, the visible pattern is the same. After the Israelis win control of an area, they summon all Palestinian men from their teens to their 40s to surrender. Their numbers are unknown. As of last weekend, Israeli officials said they had detained about 2,000 Palestinian men, and then freed at least 600.

The men are being held without access to attorneys. The Israeli human-rights group B'Tselem said Sunday it had reports from Israeli sources that some detainees had had their toes broken by torture.

Israel said that its soldiers killed alleged terrorist leader Akram al Atrash during a gun battle in the town of Dura, near Hebron. They said al Atrash was a local leader of the Hamas terror network, responsible for the shooting deaths of two Israelis.

For the first time in nine days, Israel was jolted by the reappearance of the Palestinians' most awful and deadly weapon - the suicide bomber.

No stand-down, Sharon vows: On the eve of U.S. Secretary of State Colin Powell's arrival in Israel , Prime Minister Ariel Sharon tells his troops there will be

Eight Israelis and the bomber died and 20 people were injured during the morning rush hour near the town of Neshet when a Palestinian wearing an explosive belt detonated the bomb aboard a crowded bus traveling from Haifa to Jerusalem.

The blast propelled the bus several feet into the air, witnesses said, and transformed it into a twisted, crumpled ruin. Dead and injured passengers were strewn across the asphalt.

Israeli officials said the fatalities included two female border officers, both 18, and Noa Shlomo, the teenage niece of Yehuda Lancry, Israel's ambassador to the United Nations. Four border officers were wounded.

Graphic

Photo: LEFTERIS PITARAKIS, AP; A Palestinian family ventures out yesterday for the first time in eight days through the debris in the narrow alleyways of Nablus in the West Bank.

Load-Date: April 11, 2002

**MIDDLE EAST: GAZA BRACES FOR SHARON TO SEND IN TANKS IN NEXT
PHASE OF WAR;
PALESTINIANS BUILD SAND BARRICADES AS ISRAEL AGAIN DEFIES
BUSH WEST BANK XXXX YYYY XXXX YYYY XXXX YYYY XXXX YYYY XXXX
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The Independent (London)

April 27, 2002, Saturday

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Section: FOREIGN NEWS; Pg. 14

Length: 886 words

Byline: Robert Fisk In Gaza **Hamas** Islamic activists burning effigies of Ariel Sharon and his military chiefs in Gaza
Marco Di Lauro/AP

Body

THEY ARE coming. That's what most Gazans tell you. The Israelis are coming. But the sand barricades are pathetic. Even a mile from the Erez "safe crossing" point constructed during the early days of the mad dream of Oslo, the best that Yasser Arafat's legions can do is erect a 15ft rampart of earth and sandbags, with a 12ft gap for local cars - and for Israeli Merkava tanks when Ariel Sharon decides to drive in.

But the cops go on waving the donkey carts past the traffic lights, and the Palestinian Authority guards slumber with their Kalashnikov rifles in their tin shack, ready for part two of the Sharon War on Terror.

The odd thing is that if the Israeli Prime Minister really wants to dismantle the "network of terror" of which he speaks so frequently, Gaza - the one place the Israeli army has not yet dared to reoccupy - should perhaps have been his first target. For here are militias aplenty, Palestinians who know how to destroy Merkava-3 tanks, who can manufacture short-range rockets and mortars and know the principles of booby traps better than the refugee gunmen of Jenin. As one local put it yesterday: "This place is wired."

Its people are certainly preparing for the worst. The banks report massive withdrawals. Human rights groups are duplicating their files. Everyone knows what happened to the computerised archives of the Palestinian ministries in Ramallah and Nablus and Jenin; they were stolen by the Israeli soldiers because, in the imperishable words of one Israeli officer: "Documents have a very important value."

But this is "Palestine".

"They say they've copied all their papers," a western human rights worker said. "But I don't think they've finished making CDs of all the files in our office and the paper archives are too large to photocopy now. They simply haven't started to get the work done."

Yet there is a grim determination to accept the future. Raja Sourani, a human rights lawyer with the most eloquent, if pessimistic, view of the coming weeks - or days - has few illusions. "I think it's going to be bleak, black and bloody

MIDDLE EAST: GAZA BRACES FOR SHARON TO SEND IN TANKS IN NEXT PHASE OF WAR;
PALESTINIANS BUILD SAND BARRICADES AS ISRAEL AGAIN DEFIES BUSH WEST BANK XXXX YYYY
XX....

and I can see the blood that will be shed will be Israeli as well as Palestinian. The Palestinians are not ready to be good victims any more. They have nothing to lose.

"The Israelis have opened Pandora's Box. I never in my life have felt our morale and determination to be as high as it is now. I'm very proud - and I'm scared to death."

So are the women of Gaza. Many are burying their jewels in their gardens or backyards. "We heard what happened to women in Ramallah who had thousands of dollars of jewellery stolen by the Israeli troops who entered their homes," a middle-class married woman in Gaza City said without emotion. "One friend of mine in Ramallah hid thousands of dollars in a big bowl of rice in the kitchen when the Israelis came to take over his house. He reckoned he would lose the money when he was searched. But when he came back, the rice was overturned and the money had gone."

The graffiti warns of reoccupation. A hand grenade on one wall, a drawing of a wired bomb on another predict the doom of occupiers. Homes I entered were stuffed with food, water, blankets, in some cases sandbags. As the sea flopped on to the Gaza beach in the sultry afternoon, a few fishing boats glided over the water. But the catch doesn't count for much when four-hour power cuts - unannounced as usual by the corrupt Palestinian Authority - cut off deep freezes and fridges.

As one Palestinian militant remarked - how easily one falls into these categories to avoid identifying someone who may soon be in a prison cage - an Israeli assault is "as certain as I am seeing you". It was a matter of time, he said. "I don't trust the Arabic news. I listen to the news in Hebrew from Israel. Gaza sets the tone there - the Israelis can't complete their objectives without Gaza. It's here that Palestinian history has been decided for the past 54 years."

True, up to a point. The Palestine National Council first proclaimed Palestinian independence in Gaza on 1 October 1948, adopting the old green, white, black and red banner of the Arab Revolt as the flag. But then the Gaza Strip became a slum backyard of Egypt while the Mayor of Hebron handed over the West Bank to the Jordanian monarchy at a ceremony in Jericho. If Gaza is the last bit of unoccupied "Palestine" left, it's a midden.

"I think everything depends on three things," Mr Sourani said. "It's about what's going on back in Washington. It's about how far the Europeans will involve themselves. And it's about how soon some dramatic event will take place on the ground against the Israelis that will give them an excuse to move. I know all about what is called "looting and wanton destruction" in the West Bank. This is not new to us. We dealt with hundreds of such cases in the past and won cases of looting against the Israeli army in the Israeli courts."

Mr Sourani has completed the duplication of all his human rights records. "And when the Israelis come, we shall keep on working here for human rights. We will not allow ourselves to be panicked or become paranoid. We learnt something from the Israeli occupation in the past: to be professional and to be strategic. They made our bones strong."

In the coming days - or weeks - Mr Sourani's words may well be put to the test.

Load-Date: April 27, 2002

City where children worship bombers: Eight Palestinian cities are under siege but the toughest battles are being fought in Nablus, writes Philip Sherwell of the London Daily Telegraph, who is in the city.

The Gazette (Montreal, Quebec)

April 7, 2002 Sunday Final Edition

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Section: News; Pg. A8

Length: 998 words

Dateline: NABLUS

Body

In much of the world, small boys reverentially show off pictures of their favourite soccer players and pop stars to visitors. For the children of the teeming refugee camps of Nablus, pride of place goes to images of suicide bombers, stuck to a scrap of wood, attached to string and worn around the neck like a religious icon.

As we arrived in a fetid hillside refugee settlement just hours before

Israeli tanks rolled into the West Bank's biggest city on Wednesday evening, a crowd of boys pushed and shoved each other out of the way in their eagerness to display photographs of famous shahid (martyrs). Their heroes are the recruits of the al-Aqsa Martyrs Brigade, a movement of young Palestinian radicals who have become the deadliest proponents of terror attacks in Israel today. For

The Gazette

Israelis, these suicide bombers are the most feared weapon in the Palestinian armoury.

The brigade - named after the Jerusalem mosque where the current Palestinian intifada (uprising) began 18 months ago - was born amid the squalor of Balata, Nablus's biggest refugee camp, in October 2000.

Last month, it was placed on the U.S.'s list of terrorist organizations. Its commanders, who pay allegiance to the Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat and his Fatah movement, could barely conceal their delight.

In the Holy Land's current horrific cycle of violence, al-Aqsa has earned adulation in Palestinian territories and loathing in Israel after dispatching a relentless wave of young fanatics to blow themselves and as many Israelis apart as possible with belts of explosives and nails strapped to their waists and chests.

It was this lethal battering that prompted Ariel Sharon, the hard-line Israeli prime minister, former general and veteran foe of the Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat, to launch Operation Defensive Wall nine days ago.

Eight Palestinian cities have been occupied, prompting international condemnation and U.S. unease. But while the siege of Arafat's compound in Ramallah and the standoff at the Church of the Nativity in Bethlehem have grabbed the headlines, the toughest battles in the campaign are being waged this weekend in Nablus and Jenin.

City where children worship bombers: Eight Palestinian cities are under siege but the toughest battles are being fought in Nablus, writes Philip Sherwell of the....

In the eyes of the Israeli military, these neighbouring hotbeds of militant Palestinian nationalism form the West Bank's capital of terror. Their refugee camps, slums and the notoriously hard-line stronghold of an-Najah university are the most virulent incubator for suicide bombers in Palestinian territory. Lt.-Gen. Shaul Mofaz,

Israel's chief of staff, left no doubt about the importance of the battle for Nablus when he personally briefed paratroopers before they were sent to the city in the biggest deployment of Operation Defensive Wall.

"This war should be called the 'war for the home,' " he told them. "This is a very crucial time. Each one of you understands the great responsibility on your young shoulders."

There was a tense silence in the hall. The soldiers had already been warned by their officers that in Nablus they faced the toughest fight of the offensive. They were entering a crowded city with the largest concentration of terrorists, men who had already had a week to prepare their defences in the winding, high-walled warren of the casbah (the old city) and the equally impenetrable mazes of the refugee camps.

The battle now raging for the casbah, its ancient fortifications surrounded by Israeli tanks and blasted by Apache attack helicopters, has proved as ferocious as both sides expected. Israeli troops forced their way inside the walls on Saturday for the first time in the three-day siege: several hundred Palestinian gunmen, their casualties mounting, are estimated to be holed up inside, along with thousands of civilians.

As Israeli forces massed on the outskirts at dusk on Wednesday, myself and a photographer were given a night-time tour of the casbah's defences by an al-Aqsa fighter.

He whistled ahead to signal our approach and showed off booby-traps, hidden mines and tripwires as we edged past the makeshift barricades of sandbags and oil drums and dipped our heads beneath arches plastered with posters of suicide bombers. In alleyways too narrow for vehicles to enter, it was all too clear street-to-street fighting was the only option.

Nasser Badawi, an al-Aqsa commander, delivered a typically hyperbolic pledge to turn Nablus into "a cemetery for Israeli soldiers." The 36-year-old former sociology student said: "We will resist until the last bullet and the last fighter."

Unlike the fundamentalist terror groups of **Hamas** or Islamic Jihad, al-Aqsa brigade members describe Arafat as their leader and are closely allied to Tanzim, a militant wing of Fatah. Marwan Barghouti, Fatah's chief in the West Bank and said by the Israelis to be Tanzim's leader, is on the run.

Al-Aqsa's stated goal is also that of Arafat: not the destruction of Israel but to drive Israeli forces from the West Bank and Gaza and establish a full Palestinian state.

Nonetheless, al-Aqsa's leaders insist Arafat does not - and cannot - exert direct control over their action. Western intelligence officials confirm that analysis.

Whether Sharon or Arafat emerges triumphant from their current duel, the refugee camps of the West Bank seem certain to continue to produce no shortage of young men - and an increasing number of young **women** - volunteering to join the ranks of the al-Aqsa martyrs.

In Nablus, we met a young al-Aqsa fighter, only his eyes showing behind a black balaclava and beneath a headband bearing the Islamic exhortation, "There is no God but Allah and Mohamed is his messenger." He used the nom de guerre Abu Mujahid and, cradling the obligatory Kalashnikov, told us he awaited death with pride.

We asked whether he would participate in a suicide operation against civilians. "Of course," he said with a derisive snort.

For men like Abu Mujahid, there can be no greater honour than to be lionized as a martyr by the young boys of the Balata camp.

City where children worship bombers: Eight Palestinian cities are under siege but the toughest battles are being fought in Nablus, writes Philip Sherwell of the....

Load-Date: April 7, 2002

End of Document

No stand-down, Sharon vows: On the eve of U.S. Secretary of State Colin Powell's arrival in Israel, Prime Minister Ariel Sharon tells his troops there will be no withdrawal until the "mission is accomplished."

The Gazette (Montreal, Quebec)

April 11, 2002 Thursday Final Edition

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Section: News; Pg. A1 / FRONT

Length: 964 words

Byline: MARTIN MERZER and ELISE ACKERMAN

Dateline: JERUSALEM

Body

A heavy barrage of rockets pounded Israel's northern border with Lebanon yesterday and suicide bombing resumed, one day before U.S. Secretary of State Colin Powell arrives here on a difficult peace mission.

Prime Minister Ariel Sharon stiffened his resolve and said the military offensive on the West Bank would continue, despite mounting international pressure for a swift withdrawal.

"We have to accomplish our mission," Sharon told cheering soldiers at an Israeli base near the embattled West Bank city of Jenin.

Early this morning, witnesses said Israeli forces moved into the central West Bank village of Ber Zeit, just hours after Israel announced it was leaving three other villages - Yatta, Qabatya and Samua.

Knight Ridder Newspapers; Newsday; The Los Angeles Times and AP contributed to this report

Tanks rolled into the village - north of the commercial centre of Ramallah - and troops quickly occupied the police station and began doing house-to-house searches, witnesses said. The soldiers met no resistance, they said.

Powell huddled in a crisis session in Madrid with ranking officials from the United Nations, the European Union and Russia.

They issued a tough joint statement that warned of the growing risk that the violence will ignite a wider conflict.

"Believing that there has been too much suffering and too much bloodshed, we call on the leaders of Israel and the Palestinian Authority to act in the interests of their own people, the region and the international community and to immediately halt this senseless confrontation," they said in a statement read at a press conference.

worst in generation

The four parties specifically called for a meaningful ceasefire to end the worst fighting in a generation and a full Israeli withdrawal from Palestinian cities, including an end to the siege of Palestinian Authority leader Yasser Arafat's headquarters in Ramallah.

No stand-down, Sharon vows: On the eve of U.S. Secretary of State Colin Powell's arrival in Israel, Prime Minister Ariel Sharon tells his troops there will be

They then called on Arafat to make the "maximum possible effort" to end the terrorist attacks on Israel and to immediately take all possible steps to dismantle the terrorist network, end the incitement to violence and block financing of extremist groups.

In response to the rocket attacks from Lebanon, Israeli warplanes repeatedly blasted suspected guerrilla positions.

The guerrilla attack was the most vigorous along the border since Israel withdrew from Lebanon nearly two years ago, and it ignited new concerns that an Israeli response could reach into Syria, which Israeli leaders hold responsible for the barrages.

UN Secretary-General Kofi Annan said the leaders of Syria and Lebanon have assured him that they will try to stop the attacks. "They will do everything they can," Annan said in Spain, where he met with Powell.

Day 13 of Israel's Operation Defensive Wall, which came in response to terror attacks on Israeli civilians, also saw the continued standoff at the Church of the Nativity in Bethlehem.

An Armenian monk in the church compound, Manger Square, was seriously wounded. Each side blamed the other for the incident.

In a letter to Pope John Paul II, Israeli President Moshe Katsav said the week-long siege of the church would end only when the Palestinians surrendered.

Israeli troops declared partial victory in their costly battle for Jenin after the surrender of 300 Palestinians. Some were women, some were children and some were fighters out of ammunition and flushed by bulldozers from hiding places in a refugee camp.

But small-arms fire still sounded from the camp.

After nearly a week of pitched fighting in the twisting central alleyways of Nablus, the West Bank's largest city, the battle for the casbah was over.

The conflict that raged in the oldest quarter of Nablus was probably not the most tactically significant clash of the 13-day-long Israeli military offensive. Nor was it the bloodiest - fighting in the Jenin refugee camp caused many more deaths, more than 100 on the Palestinian side and more than a dozen Israeli combat troops.

But for both sides, the fight for the casbah was fraught with symbolism.

In the al-Ayn refugee camp at the edge of Nablus, hundreds of Palestinian men surrendered and sat quietly on a sidewalk as an Israeli armoured vehicle pointed its Gatling gun at them.

men summoned

Across the West Bank's towns and refugee camps, the visible pattern is the same. After the Israelis win control of an area, they summon all Palestinian men from their teens to their 40s to surrender. Their numbers are unknown. As of last weekend, Israeli officials said they had detained about 2,000 Palestinian men, and then freed at least 600.

The men are being held without access to attorneys. The Israeli human-rights group B'Tselem said Sunday it had reports from Israeli sources that some detainees had had their toes broken by torture.

Israel said that its soldiers killed alleged terrorist leader Akram al Atrash during a gun battle in the town of Dura, near Hebron. They said al Atrash was a local leader of the Hamas terror network, responsible for the shooting deaths of two Israelis.

For the first time in nine days, Israel was jolted by the reappearance of the Palestinians' most awful and deadly weapon - the suicide bomber.

No stand-down, Sharon vows: On the eve of U.S. Secretary of State Colin Powell's arrival in Israel , Prime Minister Ariel Sharon tells his troops there will be

Eight Israelis and the bomber died and 20 people were injured during the morning rush hour near the town of Neshet when a Palestinian wearing an explosive belt detonated the bomb aboard a crowded bus traveling from Haifa to Jerusalem.

The blast propelled the bus several feet into the air, witnesses said, and transformed it into a twisted, crumpled ruin. Dead and injured passengers were strewn across the asphalt.

Israeli officials said the fatalities included two female border officers, both 18, and Noa Shlomo, the teenage niece of Yehuda Lancry, Israel's ambassador to the United Nations. Four border officers were wounded.

Graphic

Photo: LEFTERIS PITARAKIS, AP; A Palestinian family ventures out yesterday for the first time in eight days through the debris in the narrow alleyways of Nablus in the West Bank.

Load-Date: April 11, 2002

Iraq pressures Israel, cuts oil

Deseret News (Salt Lake City)

April 8, 2002, Monday

Copyright 2002 The Deseret News Publishing Co.

Section: WIRE;

Length: 1026 words

Byline: Associated Press

Body

BAGHDAD, Iraq -- Saddam Hussein said Monday he was cutting Iraq oil exports for 30 days or until Israel withdraws from Palestinian territories, an announcement that triggered an immediate increase in world oil prices.

Oil Minister Amer Mohammed Rashid said the cutoff took place as Saddam spoke to the nation at about 2 p.m. local time, or 5 a.m. MDT. Gulsum Korkmaz, spokeswoman for the Turkish state-run pipeline company BOTAS, confirmed that Iraq had stopped exporting.

The United States and Europe are the major buyers of Iraqi oil. OPEC says Iraq has a maximum daily production capacity of 2.3 million barrels.

Analysts have said such a boycott, which Saddam had earlier threatened, would not affect world oil supplies because other major members of the Organization of the Petroleum Exporting Countries have not agreed to join Iraq's call. OPEC would intervene if necessary to offset a shortfall in Iraqi shipments, a source at the oil producers' group said Monday.

Secretary of State Colin Powell, after meeting Monday with Morocco's moderate King Mohammed VI, demanded "a clear statement from Israel that they are beginning to withdraw" from Palestinian territories and "to do it now."

Powell said he had asked the king to counsel Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat to halt violence against Israelis. The secretary said he hopes to see Arafat later in the week.

Israel's military presence on the West Bank is having "a significant and severe" impact, Powell declared. "We have a very difficult situation in front of us. We want to see this operation brought to an end as soon as possible."

Mohammed, the first leader to meet with Powell as the secretary began a trip aimed at halting the violence between Israelis and Palestinians, assured Powell that Morocco will be ready to act on a land-for-peace proposal "without any prior conditions" as soon as Israeli troops withdraw from the West Bank. In Washington, White House spokesman Ari Fleischer said President Bush conferred Monday with Powell and that envoy Anthony Zinni would meet later in the day with Israeli Prime Minister Ariel Sharon to reinforce U.S. demands for an immediate withdrawal from the Palestinian territories.

Israel's offensive in the West Bank will continue despite U.S. calls for withdrawal, Sharon told parliament Monday. Helicopter gunships pounded a Palestinian refugee camp and a fire broke out during fighting near Bethlehem's Church of the Nativity.

Iraq pressures Israel , cuts oil

Addressing a special session of the Knesset, Sharon said he has promised President Bush to expedite the campaign, now in its 11th day.

Sharon said he was willing to meet with Arab leaders without preconditions to discuss a comprehensive peace agreement. Sharon branded Arafat the head of a "terrorist regime."

The heaviest fighting raged in the West Bank city of Nablus and the Jenin refugee camp, where hundreds of gunmen have been battling Israeli soldiers. Israeli officials estimated that more than 100 Palestinians have been killed in the Jenin camp. Two Israeli soldiers were killed and one was seriously wounded in the camp Monday, the military said.

The armed men "seem to have decided to fight to the last, to make the battle as bloody as possible," said the Israeli commander in the area, Brig. Gen. Eyal Shline.

He said many houses in the camp were booby-trapped and that several men with explosives strapped to their bodies have blown themselves up in suicide attacks.

Before daybreak Monday, Israeli attack helicopters began firing missiles at the camp after militants ignored calls to surrender. Jamal Abdel Salam, a camp resident and activist in the Islamic militant Hamas group, said army bulldozers flattened homes and that dozen of houses had already been destroyed.

By early afternoon, Israeli forces controlled almost the entire camp, the army said. The Israeli military said about 150 men put down their weapons and emerged from the camp early Monday. Abdel Salam said only women, children and the elderly left the camp. The militants were staying put, ready to fight to the death, he said.

In Nablus, the West Bank's largest city, smoke rose from the Old City, a densely populated maze of stone buildings and narrow streets. Army officials said troops controlled about half of the Old City and that dozens of gunmen surrendered Monday.

In one rubble-covered alley, gunmen were trying to pull a seriously wounded comrade to safety. One of the rescuers was shot in the leg and fell over the wounded man before both were carried away as helicopters fired machine guns. The incident Sunday was witnessed by Associated Press Television News cameraman Nazeeh Darwazeh, who also saw two bodies lying in the streets, including that of Ahmed Tabouk, a notorious local vigilante feared by many in the Old City.

In Bethlehem, Israeli troops ringing the Church of the Nativity exchanged fire with armed Palestinians holed up in the shrine, built over the grotto where tradition says Jesus was born. A senior Israeli army officer, speaking on condition of anonymity, said two border policemen who were shot and wounded by Palestinians threw a smoke grenade into the compound, sparking a fire.

A Palestinian policeman, who was trying to extinguish the fire, was shot and killed by an Israeli sniper, a fellow policeman in the compound said.

Israeli officials and senior Franciscans in Rome, whose clerics are among those inside, appeared increasingly at odds as the standoff stretched into a seventh day.

Sharon told parliament that soldiers would surround the church until the gunmen release the clerics, whom he described as hostages, and surrender. The Franciscans accused Israel of violating a pledge not to attack the church. Church officials said the clerics were not hostages and would remain in the compound.

Referring to Sharon, Palestinian Cabinet Minister Saeb Erekat said that "the man's endgame all along was to dismantle the Palestinian Authority" and that Israel would not find Palestinians to go along with such a plan.

Erekat said Sharon was defying the United States by refusing to stop the offensive immediately. However, U.S. officials have suggested Israel still has a little time before beginning the withdrawal.

Iraq pressures Israel , cuts oil

Load-Date: April 8, 2002

End of Document

Film explores hearts, minds of Mideast children

Chicago Daily Herald

May 9, 2002, Thursday All

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Section: SUBURBAN LIVING;

Length: 930 words

Byline: Lisa Friedman Miner Daily Herald Staff Writer

Body

Justine Shapiro and her filmmaking partners didn't set out to change anyone's politics about the Middle East. They had something more intimate in mind.

"We just wanted to open people's hearts," Shapiro says.

Her documentary - the Oscar-nominated "Promises" - succeeds in doing just that.

The film, shot from 1997 to 2000 in a period of "relative calm," focuses on four Israeli and three Palestinian children living in and around Jerusalem.

"Promises" made its Chicago debut Friday at the Music Box Theatre. Its theatrical release comes at a time of intense conflict in the Middle East.

Shapiro, in Chicago recently to promote her film, says the documentary provides the hope and humor sorely missing from news accounts filmed in Israel today.

"This is not a view of the Middle East conflict that you're getting on the 9 o'clock news," Shapiro says.

Rather, it is a look into the hearts and minds of Israel's children.

They talk about violence and vengeance. But they also touch on the power of prayer, their love of sports and the losses that seem to mark each one of their young lives.

Different lives

"Promises" was a collaboration.

In 1995, Shapiro went to Israel and the Palestinian territories as a host and writer for "Lonely Planet," an adventure travel show now on PBS under the name "Globetrekker." During her visit, she was struck by the raw emotions of both her Israeli cousins and the Palestinian children she met. So she teamed with Israeli-born former journalist B.Z. Goldberg and editor Carlos Bolado to make the film.

Though Shapiro and Goldberg are Jewish, Shapiro says they did not have trouble reaching out to the Palestinian children.

Film explores hearts, minds of Mideast children

"I made a decision early on to listen and ask questions and not to debate," she says. "The kids really picked up on that."

They shot 200 hours of film and interviewed about 100 different children. They focused on seven:

- Secular Jewish twins Yarko and Daniel worry about being blown up on a bus and dream of winning their volleyball championship.
- Faraj lives in a Palestinian refugee camp. He talks of killing soldiers, yet he reaches out to the twins with a gesture of friendship.
- Moishe, a right-wing Jewish settler in the West Bank, wants Arabs off the land he believes was promised to his forefathers.
- Sanabel, the only girl, wears a Disney T-shirt and talks of getting letters from her father, who has been imprisoned by the Israelis,
- Mahmoud lives in Jerusalem's Muslim Quarter. He voices intense hatred for the Jews, but grows silent, almost sad, when he learns that Goldberg is himself a Jew.
- Shlomo, an ultra-Orthodox Jew and the son of a respected American rabbi, studies 12 hours a day.

It's hard not to be disturbed by the deep animosity voiced by some of the children.

Moishe, for example, talks of a shooting range for soldiers in his settlement. "And if the soldiers aim poorly," he says, "it's OK cause they might shoot an Arab."

Mahmoud also speaks with bitterness.

"I support Hamas and Hezbollah," he says. "They kill women and children, but they do it for their country. The more Jews we kill, the fewer there will be. Until they're almost gone."

Yet, the children are not defined solely by their anger.

The cameras capture the children at play and in prayer. Soon, parallels emerge.

When Daniel and Yarko lose their volleyball match, one of the boys breaks down in tears. Likewise, Faraj cries when he loses his track meet.

And there are moments of humor.

Shlomo's encounter with a Palestinian boy - a chance meeting that could have led to violence - instead ends in a burping contest.

Coming together

At first, Shapiro says, it was difficult to get backing for the project. Many of those she turned to worried that children of 12 or 13 were too young to grasp the complexities of their world.

But the ages of the children were what attracted Shapiro and Goldberg in the first place.

"At this age, they are unselfconscious in front of the camera. They're candid," Shapiro says.

They're also flexible, despite their rhetoric, Shapiro found.

"They give themselves permission to flip and flop," she says. "It's part of the process of growing up."

That willingness to change their minds sparked the documentary's most moving moments.

Film explores hearts, minds of Mideast children

At one point, after seeing a picture of Yarko and Daniel, Faraj asks to call the twins. They talk about food and sports. Then, they ask to meet - something Shapiro says she never expected.

Faraj, Sanabel and other Palestinian children plan the day for Yarko and Daniel. The Palestinian children speak no Hebrew; the twins speak no Arabic. So they converse in English with the help of interpreters.

They played in the refugee camp, shared a meal, talked of bullets that killed their friends. At 6 p.m., they sat down to discuss all they were feeling. The conversation lasted until midnight.

"It was the longest day of my life because we didn't know what was going to happen," Shapiro says. "It was really extraordinary watching how these kids negotiated these very complicated situations."

In March, the filmmakers flew Yarko, Daniel and Sanabel to Los Angeles for a week to attend the Academy Awards.

Shapiro says the teens would have accepted the award if "Promises" had won. It did not. But the three grew close during the trip, and they keep in touch via e-mail.

Shapiro hopes the film helps viewers feel as if they've gotten to know people in the Middle East.

"I hope that people are moved by 'Promises,' " Shapiro says, "and, when they read about the Middle East conflict, they'll feel like they have friends there."

Graphic

Filmmaker Justine Shapiro's "Promises" is a look into the hearts and minds of Israel's children. Mark Black/Daily Herald

Load-Date: May 20, 2002

**MIDDLE EAST: GAZA BRACES FOR SHARON TO SEND IN TANKS IN NEXT
PHASE OF WAR;
PALESTINIANS BUILD SAND BARRICADES AS ISRAEL AGAIN DEFIES
BUSH WEST BANK XXXX YYYY XXXX YYYY XXXX YYYY XXXX YYYY XXXX
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The Independent (London)

April 27, 2002, Saturday

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Section: FOREIGN NEWS; Pg. 14

Length: 886 words

Byline: Robert Fisk In Gaza **Hamas** Islamic activists burning effigies of Ariel Sharon and his military chiefs in Gaza
Marco Di Lauro/AP

Body

THEY ARE coming. That's what most Gazans tell you. The Israelis are coming. But the sand barricades are pathetic. Even a mile from the Erez "safe crossing" point constructed during the early days of the mad dream of Oslo, the best that Yasser Arafat's legions can do is erect a 15ft rampart of earth and sandbags, with a 12ft gap for local cars - and for Israeli Merkava tanks when Ariel Sharon decides to drive in.

But the cops go on waving the donkey carts past the traffic lights, and the Palestinian Authority guards slumber with their Kalashnikov rifles in their tin shack, ready for part two of the Sharon War on Terror.

The odd thing is that if the Israeli Prime Minister really wants to dismantle the "network of terror" of which he speaks so frequently, Gaza - the one place the Israeli army has not yet dared to reoccupy - should perhaps have been his first target. For here are militias aplenty, Palestinians who know how to destroy Merkava-3 tanks, who can manufacture short-range rockets and mortars and know the principles of booby traps better than the refugee gunmen of Jenin. As one local put it yesterday: "This place is wired."

Its people are certainly preparing for the worst. The banks report massive withdrawals. Human rights groups are duplicating their files. Everyone knows what happened to the computerised archives of the Palestinian ministries in Ramallah and Nablus and Jenin; they were stolen by the Israeli soldiers because, in the imperishable words of one Israeli officer: "Documents have a very important value."

But this is "Palestine".

"They say they've copied all their papers," a western human rights worker said. "But I don't think they've finished making CDs of all the files in our office and the paper archives are too large to photocopy now. They simply haven't started to get the work done."

Yet there is a grim determination to accept the future. Raja Sourani, a human rights lawyer with the most eloquent, if pessimistic, view of the coming weeks - or days - has few illusions. "I think it's going to be bleak, black and bloody

MIDDLE EAST: GAZA BRACES FOR SHARON TO SEND IN TANKS IN NEXT PHASE OF WAR;
PALESTINIANS BUILD SAND BARRICADES AS ISRAEL AGAIN DEFIES BUSH WEST BANK XXXX YYYY
XX....

and I can see the blood that will be shed will be Israeli as well as Palestinian. The Palestinians are not ready to be good victims any more. They have nothing to lose.

"The Israelis have opened Pandora's Box. I never in my life have felt our morale and determination to be as high as it is now. I'm very proud - and I'm scared to death."

So are the women of Gaza. Many are burying their jewels in their gardens or backyards. "We heard what happened to women in Ramallah who had thousands of dollars of jewellery stolen by the Israeli troops who entered their homes," a middle-class married woman in Gaza City said without emotion. "One friend of mine in Ramallah hid thousands of dollars in a big bowl of rice in the kitchen when the Israelis came to take over his house. He reckoned he would lose the money when he was searched. But when he came back, the rice was overturned and the money had gone."

The graffiti warns of reoccupation. A hand grenade on one wall, a drawing of a wired bomb on another predict the doom of occupiers. Homes I entered were stuffed with food, water, blankets, in some cases sandbags. As the sea flopped on to the Gaza beach in the sultry afternoon, a few fishing boats glided over the water. But the catch doesn't count for much when four-hour power cuts - unannounced as usual by the corrupt Palestinian Authority - cut off deep freezes and fridges.

As one Palestinian militant remarked - how easily one falls into these categories to avoid identifying someone who may soon be in a prison cage - an Israeli assault is "as certain as I am seeing you". It was a matter of time, he said. "I don't trust the Arabic news. I listen to the news in Hebrew from Israel. Gaza sets the tone there - the Israelis can't complete their objectives without Gaza. It's here that Palestinian history has been decided for the past 54 years."

True, up to a point. The Palestine National Council first proclaimed Palestinian independence in Gaza on 1 October 1948, adopting the old green, white, black and red banner of the Arab Revolt as the flag. But then the Gaza Strip became a slum backyard of Egypt while the Mayor of Hebron handed over the West Bank to the Jordanian monarchy at a ceremony in Jericho. If Gaza is the last bit of unoccupied "Palestine" left, it's a midden.

"I think everything depends on three things," Mr Sourani said. "It's about what's going on back in Washington. It's about how far the Europeans will involve themselves. And it's about how soon some dramatic event will take place on the ground against the Israelis that will give them an excuse to move. I know all about what is called "looting and wanton destruction" in the West Bank. This is not new to us. We dealt with hundreds of such cases in the past and won cases of looting against the Israeli army in the Israeli courts."

Mr Sourani has completed the duplication of all his human rights records. "And when the Israelis come, we shall keep on working here for human rights. We will not allow ourselves to be panicked or become paranoid. We learnt something from the Israeli occupation in the past: to be professional and to be strategic. They made our bones strong."

In the coming days - or weeks - Mr Sourani's words may well be put to the test.

Load-Date: April 27, 2002

Carrot approach isn't working, it's time to bring in the stick

Ottawa Citizen

May 21, 2003 Wednesday Final Edition

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Section: News; David Warren; Pg. A9; Column

Length: 1026 words

Byline: David Warren

Body

The bombs are blowing all over -- at the time of this writing, five recent hits in Israel, four in Saudi Arabia, five in Casablanca, one in Ankara -- and an indeterminately large number in Baghdad and elsewhere in Iraq. These last our media persist in describing as "looting and disorder," as if the seemingly random rapes, murders, and property destruction in neighbourhoods that never had crime problems before were a spontaneous expression of joie de vivre. They're not, and according to the more respectable sources both Iraqi and U.S., the co-operative Baathist-Islamist underground are the authors of nearly all of it. The Ottawa Citizen

They think they can scare the Americans away; that, at the least, they can force the U.S. to employ Baathists against Baathists. They are thus continuing their "war against American imperialism" by the last available means; and there are thousands of them still out there. The U.S., with crucial local help, has now rounded up more than half the card deck of the senior Baathist leadership, and an unknown but much smaller proportion of the nasties who did not quite merit cards. The borders can be only semi-secured against the arrival of more. Whole towns, such as Tikrit and Faluja, continue to be populated by people who did well out of the old regime, and deeply resent the new one. Our media naturally confuse disturbances there with more benign expressions of discontent -- by Iraqis of all ethnicities and classes still waiting for Saddam's head on a platter, and with religious Shia Muslims expressing themselves after many decades of repression.

This last has been overstated as a problem. Ayatollah Ali Sistani, Iraq's highest Shia cleric, who appears to enjoy broad popular support among the three-fifths of the population who are his co-persuasionists, has said repeatedly through his Baghdad spokesman, Mohammad Taqi Al-Husseini, and others that he doesn't want an Islamist state, in the Iranian fashion. "We demand and insist on an elected government that represents the majority but respects the rights of the minorities and all religious factions," was the statement yesterday.

The media lights have instead shone upon Ayatollah Muhammad Baqir al-Hakim, a truly dicey character, who spent 23 years in Iranian exile, and who does indeed demand an "Islamic democracy" on the model of Khomeini's disastrous government of Iran. He needs watching, but the "huge cheering crowds" that greeted him when he arrived in Najaf a week ago were not quite as described. From my information (multiple sources), a fairer description would have been "huge curious crowds with cheering from his supporters in the front rows."

One will go seriously wrong by assuming that Iraq's Shia, or even the Islamist radicals among them, are copies from an Iranian original. The history is entirely different and Shiitism in Iraq is a phenomenon of much more recent history. It has never been embodied in pseudo-nationalist power aspirations -- this is a new situation. Moreover, Iraqis at large are sick to death of government by nutjob. The contrasting Western-style taste for a fairly strict separation of mosque and state is also part of Iraq's pre-Baathist legacy.

Carrot approach isn't working, it's time to bring in the stick

I have faith in them.

I have much less faith in the inhabitants of Saudi Arabia, where a true civil war between Wahabi factions could be ignited. Morocco is more of a mystery to me, and I suspect to itself. The hits in these countries must be interpreted as sucker punches by terrorists either al-Qaeda by actual membership, or sharing Osama bin Laden's murderous ideology. They are fighting an international war, which they happen to be losing. Their recent choice of targets offers a partial proof of this, for they would not be soiling their own nests if they could get at someone else's.

The latest hits in Jerusalem and Afula have another immediate cause, but are not something entirely different. Palestine's murderous fanatics belong to the same terrorist international, held together by psychopathic antipathy to common enemies -- the U.S. and Israel. But the Palestinian bombers dance to a local piper (Yasser Arafat by name.)

Hamas and Fatah have gone back into action in response to the latest "road map to hell." They do this without fail whenever the diplomatic button gets pressed on their behalf. They relax when it doesn't -- and as they were doing for the last many months. The theory behind this is a simple one -- the one-two punch, in which the political arm exploits diplomatic pressure on Israel, while the terrorist arm plays on Israel's longing for security.

Each peace offering -- at least, each offering that includes carrots but no sticks, like the latest "road map" -- is a new reward for such behaviour. When U.S. President George W. Bush, as yesterday in Washington, expresses his determination to pursue peace regardless of the terror hits on Israel -- and especially when he communicates this idea to the new Palestinian prime minister, Abu Mazen -- he plays right into the terrorists' hands. He might as well be saying, "Go ahead, kill as many Jews as you can, that won't stop us making concessions to you."

The alternative is to follow the principles enunciated in the president's excellent speech at the University of South Carolina last Friday, in which the key phrase was: "The future of peace requires the defeat of terror." Sticks work better than carrots to this end, and unless the entire Palestinian leadership can be convinced that they have something to lose by playing these games -- something big, heavy, and final -- their attitude won't change. They'll continue to say they are powerless to stop the terror cells they have armed, trained, encouraged, and directed.

What links Jerusalem with Riyadh with Baghdad, and ultimately with every other city in the Middle East, is the carrots. Wherever Colin Powell or senior members of his State Department go to offer more, there will be violence. Wherever the stick is waved -- as recently in Iraq -- there will be fresh thinking.

It really is time we began to master this silly little paradox.

Read previous columns by David Warren at www.canada.com/ottawa .

Graphic

Photo: Anja Niedringhaus, The Associated Press; Grieving relatives at the funeral of Avi Zrihan yesterday. Mr. Zrihan was one of at least three victims of a **female** suicide bomber who detonated a device at a crowded Israeli shopping centre Monday.

Load-Date: May 21, 2003

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

St. Louis Post-Dispatch (Missouri)

April 2, 2002 Tuesday Five Star Lift Edition

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Section: EDITORIAL; Pg. B6; LETTERS

Length: 955 words

Body

Israel seeks end to terrorist attacks

The March 30 headline "Arafat under siege" should have read "Israel moves against bomber network."

Israel is fighting violent Palestinian groups that bomb Israeli citizens. These violent groups are akin to the people who attacked New York City. The Palestinians and al-Qaida celebrate the same successes and mourn the same losses.

It's time for each of us to ask ourselves, "Whose side are we on?" Do we support a democratic state, governed by a succession of elected leaders from across the political spectrum for the past 50 years, or do we support a movement whose entrenched political leader teaches hate, pursues violence and allies with corrupt and intensely repressive regimes.

With which side do we share core values? Indeed, what are our core values?

Yasser Arafat is not under siege. He's sleeping in the bed that he made. He thought the intifada could bring better results than negotiations. He was wrong, in every sense of the word.

Harry Liebman

Ballwin

=====

After the latest terrorist attacks upon civilians, women and children included, the Israelis' response is totally appropriate. They are certainly using more restraint than I would. Yasser Arafat and his backers would be history.

The United States responded with all-out war against the perpetrators of 9/11. Why should Israel, whose existence is threatened, do less? To call for restraint or withdrawal under these circumstances is ludicrous. It shows how much the U.S. dependency on Arab oil dictates U.S. policy toward the Middle East.

Arafat is now and always has been a terrorist. Hamas, Hezbollah, Fatah and Islamic Jihad are terrorist organizations and should be treated accordingly. Arafat has no power and no will to stop the bloodshed. I hope the Israelis stay the course and thoroughly defeat the Palestinian extremists. Then and only then can peace be discussed.

Shame on the U.S. for not giving full support to Israel. Oil be damned!

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

John Czarnecki

Hillsboro

=====

Palestinian rights

In his March 26 column, William Safire chastised those who would draw any equivalence between Israeli and Palestinian terror. Israel, said Safire, is simply defending itself against Arab aggression.

The next day, Mona Charen made much the same argument. There is no equivalence, she said, between the Israeli military and Muslim terrorists.

Two such vitriolic statements of anti-Arab racism in as many days are more than I can handle. Sooner or later, Israel's defenders and their readers should admit that Israel was created at the expense of the Palestinians and that Israel, 50 years on, continues to deny Palestinians the most basic of human rights, the right to live in peace and security.

I appreciate the efforts of the Post-Dispatch to balance these statements with an excerpt on March 26 from the Jordan Times, "Sharon's immoral practices," and the March 27 editorial cartoon of Sharon suffocating the latest Arab peace plan.

Steve Tamari

St. Louis

=====

Don't attack Iraq

I was one of five arrested during the Good Friday protest at Boeing's missile facility in St. Charles. Four years ago, I visited the Amiriyah Shelter on the outskirts of Baghdad, Iraq, which was hit by two "smart" bombs during the Gulf War. I met a woman whose nine family members, including all of her children, had died during the bombing.

I walked onto the Boeing property to try and stop another round of human destruction in Iraq. Both Rep. Todd Akin and Boeing spokesman Jim Bafaro were quoted as suggesting that the precision-guided missiles cause little "collateral damage."

Such missiles killed more than 400 civilians at the Amiriyah Shelter, destroyed the Chinese Embassy and a major TV station in Belgrade, leveled the Al-Shifa chemical factory in Sudan, and struck a Red Cross warehouse three times in Afghanistan, to name just the most prominent instances of "collateral damage."

As for Akin's comment that he isn't aware of plans to attack Iraq, he should read the newspaper. Gen. Tommy Franks has said the U.S. is building up forces in Kuwait to prepare for a possible attack on Iraq. Vice President Dick Cheney tried to shore up Arab support for such an attack. Ex-CIA Director James Woolsey traveled to London to discuss options for attacking Iraq.

Certainly, Akin, a member of the Armed Services Committee, has seen the Nuclear Posture Review that says the United States should be prepared to use nuclear weapons against seven countries, including Iraq.

I appeal to Boeing's shareholders, management and employees to stop the preparations for war on Iraq.

Mira Tanna

St. Louis

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

=====

Fighting for clean air

I was satisfied to read the March 25 editorial, "Life and breath decisions," criticizing President George W. Bush's ridiculous new proposals for the environment.

In the new era, where a person's "patriotism" is hastily brought into question if he or she challenges proposals by the administration, it takes courage to stand up for what is right.

I find it interesting that the Bush administration upholds the ideals of freedom from government, yet does not feel that citizens with no voice should be freed from toxic pollutants being emitted by powerful corporations.

I also find it ironic that most corporations that would be affected by the restrictions donated money to Bush. I'm glad the Taliban didn't donate money.

I always assumed that citizens had a fundamental right to breathe clean air. I guess I was wrong. It's a right that we apparently have to fight for.

Clinton Lawson

Springfield, Mo

=====

Must be the weather

The Cardinals claim they can't make enough money in today's climate and are asking for a handout.

Laclede Gas Co. claims it didn't make enough money in this winter's climate and is also asking for a handout. How funny.

Bill Schulz Jr.

Hazelwood

Graphic

GRAPHIC; Graphic / Illustration - (cloud with lightning streaking from it)

Load-Date: April 2, 2002

'ASYMMETRICAL WARFARE':
SADDAM USING VIETNAM-STYLE TACTICS
PLAYING TO WORLD OPINION

Philadelphia Daily News

MARCH 28, 2003 Friday 4STAR EDITION

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Section: LOCAL; Pg. 06

Length: 977 words

Byline: WILLIAM BUNCH bunchw@phillynews.com

Body

JUST 12 years ago, Saddam Hussein and his Iraqi army suffered one of the most humiliating military defeats of the 20th century.

In the first Persian Gulf War, the world's fourth-largest army acted as sitting ducks, exposed in the desert sands to the air power and superior tanks of America and its allies. The Iraqis crumbled in just 100 hours of ground combat, amid a sea of white surrender flags.

Saddam retreated to his world of hidden palaces and underground bunkers. He woke up at 3 a.m., swam laps, read books on military history and his idol, Joseph Stalin - and spent a lot of time thinking about what went wrong in 1991.

When an urban mob killed 19 U.S. Marines in Somalia and forced the Americans to retreat in 1993, he paid attention. When anti-Israel terrorists set up paramilitary legions of suicidal fanatics in the early to mid '90s, he copied them. When Yugoslavians fought the United States and NATO in 1999, he hired them as consultants to get their advice.

And so when U.S. and British troops invaded Iraq last week, a 65-year-old dictator that most viewed as a "dead man walking" showed he had some life left, after all.

His new Vietnam-style tactics of guerrilla warfare won't defeat America on the battlefield, but it may prolong the war while Saddam fights a battle for global public opinion.

"He's intelligent, and he's a survivor," said Evan Kohlmann, a terrorism analyst at the Washington-based Investigator Project. Kohlmann is one of many analysts expressing grudging praise for the efficacy of Saddam's strategy - if not its morals - as the war enters its second week.

'ASYMMETRICAL WARFARE'; SADDAM USING VIETNAM-STYLE TACTICS PLAYING TO WORLD OPINION

Journalist Mark Bowden, who has profiled Saddam's brutal regime, wrote yesterday in the New York Times that he had devised "a strategy both cunning and cruel, and it may work."

It's far too early to suggest that Saddam has outsmarted the Pentagon war machine or the president he ridiculed last week as "little Bush." But while U.S. war planners mapped out a futuristic "shock and awe" strategy never tested under fire, Hussein looked back to what worked for Ho Chi Minh, his idol Stalin, and the ancient Chinese philosopher Sun Tzu.

Saddam's strategy is 180 degrees different from 1991. Rather than confrontation in an open battlefield, it relies on "asymmetrical warfare" - unorthodox guerrilla and terror tactics to harass and pin down U.S. troops while blurring the lines between civilians and soldiers.

Paramilitary troops loyal to Saddam mingle among women and children, cruise the desert unnoticed in pickups, bring down a U.S. helicopter with small arms fire from under palm trees, and fake a surrender before spraying U.S. Marines with bullets.

Saddam and his generals hope these paramilitaries, known as Fedayeen Saddam, or "those willing to die for Saddam," will ultimately take part in deadly urban warfare for control of Baghdad.

Indeed, many experts have wondered if Saddam's ultimate goal is to relive the bloody 1942-43 Battle of Stalingrad, in which Stalin's Soviet army lost as many as 1 million men but defeated the German 6th Army in the worst urban battle ever.

They speculate that Saddam is banking on a "Baghdadograd" strategy that allows coalition forces to push through the outer defense only to be caught between the Baghdad defenders and a rear-guard action by Republican Guard troops.

It wouldn't be the first time that Saddam has emulated the late Soviet tyrant. Saddam's cult of personality and much of his state security apparatus - blamed for the torture, imprisonment or death of tens of thousands of political prisoners - is directly modeled after Stalin. The Iraqi dictator has been known to quote Stalin: "If there is no person, there is no problem."

But military strategists say that Saddam figured out by the mid-1990s that to have any hope of repelling a second U.S. assault, he would have to study the guerrilla tactics that worked for the Vietcong and apply them to the Iraqi desert.

"He's trying to activate the Vietnam syndrome," said Gregory Urwin, the Temple University military historian. "If he could show some bodies and show some POWs, he figured he could shake America's confidence in a way that people would rise up and say, 'No more war.' "

Kohlmann, the terrorism expert, said "Saddam was impressed by what he saw in Mogadishu," where in 1993 a street mob downed two U.S. helicopters.

The next year, Kohlmann said, Saddam decided to create his own paramilitary force and base it on similar units in the terrorist organizations Hamas and Islamic Jihad.

The Fedayeen Saddam, run by the dictator's brutal son Odai, was a motley crew at first, but over time they received terrorist-camp training and even wore black attire that evoked the Vietcong. Showered with more money and privileges than most Iraqis, the Fedayeen - numbered from 25,000 and 60,000 - grew fiercely loyal to Saddam.

Now that the war is here, the Fedayeen are not only battling U.S. troops, but they are also threatening to kill any Iraqi troops who want to surrender and any citizens who show support for the Americans.

They cruise the desert highways in Toyota pickups, eluding the satellites and air power that destroyed so many tanks and armored personnel carriers in 1991.

'ASYMMETRICAL WARFARE'; SADDAM USING VIETNAM-STYLE TACTICS PLAYING TO WORLD OPINION

Experts say there's no way these tactics can defeat the U.S. and British troops, especially with tens of thousands more soldiers en route to the Gulf.

But Saddam apparently thinks they can prolong the war and boost both American and civilian casualties to the point where there is growing distaste for the war - in the United States and around the world.

"He's waiting for us to get to Baghdad, under the theory that enough guys are willing to go down with him that he'll force us to battle one house at a time," said John Pike, of globalsecurity.org, a military think tank.

"We were gambling we could hit him in the head with a ball-peen hammer," he said, " and the whole thing would fly apart." *

Notes

WAR IN IRAQ

Graphic

PHOTO;

Associated Press

Iraqi TV image shows Saddam (seated, center) in meeting with high-ranking Baath Party officials.

Associated Press

Saddam Hussein in an image from Iraqi television yesterday. Despotism has adopted tactics from Somalia, Kosovo and Vietnam to fight against invading U.S. troops.

Load-Date: July 14, 2005

The school run on a sunny day, but a tank shell found them in the wrong place at the wrong time

The Guardian (London)

March 5, 2002

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Section: Guardian Home Pages, Pg. 1

Length: 917 words

Byline: Suzanne Goldenberg in Ramallah

Body

The Pokemon CD was intact, and that was nearly all that remained of Bushra Abu Kweik and her three children after an Israeli tank shell ripped through the roof of their green truck during the afternoon school run.

Two other children in a passing white Subaru were also killed by the Israeli shell, the deadliest single episode in a day in which 16 Palestinians were killed as Israel adopted a campaign of "continuous military pressure" against West Bank and Gaza militants.

The Palestinian response came early this morning as a gunman opened fire with an M-16 rifle in an all-night Tel Aviv restaurant, killing three people and wounding 16 before he was shot dead, police said.

Tel Aviv police commander Yossi Sedbon said the gunman also apparently tried to throw a grenade, but it did not explode. Police said they were searching for possible accomplices and explosives.

Earlier last night Israeli warplanes and helicopters struck in Gaza and in two places in the West Bank. Israeli officials said helicopters fired missiles inside the compound of the Palestinian leader, Yasser Arafat, in the West Bank town of Ramallah. Witnesses said the missiles struck a building a few dozen metres from his office. He was uninjured.

F-16 jets bombed the Palestinian government complex in Bethlehem, injuring four passers-by, Palestinian security officials said.

Israel's prime minister, Ariel Sharon, told reporters yesterday that Palestinian militants "must be dealt a heavy blow from every direction. Anyone wishing to conduct negotiations with them must first hit them hard, so that it is clear to them that they will achieve nothing through terror," he said. "If it is not made clear to them that they are overpowered, we will be unable to return to negotiations."

But as Israel emerged from one of its bloodiest weekends of the 17-month uprising, there was increasing talk of war. The horror of Saturday night's attack by a suicide bomber on a crowd of mothers and children has had a huge psychological impact. "We are in a war for our home and we will win," Mr Sharon told MPs.

Hours earlier, tanks thundered into the Jenin refugee camp - the second assault on the warren of cinder block houses in a week - and in Rafah, in the southern Gaza Strip. In Jenin, soldiers fired on an ambulance, killing a doctor who heads the local branch of the Red Crescent Society and three medics, Palestinian human rights officials

The school run on a sunny day, but a tank shell found them in the wrong place at the wrong time

said. In addition, they said, two children were shot dead, and an elderly woman was killed in her home by a tank shell. Three Palestinians were killed in Rafah.

The shell that arced through a glorious blue sky towards Ramallah's Abu Shusha street was fired from the illegal Jewish settlement of Psagot. The rows of red-topped houses are clearly visible from this opposing hilltop, one and a half miles away, and it seemed all but impossible that the Israeli troops would have failed to spot the fluttering white headscarf of Ms Abu Kweik, or those of her daughters, as she eased her Mitsubishi truck down the hill towards her home.

"I heard a loud noise and ran out and saw pieces of human flesh. A man was holding three children in his arms. They were all covered in blood," said Najwa Itaiwi, who lives a few yards from the scene of the attack. "He was screaming 'look at my children. Where are the other two?' "

There was nothing recognisably human left in the other vehicle, in which Ms Abu Kweik was driving her daughters, Aziza, 13, Bara, 12, and son, Mohammed, 10, home from school. Children's textbooks, wrapped in covers showing Winnie the Pooh and other Disney characters were stacked on the bonnet of the wreck. In the last page of one notebook, a child's hand had scrawled over and over: "I love you very much".

The Israeli army said yesterday that it killed the four members of the Abu Kweik family and the two children in the Subaru - boys aged four and 15 - by mistake. Although Ms Abu Kweik's husband, Hussein, is a prominent Hamas figure in Ramallah, where he runs a local charity, the army said he was not a target. It claimed that it had been aiming at a vehicle carrying armed Palestinian policemen.

However, Mr Abu Kweik said "It was premeditated murder" as he arrived at a memorial meeting in a municipal hall. "Sharon has run out of other options, so he went after women and children," he said.

Inside the crowded hall, passions were running equally high. Eighteen months into a savage cycle of attack and retaliation, people here were convinced that the army meant to kill Mr Abu Kweik's children as revenge for the death of five Jewish children in the suicide attack on an ultra-orthodox Jerusalem neighbourhood on Saturday.

"All the shelling of Palestinian Authority buildings did not stop the intifada and Sharon knows that even if he targets activists, it is very difficult to find them. Therefore he is targeting children to put pressure on the activists," said one mourner. "From this day, all of us will think of making suicide in Israel."

Yesterday, Mr Sharon's far-right cabinet allies clamoured for a reoccupation of the West Bank and Gaza, and for Israel to broaden its bombardments of the Palestinians by targeting markets and shopping centres. Moderates argued that the tough military actions had only invited more attacks.

A front page commentary in Israel's largest newspaper, Yedioth Ahronoth, said of Mr Sharon: "He wanted to bring peace and security. Today he makes do with proving that the Israeli army can occupy a refugee camp."

Paul Foot, page 15

Load-Date: March 5, 2002

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Santa Fe New Mexican (New Mexico)

January 6, 2002 Sunday

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Section: LETTERS TO THE EDITOR; Pg. F-7

Length: 915 words

Body

Handless cell-phone devices are just the ticket

I strongly believe that officers should be looking to ticket cell-phone users.

I drive every day in the city, and especially in the Plaza area. I've noticed on countless occasions people using cell phones and driving rather recklessly, running stop signs and using no signals.

Both hands (need to be) on the wheel and the mind on the controls - not phones. Using headsets or other handless devices is strongly suggested.

Julian Sanchez

Santa Fe

via e-mail

Undocumented setup

The setup of using drunken-driving roadblocks to arrest undocumented immigrants is, at best, shameful behavior on the part of both the Border Patrol and the state police. I don't think it was coincidental for the article to appear on the Feast of Holy Innocents.

For the state police to participate in such action diminishes the integrity and honor of an otherwise fine law-enforcement agency. What part of the inscription on the Statue of Liberty welcoming the poor and hungry is not understood? The undocumented come to America seeking a better life for themselves and their families.

I'm the child of an undocumented immigrant and proud of it. My mother became an LPN in World War II and served this country in New Haven, Conn., hospitals so others could serve overseas. Much of her pay, during and after the war, went back to Ireland to help her impoverished brothers and sisters.

I don't think too much has changed.

The Rev. Richard W. Murphy

rector

St. Bede's Episcopal Church

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Santa Fe

via e-mail

Book burning

Regarding your article on the front page (Dec. 31) about the church in Alamogordo burning books: I guess I have definite opinions on this, but this seems stupid and extreme.

If they are so worried about these children's books and such turning their kids to tampering with witchcraft and such, maybe they should look closer to home and not to these books -- try figuring out what at home is wrong, what is lacking for their children instead of looking to something else to blame (if) their kids go wrong.

The truth is that the majority of kids go the wrong way (because) they are lacking structure -- or even caring, listening parents at home. Sometimes it just takes listening and caring about what a kid does or says that makes the difference.

For them to blame fun books about a fantasy world for their problems at home is ridiculous. The Harry Potter books hardly teach kids to become witches, etc. Maybe they should try reading the books first.

Lisa Stephenson

Santa Fe

via e-mail

Not full picture

Does anyone here in the U.S.A. really believe that it will be "wonderful" when Palestinians can live on both sides of the Green Line and Jews can only live on one side of the Green Line? These are just some of the publicly stated goals that Arafat, PLO, Hamas, Hezbollah and other terrorists and anti-Jewish groups in the Middle East established even before the 1967 Six Day War -- and still want.

Just think, can it be possible that we are helping to get places like Shomron to be Judenriden or rid of the "filthy" Jews (as the PA and PLO have said) -- just like the Nazis did in certain areas of Europe?

But then the good ol' U.S.A. will reward these politically correct terrorists with a nation of their own.

Get hold of the Arab literature coming from the Palestinians and see how they view Israel eventually disappearing completely under future wars. They have pictures and graphics of Palestinians stomping all Jews out of the Middle East, sometimes with blood flowing from Jewish bodies.

There are lots of records (evidence) of Arafat plotting and killing Jews even before the Six Day War. The picture is bigger than what you see.

Catherine Sidoti

Los Alamos

via e-mail

Pro Patti

Patti Bushee has my vote for mayor. What a tenacious, passionate, hard-working and outspoken Santa Fean we have working for us all.

Viva Bushee!

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Susan Robinson

Santa Fe

via e-mail

'Justice for all...'

Cecilia Gonzales (letters, Dec. 26) asked, "Where in our Constitution does it say that the rights we have as Americans are to be extended to everyone in the world?"

The answer lies within the Declaration of Independence: "We hold these truths to be self-evident, that all men are created equal, that they are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable Rights, that among these are Life, Liberty and the pursuit of Happiness."

Americans and others around the world have struggled for centuries to make "all" mean all -- to include blacks, minorities, women and a host of others within the light of the Declaration's beneficence. Now is not the time to make "all" mean "only some of us."

Terrorism is a serious evil to be faced with courage and strength. But, when we act to deny basic rights to select groups of people, we erode our moral authority and our ethical core. By casting doubt on our national integrity, we ultimately reduce our effectiveness.

Jenny Felmley

Santa Fe

via e-mail

Locked in?

At this time of year many syndicated columnists publish mea culpa pieces in which they acknowledge their errors of the past 12 months. In the Dec. 30 New Mexican, Dave Broder credits Barry Mackintosh, an old friend of mine from National Park Service days, with catching him in overlooking the fact that China is a communist country.

Barry's achievement motivates me to comment on The New Mexican's headline above the Broder piece: "As year ends, yet another pundit tugs forelock."

Whose forelock? As evidenced by the columnist's photograph, Broder does not have one of his own.

Jerry L. Rogers

Santa Fe

via e-mail

Load-Date: November 5, 2002

Israel's especially cruel sanction

Christian Science Monitor (Boston, MA)

January 31, 2002, Thursday

Copyright 2002 The Christian Science Publishing Society

Section: OPINION; Pg. 09

Length: 1038 words

Byline: John K. Cooley

Dateline: ATHENS

Body

The Bush administration is weighing Israeli Prime Minister Ariel Sharon's request to break all ties - and end all American aid - to Yasser Arafat's Palestinian Authority.

Washington should also consider the especially cruel nature of Israeli punishments and reprisals - as well as Arab terrorism and resistance to Israeli occupation that lead to these reprisals.

One form of Israeli punishment is the destruction of Muslim and Christian Arab homes with explosives and bulldozers. During the Palestine Mandate, before Israel's creation in 1948, British military administrators used this weapon against Jews and Arabs - though most often against Arabs, accused or suspected of anti-British terrorism. This odious practice - banned by the Fourth Geneva Convention on the conduct of foreign military occupation - has continued, both in areas under Israeli control and in others temporarily conquered by Israeli forces, as in Syria (in 1967 and 1973-74) and south Lebanon and Beirut's Palestinian outskirts (between 1978 and the Israeli withdrawal in May 2000). I have watched it happen repeatedly since 1965.

Israel's recent air and ground attacks against Palestinians in both the occupied and Palestinian-administered autonomous West Bank and Gaza territories have included this form of punishment. In response to Arab suicide bombings and other attacks, the Israeli Army most recently blasted a strip of homes along the Gaza border with Egypt.

Mr. Sharon's spokesmen insist the houses were "mostly uninhabited." Some, they say, concealed tunnels used for smuggling arms from Egypt. UN and relief agencies report hundreds of newly homeless people as a result.

In mid-January, several large, new houses were blown up and bulldozed with little or no warning in or near ethnically Arab East Jerusalem.

Justification: The houses were "illegal" because the owners had obtained no Israeli building permits. The trouble is, no matter how long a Christian or Muslim Arab and his family have lived in East Jerusalem, which Israel wrested

Israel 's especially cruel sanction

from Jordan in 1967 and then formally annexed, they are, in more than 90 percent of cases, refused a building permit when they apply.

The purpose, as many Jewish observers have said, is simply to further the "Judaization" or Israeli settlement of formerly Arab areas. One consequence is that peaceable people decide to resist the occupation, join the Palestinian intifada - and yes, many of the younger men and some women do become terrorists.

Repeatedly, they begin using guns and bombs against the occupying army and against the Jewish settlers who have encroached on their land, water wells, or have - especially in 1948 and 1967 - taken over their (undamaged) houses.

Between 1920 and Israel's founding, the British authorities continued what had been a rarer pre-World War I Ottoman Turkish practice. Moshe Sharett, an early Israeli statesman sympathetic to the Palestinian plight, described how during the Arab revolt against the British between 1936 and 1940, the British Army drove out villagers and then destroyed their homes, as part of the "counterterrorist" campaign.

One British district commissioner in the West Bank was thanked by higher authorities for the "punitive demolition" of 53 houses. Israeli author Tom Segev estimates in his recent book that between 1936 and 1940, the British destroyed 2,000 houses.

The Arab town of Jaffa was already hard hit by British demolition of several hundred homes in the summer of 1936. During the initial Arab-Israeli war of 1948, Jewish terrorists from the Stern Gang drove a truck into Jaffa, with oranges concealing explosives, and blasted away buildings in the center, including a feeding center for children.

In August 1967, just after Israel's victorious Six-Day War, in which it conquered the West Bank, Gaza, Egypt's Sinai, and Syria's Golan Heights, this reporter asked then-Israeli Defense Minister Moshe Dayan at a news conference whether he believed Israel's prolonging of the British "Military Emergency Regulations" of 1948 was a wise move, leading to better Jewish-Arab understanding or real peace.

After an angry stare, Mr. Dayan said, "Yes, we think blowing up houses is very useful and is a deterrent against terrorists."

It happened again and again. In the Christian villages of Birim and Tikrit, in Israel's northern Galilee near the Lebanese border; in Quneitra, the Golan Heights town that Israel had to evacuate following an interim Syrian-Israeli agreement negotiated by Henry Kissinger in 1974-75; and in many of the villages of south Lebanon, as well as in hundreds of districts in Gaza and the West Bank, from 1967 until now.

President Bush's advisers, and the perennially pro-Israel majority in Congress, should review the past and think again about the future, before breaking all ties with Mr. Arafat, besieged by Israeli tanks for weeks in his Ramallah headquarters.

Arafat faces urgent Israeli and US pressure to "halt terror." In first Israeli, and now American formulations, this pressure is equated with the worldwide campaign exerted against the Al Qaeda network since the Sept. 11 attacks. These were condemned by Arafat and all thinking Palestinians.

Israel 's especially cruel sanction

Arafat is truly caught between a rock and a hard place. After recent Israeli killings of Palestinians in Nablus, thousands of Palestinians stormed a Palestinian Authority jail, freeing at least one member of the extremist **Hamas** group. Things can now only get worse.

Unless the Bush administration uses its muscle to restrain violence by both sides, a new cease-fire or armistice in this tragic conflict, let alone peace, will be impossible to achieve. Apparently we must await new leadership in both Israel and the promised, but still hypothetical, state of Palestine.

In other words, there must be an American effort to bring about a new state - a new state of mind, in fact - that will make both sides realize that the occupation must end, and that only then, with lots of determined help from the outside, can they reach peace by imposing it on themselves.

* John K. Cooley, a former Monitor Middle East correspondent, is the author of 'Green March, Black September: the Story of the Palestinian Arabs' (Cass).

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Load-Date: January 30, 2002

End of Document

This time, bomber is woman

St. Petersburg Times (Florida)

January 28, 2002, Monday, 0 South Pinellas Edition

Copyright 2002 Times Publishing Company

Section: NATIONAL; Pg. 1A

Length: 986 words

Dateline: JERUSALEM

Body

For the first time in nearly 16 months of conflict, a Palestinian woman apparently carried out a suicide bombing Sunday, killing herself and an 81-year-old Israeli man in a blast that ripped through the heart of Jerusalem at midday.

Israeli police said they were not sure if the woman intended to kill herself or if the bomb exploded prematurely as she walked along Jaffa Street, the main commercial strip in west Jerusalem.

No group immediately claimed responsibility. In Lebanon, the Al-Manar television station run by the militant Hezbollah movement said the bomber was Shinaz Amuri, a female student at Al-Najah University in the West Bank town of Nablus.

Compiled from Times WiresMIDEAST

Israel accused Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat of "encouraging terrorism" and said it was prepared to respond to the bombing - the third major attack in an Israeli city in a week.

Arafat is "encouraging terrorism. He's sending (attackers) to Jerusalem," said Raanan Gissin, a spokesman for Israeli Prime Minister Ariel Sharon. "We will continue to systematically dismantle the terrorist infrastructure."

Arafat is penned in his West Bank headquarters in the city of Ramallah, where Israeli tanks sit less than 100 yards away from his compound in what had been Palestinian-controlled territory.

The Palestinian leadership "strongly condemned the suicide attack" and called on President Bush to send Mideast envoy Anthony Zinni back to the region.

But that seemed unlikely.

"At this stage, we need to see some positive signs that his return would do some good. And that means we've got to see some positive results out of Arafat," said Vice President Dick Cheney on Fox News Sunday. Arafat must "do everything he could, make a 100 percent good-faith effort to put an end to terrorism. So far, he hasn't done that."

The Israeli killed was 81-year-old Pinchas Toktaly, father of three and grandfather of 13, who was walking home from an art class when the explosion occurred about 12:30 p.m.

This time, bomber is woman

Jerusalem Mayor Ehud Olmert, who has seen the center of this city turn into a ghost town during the bloody fighting with the Palestinians, gave a statement to Israel Radio that offered little comfort to an increasingly shellshocked public.

"We are in the middle of a war," Olmert said, "which will not end soon, and there will be more victims."

The blast next to a shoe shop blew out shop windows, set a store on fire and left victims sprawled on the pavement amid shards of glass, pieces of fruit, shoes and storefront mannequins.

"It sounded like half the street exploded," said Hama Gidon, a clothing store worker who was slightly injured. "All the mannequins went flying and I did too. People were falling, glass was flying everywhere."

Police spokesman Gil Kleiman said 111 people were treated at hospitals, two of them in serious condition and five moderately serious. Dozens of those sent to hospitals were treated for shock.

"Jerusalem is becoming like a choke-chain that keeps closing on you," witness Sarit Cohen told Israeli television.

The bombing occurred on crowded Jaffa Street, across the street from the Sbarro pizzeria where a suicide bomber killed himself and 15 people in August and just 80 yards from where a gunman killed two Israelis in a flurry of bullets on Tuesday.

Across the street from the blast, Asher Bakshi, 20, a salesman in another shoe store, shook his head in disgust.

"We just changed the windows from last Tuesday," he said. "We have to kill them all, all the Arabs. Why does half the world tell us not to go to war? If we want we could kill them in one hour."

Sunday's bombing came amid tight security and warnings that such attacks were possible, highlighting the militants' ability to strike Israeli streets almost at will.

"Even if I take all the 3,500 policemen I have, I still can't close the city hermetically," said Jerusalem police Chief Mickey Levy, who suffered chest pains as he directed his officers at the scene and suffered a massive heart attack later in a nearby hospital. He was in stable condition Sunday evening.

Jaffa Street is teeming with uniformed and plainclothes police but somehow the bomber slipped through, perhaps because female attackers are rare, and female suicide bombers unheard of. Palestinian suicide attackers have disguised themselves as soldiers and in one case as an Orthodox Jew. Women have been accomplices in such attacks, the police say, but soldiers and police generally do not scrutinize Palestinian women the way they do men.

"What can we do? We check people, we look for terrorists. When they see the extra forces they are deterred," said officer Vladimir Fishman, who suffered a shrapnel wound in his ankle Sunday.

Despairing, dejected and fearful of further attacks, many Jerusalem residents are avoiding the city center, warning their children against venturing into crowds and dialing their relatives' cell phone numbers the moment they hear an ambulance siren. "Enough, enough, we don't have the strength for this," Simcha Levy, a witness to Sunday's bombing, told Voice of Israel radio. "It's just impossible to live like this."

Despite the concentration of attacks on Jaffa Street, and the resulting plunge in sales at virtually every store in the neighborhood, merchants say none of them are moving away. "It was never so bad," said Avraham Birnbaum, chairman of the Jerusalem Merchants Association. "(But) this is the center of the city, it's the best location."

Also Sunday, just south of Jerusalem a Palestinian crowd stormed a prison in Bethlehem and freed seven prisoners belonging to Hamas and Islamic Jihad, the two groups that have carried out past suicide bombings, Palestinian security officials said. Palestinian security officers did not try to stop them, a Palestinian security official said.

- The Los Angeles Times, Cox News Service, the Associated Press, the Washington Post, Knight Ridder Newspapers and the New York Times contributed to this report.

This time, bomber is woman

Graphic

PHOTO, Associated Press; Medics rush an injured Israeli woman to help Sunday after the busy Jaffa Street suffers its third deadly attack since August.

Load-Date: January 28, 2002

End of Document

'ASYMMETRICAL WARFARE':
SADDAM USING VIETNAM-STYLE TACTICS; PLAYING TO WORLD OPINION

Philadelphia Daily News

March 28, 2003 Friday 4STAR EDITION

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Section: LOCAL; Pg. 06

Length: 977 words

Byline: By WILLIAM BUNCH; bunchw@phillynews.com

Body

JUST 12 years ago, Saddam Hussein and his Iraqi army suffered one of the most humiliating military defeats of the 20th century.

In the first Persian Gulf War, the world's fourth-largest army acted as sitting ducks, exposed in the desert sands to the air power and superior tanks of America and its allies. The Iraqis crumbled in just 100 hours of ground combat, amid a sea of white surrender flags.

Saddam retreated to his world of hidden palaces and underground bunkers. He woke up at 3 a.m., swam laps, read books on military history and his idol, Joseph Stalin - and spent a lot of time thinking about what went wrong in 1991.

When an urban mob killed 19 U.S. Marines in Somalia and forced the Americans to retreat in 1993, he paid attention. When anti-Israel terrorists set up paramilitary legions of suicidal fanatics in the early to mid '90s, he copied them. When Yugoslavians fought the United States and NATO in 1999, he hired them as consultants to get their advice.

And so when U.S. and British troops invaded Iraq last week, a 65-year-old dictator that most viewed as a "dead man walking" showed he had some life left, after all.

His new Vietnam-style tactics of guerrilla warfare won't defeat America on the battlefield, but it may prolong the war while Saddam fights a battle for global public opinion.

"He's intelligent, and he's a survivor," said Evan Kohlmann, a terrorism analyst at the Washington-based Investigator Project. Kohlmann is one of many analysts expressing grudging praise for the efficacy of Saddam's strategy - if not its morals - as the war enters its second week.

Journalist Mark Bowden, who has profiled Saddam's brutal regime, wrote yesterday in the New York Times that he had devised "a strategy both cunning and cruel, and it may work."

'ASYMMETRICAL WARFARE'; SADDAM USING VIETNAM-STYLE TACTICS; PLAYING TO WORLD OPINION

It's far too early to suggest that Saddam has outsmarted the Pentagon war machine or the president he ridiculed last week as "little Bush." But while U.S. war planners mapped out a futuristic "shock and awe" strategy never tested under fire, Hussein looked back to what worked for Ho Chi Minh, his idol Stalin, and the ancient Chinese philosopher Sun Tzu.

Saddam's strategy is 180 degrees different from 1991. Rather than confrontation in an open battlefield, it relies on "asymmetrical warfare" - unorthodox guerrilla and terror tactics to harass and pin down U.S. troops while blurring the lines between civilians and soldiers.

Paramilitary troops loyal to Saddam mingle among women and children, cruise the desert unnoticed in pickups, bring down a U.S. helicopter with small arms fire from under palm trees, and fake a surrender before spraying U.S. Marines with bullets.

Saddam and his generals hope these paramilitaries, known as Fedayeen Saddam, or "those willing to die for Saddam," will ultimately take part in deadly urban warfare for control of Baghdad.

Indeed, many experts have wondered if Saddam's ultimate goal is to relive the bloody 1942-43 Battle of Stalingrad, in which Stalin's Soviet army lost as many as 1 million men but defeated the German 6th Army in the worst urban battle ever.

They speculate that Saddam is banking on a "Baghdadograd" strategy that allows coalition forces to push through the outer defense only to be caught between the Baghdad defenders and a rear-guard action by Republican Guard troops.

It wouldn't be the first time that Saddam has emulated the late Soviet tyrant. Saddam's cult of personality and much of his state security apparatus - blamed for the torture, imprisonment or death of tens of thousands of political prisoners - is directly modeled after Stalin. The Iraqi dictator has been known to quote Stalin: "If there is no person, there is no problem."

But military strategists say that Saddam figured out by the mid-1990s that to have any hope of repelling a second U.S. assault, he would have to study the guerrilla tactics that worked for the Vietcong and apply them to the Iraqi desert.

"He's trying to activate the Vietnam syndrome," said Gregory Urwin, the Temple University military historian. "If he could show some bodies and show some POWs, he figured he could shake America's confidence in a way that people would rise up and say, 'No more war.' "

Kohlmann, the terrorism expert, said "Saddam was impressed by what he saw in Mogadishu," where in 1993 a street mob downed two U.S. helicopters.

The next year, Kohlmann said, Saddam decided to create his own paramilitary force and base it on similar units in the terrorist organizations Hamas and Islamic Jihad.

The Fedayeen Saddam, run by the dictator's brutal son Odai, was a motley crew at first, but over time they received terrorist-camp training and even wore black attire that evoked the Vietcong. Showered with more money and privileges than most Iraqis, the Fedayeen - numbered from 25,000 and 60,000 - grew fiercely loyal to Saddam.

Now that the war is here, the Fedayeen are not only battling U.S. troops, but they are also threatening to kill any Iraqi troops who want to surrender and any citizens who show support for the Americans.

They cruise the desert highways in Toyota pickups, eluding the satellites and air power that destroyed so many tanks and armored personnel carriers in 1991.

Experts say there's no way these tactics can defeat the U.S. and British troops, especially with tens of thousands more soldiers en route to the Gulf.

'ASYMMETRICAL WARFARE'; SADDAM USING VIETNAM-STYLE TACTICS; PLAYING TO WORLD
OPINION

But Saddam apparently thinks they can prolong the war and boost both American and civilian casualties to the point where there is growing distaste for the war - in the United States and around the world.

"He's waiting for us to get to Baghdad, under the theory that enough guys are willing to go down with him that he'll force us to battle one house at a time," said John Pike, of globalsecurity.org, a military think tank.

"We were gambling we could hit him in the head with a ball-peen hammer," he said, " and the whole thing would fly apart."

Load-Date: March 28, 2003

End of Document

Middle East crisis: Gaza attack: The only question was when revenge would come. At dawn, it came to Jabaliya: Three young boys among the dead after Israeli tanks enter Palestinian refugee camp

The Guardian (London)

March 7, 2003

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Section: Guardian Home Pages, Pg. 4

Length: 1010 words

Byline: Chris McGreal in Jabaliya, Gaza

Body

Naji Abu Jalila paid a high price for the murders in Haifa. The young Palestinian fireman had no hand in the suicide bombing hundreds of miles away that prompted Israeli forces to tear into a Gaza refugee camp in the early hours of yesterday morning.

But the end result was what many Palestinians saw as Israel responding to terror with terror; according to them, one of its tanks lobbed a shell into a group of firefighters battling a blaze in a furniture store while hundreds of civilians looked on.

Eight people died, among them three boys aged 12, 13 and 14. Thirty-year-old Naji Abu Jalila was cut down while dragging a heavy canvas hose towards the heart of the fire.

Even before the Israeli army helicopters were heard thumping their way in to Gaza shortly after midnight, almost everyone in the strip assumed an attack was in the offing to make someone pay for the murders of 15 Israeli students and soldiers by a suicide bomber on a Haifa bus just hours earlier.

The only question was where the assault would come and how many it would leave dead. Jabaliya, a refugee camp in the north of the strip, discovered it was the place as Israeli tanks crashed through the streets. In total, 11 lives were lost. The army said it was in search of "a senior Hamas terrorist", Abed Al Karim Ziada, and would blow up his home because it was a weapons factory.

The soldiers got their man amid four hours of fighting in Jabaliya's narrow streets as troops were bombarded by automatic gunfire and grenades, and responded in kind.

Under the circumstances, perhaps that night's death toll of two Palestinian fighters and a nightwatchman would seem relatively low were it not for the trauma inflicted on thousands of Jabaliya's children and other innocent residents from hours of terror as they were forced to squirm under beds and into cupboards to escape flying bullets.

The carnage came at dawn on the corners of Al-Quds and Al-Awda streets.

At about 6am, a booby-trapped bomb went off as an Israeli armoured car passed by, ripping the heavy metal caterpillar track off one side of the vehicle; later that day fascinated Palestinian children danced on its remains. The blast also set fire to a furniture store and a three-storey block of flats.

Middle East crisis: Gaza attack: The only question was when revenge would come. At dawn, it came to Jabaliya : Three young boys among the dead after Israeli tank....

What happened next is the subject of vigorous dispute.

The Palestinian fire brigade arrived and, once an Israeli tank withdrew, began tackling the blaze. Residents poured onto the streets to watch.

The lead fireman at the scene, Kamal Daher, said he did not know the tank was back until the shell dropped.

"When we began to work, the Israeli tank was standing back where people couldn't see it. Because the tanks stopped firing, people thought they'd withdrawn. Suddenly the tank fired a shell and bullets at the same time," he said.

The shell dropped close to the firemen and crowd, scattering shrapnel the length of the street. "I was dazed," Mr Daher said. "Naji was operating the hose and I had gone to call for more engines because it was a big fire. I was wounded and put in the ambulance with Naji. I tried to talk to him but he was only making noises."

Some of the shrapnel lodged below Mr Daher's right eye and scattered across his back after tearing through his thick fireman's coat.

Naji Abu Jalila was dead by the time he reached hospital.

"The Israeli soldiers wanted to trick us and kill more people as revenge for the operation in Haifa," Mr Daher said.

The Israeli army admits there was a tank two streets away and that it fired a shell at about that time. But the military claims the shell was aimed at "a couple of men about to fire rocket propelled grenades" and it landed nowhere near the crowd. "The (Israeli army) has no explanation for either explosion. The tank shell that was fired was two streets away," said an army spokeswoman.

Explosion

Television footage backed Palestinian claims by confirming that the explosion occurred in the street not in the store, and close to the firemen and watching crowd.

The Palestinians scorn the Israeli account, but an hour or so after the blast that was not their main concern.

Hundreds packed into the hospital morgue in search of relatives and neighbours. As the silver doors of each slab swung open, a few faces peered at the con torted corpses that had been bandaged while the victim still clung to life.

Mostly there was horror but no recognition. But then a terrible wail went up as one middle-aged man spotted his son. His cries were drowned out by a chant of "Allah Akbar" rising from the crowd before the distraught father was carried from the hospital.

The wards were packed with the more fortunate, and their relatives. The head of casualty, Dr Moavia Abu Hasanin, was furious. He began to smash his hand down onto his desk to represent each death while his staff pleaded with him to calm down.

Others found relief where they expected tragedy. Someone had told Fatima El Madhoun that her son, Ibrahim, was among the dead, so her entire family piled into their car to drive to the hospital. In their desperation to get there, the driver crashed and they had to continue on foot.

"The whole family came to see the body only to discover he is alive," Mrs Madhoun said. "The night was one of the most terrifying of my life. We could hear the shooting all around, the helicopters. But I am so glad my son is alive."

After the Israelis pulled back, the men in black from al-Aqsa Martyrs Brigade took up position on Jabaliya's battered roads, guns in hand, faces covered in mesh like Islam's more orthodox women.

Middle East crisis: Gaza attack: The only question was when revenge would come. At dawn, it came to
Jabaliya : Three young boys among the dead after Israeli tan....

They drew admiring looks from young boys, giving every impression of commanding the street. But the destruction stood as a testament to the fact that another army is the real power in Gaza.

A few hours after the attack, the Israelis brought more tanks into the strip. Word quickly spread to Jabaliya, and crowds of people stampeded to escape what they feared was the return of the army.

A small boy, no more than seven years old, stumbled down the road, his face frozen in panic until he screamed at the top of his lungs: "Mama, they're coming."

Load-Date: March 7, 2003

End of Document

Why A.N.S.W.E.R. won't get a dime from Monday's anti-war rally here

LANCASTER NEW ERA (LANCASTER, PA.)

February 28, 2003, Friday

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Section: COMMENTARY,

Length: 917 words

Byline: Mitch Sommers, Special to the New Era

Body

Dissent in America carries with it certain obligations, starting with the obligation to make sure that the people you are aligning yourselves with aren't worse than the people you are protesting. Which is why it's worth noting, and praising, a group in Lancaster that understands that.

On Monday, at the Mulberry Art Studios in Lancaster, the ancient Greek playwright Aristophanes' anti-war play "Lysistrata" will be the subject of a public reading. You may remember that one from high school or college; it's the play where the women of Athens hold out... well, let's just say they hold out... until the men agree to stop waging war. And it's being read by actors on the same day in all 50 states and in 43 countries as a protest to the looming war with Iraq.

#DISSENT.ERN0pte#

The Web site for the Lysistrata Project lists numerous anti-war groups that local readers can give their money to. The Lancaster organizers -- Casey Clapp and Adele Ulrich -- previously indicated that the proceeds for the reading would, in part, benefit A.N.S.W.E.R., one of the groups that's organized protests in New York City and Washington, D.C. Now, however, they aren't. They've rejected giving that group a penny of their money.

The original press release for the project listed A.N.S.W.E.R. as one of a group of "nonprofit organizations that promote peace and oppose racism." A more misleading statement about the goals and aims of A.N.S.W.E.R. it is impossible to craft. Let's be blunt. A.N.S.W.E.R. opposes peace. They support racism.

International A.N.S.W.E.R. -- Act Now to Stop War and End Racism, if you were wondering what the acronym means -- is run by members of the Workers World Party. And if you are thinking that something called the "Workers World Party" sounds, not to put too fine a point on it, kind of Marxist, guess what? You'd be right. Indeed, it would be quite accurate to call A.N.S.W.E.R. a front for the Workers World Party.

Now, the Workers World Party claims to be opposed to war with Saddam Hussein. And they are. But not because they think war is bad in principle, or even because war with Saddam would be counterproductive. They are opposed to the war because, to quote one of their editorial writers, "Iraq has done absolutely nothing wrong." In fact, they have actively supported Saddam and his Ba'athist thug party for years.

They are a consistent bunch, though. They don't think Slobodan Milosevic has done anything wrong, either, and he shouldn't be on trial for slaughtering Bosnians and Kosovars.

Why A.N.S.W.E.R. won't get a dime from Monday's anti-war rally here

They don't think Kim Jong-Il, that happy-go-lucky guy running North Korea, has done anything wrong. Or Fidel Castro, for that matter. They supported Beijing even after they turned students into tank fodder at Tianamen Square. They support Hamas's suicide bombers. They support Iran's repressive regime.

Perhaps you are wondering at this point, is there anyone these guys don't like? Trust me, there is. And it's the two groups that kooks on the fringe can always be counted on to hate -- Jews and Americans.

They have a miserable record of opposing not just policies of Israel but Israel's right to exist. And they have kicked out of anti-war rallies Jewish speakers who opposed war with Iraq but who made the mistake of thinking that Israel has a right to exist as a nation.

This includes a guy by the name of Michael Lerner, who is about as liberal as they come, but still, in A.N.S.W.E.R.'s eyes, committed the unpardonable sin of being a rabbi who supported Israel.

As far as America goes, they have the usual idiocies about imperialism, but with this charming twist. To quote one of their number, their goal is "to build a powerful American Servicemen's Union that will turn the guns against their fascist officers...."

Let me stop for a moment and make something extremely clear. There are people in this country who believe that anyone, regardless of their reasons, who opposes the war in Iraq automatically deserves nothing less than a well appointed cage in Guantanamo.

I'm not one of those people. A belief in the right of dissent is not only part of, but inseparable from, the values for which we are preparing to wage warfare in the first place. There are millions of Americans who oppose war with Iraq. I think they are profoundly wrong to hold that view. But, for the most part, we disagree with honor and respect and mutual love of this country.

Note those words: for the most part. There are exceptions. A.N.S.W.E.R, and the slime who run it, are Exhibit A on the exceptions list. And Casey Clapp and Adele Ulrich deserve praise for getting it, for not believing, as one anti-war organizer stupidly said at a Maryland anti-war rally, "we can't divide the peace movement, you know."

Of course you can divide it. You can divide it between the people who care about peace and the people who don't. In an interview, Ms. Ulrich stated that the money that would have been going to A.N.S.W.E.R will instead be going to a local organization, Ambassador for Peace, which works with elementary school children to, in her words, "become the peace we all want to see in the world, one child at a time." They rejected giving any of that money to A.N.S.W.E.R because "we want to foster a tolerant, egalitarian world."

Good words, Adele. I hope all Lancastrians keep them in mind the next time you go to an anti-war rally, or sign a petition to send to Congress or give some anti-war group your money.

Honorable dissent in America requires nothing less.

Mitch Sommers, an attorney, lives in Ephrata.

Load-Date: March 4, 2003

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Santa Fe New Mexican (New Mexico)

January 06, 2002, Sunday

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Section: Opine; Pg. F-7

Length: 916 words

Body

Handless cell-phone devices are just the ticket

I strongly believe that officers should be looking to ticket cell-phone users.

I drive every day in the city, and especially in the Plaza area. I've noticed on countless occasions people using cell phones and driving rather recklessly, running stop signs and using no signals.

Both hands (need to be) on the wheel and the mind on the controls - not phones. Using headsets or other handless devices is strongly suggested.

Julian Sanchez

Santa Fe

via e-mail

Undocumented setup

The setup of using drunken-driving roadblocks to arrest undocumented immigrants is, at best, shameful behavior on the part of both the Border Patrol and the state police. I don't think it was coincidental for the article to appear on the Feast of Holy Innocents.

For the state police to participate in such action diminishes the integrity and honor of an otherwise fine law-enforcement agency. What part of the inscription on the Statue of Liberty welcoming the poor and hungry is not understood? The undocumented come to America seeking a better life for themselves and their families.

I'm the child of an undocumented immigrant and proud of it. My mother became an LPN in World War II and served this country in New Haven, Conn., hospitals so others could serve overseas. Much of her pay, during and after the war, went back to Ireland to help her impoverished brothers and sisters.

I don't think too much has changed.

The Rev. Richard W. Murphy

rector

St. Bede's Episcopal Church

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Santa Fe

via e-mail

Book burning

Regarding your article on the front page (Dec. 31) about the church in Alamogordo burning books: I guess I have definite opinions on this, but this seems stupid and extreme.

If they are so worried about these children's books and such turning their kids to tampering with witchcraft and such, maybe they should look closer to home and not to these books -- try figuring out what at home is wrong, what is lacking for their children instead of looking to something else to blame (if) their kids go wrong.

The truth is that the majority of kids go the wrong way (because) they are lacking structure -- or even caring, listening parents at home. Sometimes it just takes listening and caring about what a kid does or says that makes the difference.

For them to blame fun books about a fantasy world for their problems at home is ridiculous. The Harry Potter books hardly teach kids to become witches, etc. Maybe they should try reading the books first.

Lisa Stephenson

Santa Fe

via e-mail

Not full picture

Does anyone here in the U.S.A. really believe that it will be "wonderful" when Palestinians can live on both sides of the Green Line and Jews can only live on one side of the Green Line? These are just some of the publicly stated goals that Arafat, PLO, Hamas, Hezbollah and other terrorists and anti-Jewish groups in the Middle East established even before the 1967 Six Day War -- and still want.

Just think, can it be possible that we are helping to get places like Shomron to be Judenriden or rid of the "filthy" Jews (as the PA and PLO have said) -- just like the Nazis did in certain areas of Europe?

But then the good ol' U.S.A. will reward these politically correct terrorists with a nation of their own.

Get hold of the Arab literature coming from the Palestinians and see how they view Israel eventually disappearing completely under future wars. They have pictures and graphics of Palestinians stomping all Jews out of the Middle East, sometimes with blood flowing from Jewish bodies.

There are lots of records (evidence) of Arafat plotting and killing Jews even before the Six Day War. The picture is bigger than what you see.

Catherine Sidoti

Los Alamos

via e-mail

Pro Patti

Patti Bushee has my vote for mayor. What a tenacious, passionate, hard-working and outspoken Santa Fean we have working for us all.

Viva Bushee!

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Susan Robinson

Santa Fe

via e-mail

'Justice for all...'

Cecilia Gonzales (letters, Dec. 26) asked, "Where in our Constitution does it say that the rights we have as Americans are to be extended to everyone in the world?"

The answer lies within the Declaration of Independence: "We hold these truths to be self-evident, that all men are created equal, that they are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable Rights, that among these are Life, Liberty and the pursuit of Happiness."

Americans and others around the world have struggled for centuries to make "all" mean all -- to include blacks, minorities, women and a host of others within the light of the Declaration's beneficence. Now is not the time to make "all" mean "only some of us."

Terrorism is a serious evil to be faced with courage and strength. But, when we act to deny basic rights to select groups of people, we erode our moral authority and our ethical core. By casting doubt on our national integrity, we ultimately reduce our effectiveness.

Jenny Felmley

Santa Fe

via e-mail

Locked in?

At this time of year many syndicated columnists publish mea culpa pieces in which they acknowledge their errors of the past 12 months. In the Dec. 30 New Mexican, Dave Broder credits Barry Mackintosh, an old friend of mine from National Park Service days, with catching him in overlooking the fact that China is a communist country.

Barry's achievement motivates me to comment on The New Mexican's headline above the Broder piece: "As year ends, yet another pundit tugs forelock."

Whose forelock? As evidenced by the columnist's photograph, Broder does not have one of his own.

Jerry L. Rogers

Santa Fe

via e-mail

Load-Date: January 7, 2002

NEWS SUMMARY

The New York Times
September 28, 2002 Saturday
Late Edition - Final

Copyright 2002 The New York Times Company

Section: Section A; Column 3; Metropolitan Desk; Pg. 2

Length: 1175 words

Body

INTERNATIONAL A3-8

White House Proposal Puts Onus on Iraq

The Bush administration has drafted a plan that essentially declares that Iraq has already violated its obligations to the United Nations and authorizes the use of military force if Iraq interferes with weapons inspections, according to European and American officials. A1

Palestinians Rally in Gaza

Israel acknowledged that a strike had failed to kill its intended target, a bombmaker for Hamas. Chanting for vengeance, thousands of Palestinians rallied in Gaza. Meanwhile, Yasir Arafat, the Palestinian leader, remained under siege in Ramallah. A3

Curfew on Palestinians

Israel placed a total curfew on the Palestinians in Hebron in order to allow thousands of Jews to make the annual pilgrimage to the Tomb of the Patriarchs, revered by Jews and Muslims as the burial place of Abraham. There was violence, and some felt the week's tourism was a needless provocation. A3

Afghan Warlords Fight Again

Fighting has broken out between rival commanders in a mountainous area in northern Afghanistan, just weeks after the main factions agreed to disarm their men and prevent further clashes. Security officials played down the incident, saying it was a local dispute and denying reports of any casualties. Reuters reported that 17 people were killed. A11

Mexico's Oil Union Crisis

President Vicente Fox of Mexico worked to stave off a strike at the state-run energy company, Pemex, which is the leading supplier of foreign oil to the United States. A walkout would cripple the economy and damage Mr. Fox's often troubled presidency. A4

Brazilian Candidate Confident

NEWS SUMMARY

Luiz Inacio Lula da Silva, the favorite in presidential elections in Brazil, saw his chances further strengthened when a faction of a crucial political party in Rio de Janeiro state threw its weight behind his left-wing campaign, abandoning the ruling party's candidate. A7

Deadly Ferry Accident

More than 760 are feared dead after an ocean ferry capsized off West Africa in a fierce gale. Searches recovered 88 bodies and reported seeing others trapped inside the hull. Only 32 survivors were reported. A8

NATIONAL A12-15

Liberals Are Reluctant To Back Bush's Iraq Policy

Liberal Democrats, led by Edward M. Kennedy of Massachusetts, voiced reservations about giving President Bush a free hand to attack Iraq before a new, tougher set of United Nations inspections is put into effect. A1

Cheney and Congress in Court

A federal judge heard arguments from lawyers for Vice President Dick Cheney and Congress's General Accounting Office over which branch of government's claim is paramount: the executive power to keep records confidential or the legislative right to investigate how public money is spent. A1

Salmon Deaths Provoke Anger

The death of more than 10,000 chinook salmon has pressured the Bush administration to release emergency water to fish trapped in warm, shallow pools of the Klamath River, reversing a six-month-old decision that favored farmers. A1

Arguing Over Wiretaps

The Justice Department has accused the nation's super-secret wiretap court of improperly trying to "micromanage" the workings of the executive branch, possibly in violation of the Constitution. A11

New Rules Grant Fetus Rights

The Bush administration issued final rules allowing states to define a fetus as a child eligible for government-subsidized health care. A13

Western Ports Under Lockout

West Coast port operators shut down cargo terminals from Seattle to Los Angeles, in effect locking out unionized longshoremen. A15

Boston Church Secures Loan

The Roman Catholic Archdiocese of Boston secured a \$12.5 million mortgage loan from the Knights of Columbus in an effort to maintain its daily operations and charitable organizations. A12

Beliefs A15

SCIENCE/HEALTH

West Nile Virus in Breast Milk

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention said that women with documented West Nile virus infections may wish to consult with their doctors about breast-feeding after traces of the virus were found in the breast milk of a new mother. A12

NEW YORK/REGION B1-6

NEWS SUMMARY

9/11 Assistance Program Flooded by Applications

The Individual and Family Assistance program, described by officials as a safety net for those who lost their jobs or had their property damaged as a result of the World Trade Center disaster, has given grants to only a fraction of the people who applied. Program officials say they have not even reviewed more than half of the nearly 73,000 requests for aid they have received. A1

Kennedy Shuttle Train Derails

A futuristic three-car elevated train, the precursor of a \$1.9 billion automated light rail system that is expected to carry 32 million air travelers a year to and from Kennedy International Airport, derailed on a test run, killing its operator. A1

Street Plan Faces Opposition

Planners have proposed that West Street should be buried and covered with a tree-lined pedestrian promenade. But a growing number of Battery Park City residents fear that a decade-long construction project will isolate their neighborhood. B1

ARTS & IDEAS B7-16

SPORTS D1-7

Pressure on Augusta Continues

The National Council of Women's Organizations sent letters to seven members of Augusta National Golf Club to press the club, the host of the Masters, to admit women by next year. D3

Boxer Disputes Test Result

The executive director of the Nevada Athletic Commission said that Fernando Vargas, left, the two-time junior middleweight champion, had tested positive for a steroid after his loss to Oscar De La Hoya two weeks ago. Vargas disputed the claim. D6

OBITUARIES A18

Warren E. Burnett

A whiskey-swigging, Shakespeare-quoting Texas lawyer who achieved near-legendary status by defending the powerless, he was 75. A18

BUSINESS DAY C1-16

Sharp Drop in Stock Prices

Stocks plunged as investors were served earnings disappointments and weak economic data. The Dow was down 295.67 points, or 3.7 percent, to 7,701.45. C1

Vegas Casino to Go Online

MGM Mirage plans to start an Internet casino, the first American casino to offer table games to gamblers on home computers. C1

Former Tyco Chief Makes Bail

L. Dennis Kozlowski, the former Tyco International chief executive charged with looting \$600 million from the company, was allowed to remain free while awaiting trial after a judge accepted \$10 million in bail put up by his ex-wife. C2

Salomon Seeks Settlement

NEWS SUMMARY

Officials from Salomon Smith Barney met enforcement staff members at the Securities and Exchange Commission to propose a settlement of the investigation of conflicts of interest between analysts and investment bankers. C1

Russians Coming to Discuss Oil

American and Russian energy officials will meet in Houston next week to discuss energy cooperation as concern over world oil supplies rise with the possibility of a war against Iraq. C2

Business Digest C1

EDITORIAL A16-17

Editorials: More than one option on Iraq; giving the designers a chance; the schools' new carrot; read this slowly.

Column: Frank Rich.

Bridge B15

TV Listings B16

Crossword B12

Weather D8

<http://www.nytimes.com>

Graphic

Photos

Load-Date: September 28, 2002

Picked off as they staggered from a bus: Seven Israeli settlers killed in planned raid - the first fatal attack by militants since reoccupation of West Bank

The Guardian (London)

July 17, 2002

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Section: Guardian Home Pages, Pg. 3

Length: 1007 words

Byline: Suzanne Goldenberg in Emmanuel, West Bank

Body

The attack was planned with deadly precision. A roadside bomb brought bus 189 to a shuddering halt on a lonely hillside, and three Palestinian gunmen, dressed in olive drab army uniforms - similar to those worn by the Israeli army - picked off the passengers as they stumbled out into the afternoon sunshine.

Yesterday's commando-style operation - the first fatal attack since June 20 when the Israeli army swept into the West Bank and occupied seven Palestinian towns - killed seven and injured 16, including a woman in her ninth month of pregnancy, who gave birth by caesarean.

The isolated roads in this part of the West Bank have been killing grounds for Jewish settlers since the start of the Palestinian uprising 22 months ago. Last December a lone gunman killed 10 Israelis in a bus ambush on this same stretch of road, and the people of Emmanuel took precautions.

Bus 189 was armour-plated: sufficiently defended, it was thought, from the threat of drive-by shootings by Palestinian militants. But it carried no guards. When the bomb exploded at about 2.45pm, detonated by a remote control device hidden in the scrub that coats these rocky hills, the vehicle rolled for several metres.

But the nightmare did not end there. When the passengers tried to escape, reassured, perhaps, by the sight of three men in army uniform, the gunmen opened up at close range and tossed home-made grenades into the bus.

"We busted in the door to the bus," Yitzhak Kaufman, an Israeli paramedic, told reporters. "It was a shocking scene. **Women** and children were lying on the floor, bleeding and screaming for help."

The attack went on for several minutes before the three Palestinians scrambled back down the slope and disappeared. They killed several children and injured two 12-year-olds and a baby.

"When I got there, an explosion and smoke went 10 metres high and stones flew over the road," said Yitzhak Yazdi, a taxi driver. "I saw two terrorists who were running away from the road and they hid behind a rock."

Avrams Cohen, the ultra-orthodox Jewish settlement's security chief, said he had raced to the scene in his car after a wounded passenger approached the settlement's gate. "He said there'd been a terrorist attack," Mr Cohen told Israel's Channel 10 news. "I drove . . . to the bus and opened my car door and didn't see anyone. I waited a bit and then suddenly three Israeli soldiers emerged from behind the bus."

Picked off as they staggered from a bus: Seven Israeli settlers killed in planned raid - the first fatal attack by militants since reoccupation of West Bank

"I asked them if I could help them, but before I could finish the sentence all three started shooting at me."

He said he had run to his bulletproof car, thrown it into reverse and screeched back towards the settlement, where the engine died after he reached safety.

After the ambush an Israeli army helicopter rattled high above the hills, trying to pick up the gunmen's trail, and dozens of army jeeps gathered at a nearby command centre. Emergency workers in white plastic suits scraped up human remains from the roadside.

The bus was on a regular afternoon run from Bnei Brak, a town in central Israel that is a centre of ultra-orthodox life. Most of the 400 families in Emmanuel are ultra-orthodox Jews, who believe that Jewish settlement of the West Bank is part of God's mission. The illegal outpost is one of the most isolated in the West Bank, but the armour plating of the bus gave travellers some measure of security.

Yesterday, even that was destroyed. The bus listed into a hillside with its windows blown out, and shards of glass strewn across the road that climbs to Emmanuel. The coarse grasses that line the road were spattered in blood. Pieces of the bus tumbled into the valley.

"A pure assassination, a terror ambush," said Shachar Ayalon, the West Bank police commander. "Their aim was to kill, and it was organised and supported by the Palestinian authority."

The timing of the attack will be a matter of some embarrassment to Israel's army chief, General Moshe Yaalon, who assumed his duties this month. Only hours earlier he made his first appearance before a parliamentary committee, where he said the army's occupation of the West Bank had succeeded in preventing attacks on Israel.

The relative lull in suicide bombings and shooting attacks had brought signs that the Israeli army was contemplating some relaxation of the constant curfew that has kept 700,000 Palestinians as virtual prisoners for nearly a month. There was talk yesterday of cutting back to a 12-hour overnight curfew and of allowing Palestinian labourers to return to their jobs in Israel after nearly two years. But there is little prospect of that after yesterday's attack.

"The government should destroy in Gaza all the headquarters of the Palestinians," said Ron Nachman, mayor of the settlement of Ariel, a much larger outpost just visible from Emmanuel. "If there would be 1,000 people killed in an air raid or some 5,000 people killed, so we have shouting from Europe and the world for a week and that's all."

But among Palestinians the attack will be viewed with a measure of pride. The well-executed raid and the choice of targets - a bus leading to a Jewish settlement built on occupied land - make this a more honourable type of attack than suicide bombings, at least in Palestinian eyes.

Although Yasser Arafat has repeatedly condemned suicide bombings in Israeli cities, settlers are seen as legitimate targets by Palestinian armed groups. Mr Arafat's administration departed from past form to condemn yesterday's attack, but three Palestinian armed groups were quick to claim responsibility: the Islamist militant group, **Hamas**, the al-Aqsa Martyrs' Brigades which are allied to Mr Arafat's Fatah movement, and a smaller and relatively weak faction, the Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine.

The sophistication of the attack means it could have been a joint operation. It also suggests the gunmen had military training, and could at one time have been members of the Palestinian security forces - a detail that could carry more weight than Mr Arafat's condemnation.

Special report at guardian.co.uk/israel

Load-Date: July 17, 2002

Picked off as they staggered from a bus: Seven Israeli settlers killed in planned raid - the first fatal attack by militants since reoccupation of West Bank

End of Document

Your turn

Sydney Morning Herald (Australia)

August 17, 2002 Saturday

Late Edition

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Section: GOOD WEEKEND; Letters; Pg. 8

Length: 1003 words

Body

* How opportune that "Home Truths" (July 27) by Susan Skelly was published today, as my "special" son is staying with Grandma and Pa for the weekend. This meant

I was able to read the whole article without interruption. The tears made it difficult to see the page at times, though. I have always been conscious of the potential difficulties faced by siblings of people with disabilities, and my husband and I have strived to minimise these whenever we can. Still, I was able to see so much (maybe too much?)

of the people quoted in the article in my own teenage children, and in our family life. Do I have to feel guilty all over again? Will our family survive? Time will tell. The reality is that in life we can only play the cards we're dealt. You do the best you can to play fairly, enjoy the game, and hope that the other players enjoy it, too. And you live in hope that

the next hand holds a few more trumps.

Jenny Rollo

Putney, NSW

I read "Home Truths" with great interest. As a teenage sibling of an autistic brother,

I understand the difficulties faced by families with a special needs child. However, I thank God that I have my brother just as he is. He has taught me so much about my attitudes, perceptions and priorities; I could not ever imagine, nor would I wish for, a life without him. The sacrifices and adjustments we have had to make are worthwhile. Small achievements (significant for him, though) become great cause to celebrate; life seems much simpler and sweeter when we look through his eyes.

Hannah Macauley

Forresters Beach, NSW

As a person with cerebral palsy, I would like to share some of the things I did with my brothers when I was growing up. They were never embarrassed by me, were always supportive and always involved me. They took me to soccer games with their mates

Your turn

and rock'n'roll concerts. Years later, when I became engaged, it was my brothers who convinced my parents that everything would be all right. Yes, my brothers treated me as an equal.

Dorothy Dobson

Frenchs Forest, NSW

* Dam building, on a major scale such as Adaminaby ("The Town They Drowned", July 27), is a waste of space and money, but at least the people of Adaminaby weren't left to live on the streets, discarded like rubbish. The result of dam building in India has left more than 40 million people displaced - and with no compensation. The story of Adaminaby is almost romantic, but the story of dam building worldwide is far from romantic: it's more about mass destruction, greed, homelessness and death from starvation or suicide. Dams rob people of what is rightly theirs - that is, the place they call home. And, in the case of India, a place that gives them life.

Sophia Bear

Nambucca Heads, NSW

* **Women** of Harold Scruby's generation never had the problem of the "correct" way to shake someone's hand (Your Turn, July 27). We simply did not shake hands with anyone. It was considered a social solecism for a man to offer to shake a lady's hand (the first time I saw it happen was during World War II when US troops arrived in Sydney). I always understood that handshakes between men originated in the days when they carried weapons, and the gesture was intended to demonstrate that neither party had anything up his sleeves. I envy the young Muslim woman I saw recently, who, when being introduced at a meeting I attended, declined the proffered hand of a well-intentioned man, saying sweetly: "I'm sorry, it is against my religion to shake hands with a man." How I wish I could do that.

Olwyn Mackenzie

Coffs Harbour, NSW

n Have I got this right, Samuel Baumgarten (Your Turn, July 27): there is not enough excitement in your life, and you are looking for a war to join to brighten your day? The PlayStation-like ads by the army have truly sucked you in. Obviously, the war propaganda machine works magnificently, and, with its promises of adventure and glory, there will be a steady supply of cannon fodder for al-Qaeda, the IRA, **Hamas** and so on. The devil's job is done well.

Carsten Burmeister

Cremorne, NSW

Wake up and smell the chemical weapons, Samuel Baumgarten. You may not know it, but there is a war going on somewhere in the world every day. Children are left orphaned and homeless because of the stupidity of a few. Is this the sort of world you want? Take out those aggressive tendencies on a punching bag and leave the rest of us to work towards the day when defence forces are no longer necessary.

Leanne Masters

Wodonga, Vic

* Thank you, Stephanie Dowrick, for tackling the subject of burnout (Inner Life, July 27). I have been wrestling this dark beast over the past 15 months. I had to leave my husband in charge of our business and head home interstate to recuperate and try to find a new career. Dowrick describes all the warnings and cautions I should have heeded a year earlier than I actually did.

Your turn

My husband and I now face a future somewhat different from the one we originally contemplated. But what we lack in quantity will be replaced, we hope, by quality. Remember: you can't take the material gains of this life with you. I should know. I'm now a funeral director.

Laurian Firth

Avondale Heights, Vic

* It is a crime that our politicians should deliberately destroy our shipping industry ("End of the Line?", July 20). [Federal Transport Minister] John Anderson says, "We are a shipper nation, not a shipping nation", and seeks to justify the cheapest possible shipping, regardless of all the benefits our own shipping brings to our island nation. Nor are we a nation of politicians. If we accept his argument, we should be consistent and employ Filipinos or Ukrainians as our MPs. They would be much cheaper.

David Wharington

Merricks Beach, Vic

Write to: Your Turn, Good Weekend, GPO Box 506, Sydney, NSW 2001.

Fax: (02) 9282 1628. E-mail: yourturn@mail.fairfax.com.au

Letters must be kept to 200 words, contain writer's full name, home address and daytime telephone number, and may be edited for purposes of clarity or space. NOTE: Writers using e-mail must include details of their home suburb and state.

Load-Date: July 17, 2007

Going to Camp: In Chapter 8, budding terrorist Ressam learns the ABCs of mass murder

The Gazette (Montreal, Quebec)

August 20, 2002 Tuesday Final Edition

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Section: News; Pg. B1 / BREAK; Crime; Series

Length: 1116 words

Byline: HAL BERNTON, MIKE CARTER, DAVID HEATH AND JAMES NEFF

Series: Terrorist Within

Body

Before Ahmed Ressam could leave Montreal and embark on his journey to terrorist training, jihad and glory in Allah's name, he had pressing business:

He needed a new identity. If he were a Canadian with a passport, instead of an Algerian without one, he could move around the world with ease.

He began with a blank baptismal certificate stolen from a Verdun Catholic parish. He found the name of a priest who was at the church in 1970 - his new year of birth - and forged the priest's signature on the certificate. And he created a new name, Benni Antoine Noris.

Seattle Times

That, along with a photograph, was all Ressam needed in March 1998 to get a Canadian passport. He didn't even have to take the forged certificate to the passport office himself, instead paying an acquaintance \$300 to pick it up.

Benni Noris, a Montreal native with a strangely Algerian accent, could now travel the world.

On the evening of March 16, with Canadian intelligence agents eavesdropping, Ressam said goodbye to his roommates. One of the men even cried as Ressam left to board the bus to Toronto.

Using his new name, Ressam bought an airline ticket and flew from Toronto to Frankfurt, Germany. There, he met with Al-Qa'ida contacts before flying on to Pakistan. He traveled by ground to Peshawar, perched at Afghanistan's rugged mountain border, where he met with Abu Zubaydah, the No. 3 man in Al-Qa'ida.

As a Palestinian teenager, Zubaydah had fought the Soviets in Afghanistan alongside Osama bin Laden. At 25, he was the emir of bin Laden's training camps, serving as gatekeeper and placement director. He set up cells, doled out money and helped co-ordinate Al-Qa'ida's operations around the world.

Zubaydah gave Ressam traditional Afghani robes and assigned him a trunk in which to store his Western clothes. He told him to grow a beard so he would blend in with the Afghans.

For the next three weeks, Ressam stayed at the Peshawar safe house, talking to other raw recruits, studying the Koran and praying.

Going to Camp: In Chapter 8, budding terrorist Ressam learns the ABCs of mass murder

In late April, Zubaydah gave Ressam an introductory letter and sent him by car over the Khyber Pass into Afghanistan. From there, Ressam and other recruits marched on foot down steep hills to the Khalden camp.

Khalden was a compound of four tents and four stone buildings. Recruits, 100 or so at a time, were grouped by nationality. There were Arabs from Saudi Arabia, Jordan, Yemen and Algeria, and Europeans from France, Germany, Sweden and the Chechen republic of Russia.

Among the 30 or so Algerians were two of Ressam's former roommates from the Malicorne apartment, Sahid Atmani and Moustafa Labsi. Once the Algerians finished their training, they were to be supervised by Abu Doha, an Algerian living in London.

By this time, Al-Qa'ida training was formalized. There was even a textbook, available in Arabic, French and other languages. The training incorporated methods U.S. advisers had introduced to the Afghans in the 1980s in the war with the Soviets.

Early each morning, Ressam and the others were called to formation, then sent to pray. After a meal, they went through strength and endurance training. Scarred veterans of the Afghan war taught self-defence and hand-to-hand combat, using knives, garrotes and other weapons.

Trainees practiced with small arms, assault rifles and grenade launchers provided by the Taliban, the Islamist rulers of Afghanistan. They learned about explosives and land mines. Representatives of terrorist groups, including **Hamas**, Hezbollah and Islamic Jihad, gave lectures on their organizations.

As Ressam was being trained in terrorist attacks, other Islamists pulled off two to near-perfection: on Aug. 7, 1998, powerful truck bombs shattered U.S. embassies in Kenya and Tanzania, killing 224 people and injuring more than 5,000. The Clinton administration quickly concluded that Al-Qa'ida was to blame.

On Aug. 20, U.S. navy boats in the Arabian and Red seas fired 70 cruise missiles at the training camps. Most missed their targets, and casualties were light. In Khalden, Ressam was unhurt.

That summer, Doha, the Algerian ringleader, visited bin Laden at his base in Kandahar. Doha said he had a newly trained cell of Algerians, based in Montreal, who would be available to cross into the United States and wage jihad.

By September, Ressam finished basic training and was sent to another camp, Darunta, for what amounted to terrorist graduate school. There, he took a six-week course in bomb construction. He copied into a notebook dozens of pages of notes and circuit diagrams and recipes for explosives.

Before they left Afghanistan one by one, the Algerians discussed potential U.S. targets - an airport, an Israeli embassy, a military base. They decided the blast should coincide with the millennium.

In mid-January 1999, Ressam left Afghanistan with his notebook, \$12,000 in cash, and - unknown to him - a budding case of malaria. His assignment: rent a safe house in Canada, buy passports and weapons, build a bomb to be used in the United States.

On his way back to North America, he stopped in Peshawar to pick up his Western clothes and shave his beard. Based on his training about which airlines were lax in security, Ressam flew Asiana Airlines to Seoul, then to Los Angeles International Airport, where he waited for a flight to Canada.

It was the morning of Feb. 7, 1999. At a U.S. checkpoint, an agent stopped him and took his passport. In his bag, Ressam carried a notebook with bomb recipes. He also carried a shampoo bottle filled with glycol and a Tylenol bottle of hexamine tablets - two key ingredients for a bomb.

The Immigration and Naturalization Service agent checked the name Benni Noris and the passport number against a computerized watch list. Although Canadian authorities had photographed Ressam leaving for an Al-Qa'ida camp, the U.S. INS was clueless.

Going to Camp: In Chapter 8, budding terrorist Ressam learns the ABCs of mass murder

Ressam was allowed to pass.

He took his first look around the United States, the Great Satan. Families in Mickey Mouse garb. Men carrying golf clubs. Dark-suited women talking on cellphones.

Scouting the L.A. airport, one of the world's busiest, Ressam decided it was a perfect place to put his training into action.

- The Terrorist Within continues tomorrow with Chapter 9: "A Bunch of Guys"

Terrorist Within

- See the ticket Ahmed Ressam bought to Frankfurt, Germany: http://seattletimes.nwsources.com/art/news/nation_world/terroristwithin/airline_ticket.pdf

- Read excerpts from the Al-Qa'ida training manual: <http://www.usdoj.gov/ag/trainingmanual.htm>

- Have you missed earlier chapters in this series? Our Web site has an archive of the pieces that have run so far. You can find it at canada.com/national/features/terrorist

Load-Date: August 20, 2002

Letters from readers

Star Tribune (Minneapolis, MN)

July 28, 2002, Sunday, Metro Edition

Copyright 2002 Star Tribune

Section: NEWS; Pg. 28A

Length: 1171 words

Body

DNR oversight needed

I don't know J.M. Colosimo, the attorney who successfully challenged in court the conservation officer who _ without probable cause _ wanted to inspect his boat, but he obviously knew what he was doing ("Court limits DNR in boat searches," July 24).

However, I do know that we need to preserve our state's natural resources.

Most sportsmen follow the rules, but some break the rules and need to be punished. To do this, conservation officers need to be able to spot-check hunters and fisherman when they're in the field or on the lakes.

We need to keep everyone honest and preserve our fabulous natural resource opportunities.

A simple remedy would be to add a statement on hunting and fishing licenses granting Minnesota conservation officers the right to inspect all license holders and their vehicles.

_ Bob Wetmore, Redwood Falls, Minn.

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Invitation to poachers

"Welcome, poachers!" That is what the signs at our borders may as well say if the unbelievably misguided decision by the state Appeals Court is allowed to stand.

If game wardens can't check stringers or game bags in order to enforce wildlife limits, then it will be nearly impossible to stop poachers. You can bet that there will be plenty who will gleefully take advantage of the situation.

It is way past time that the state Supreme Court put a stop to the nonsense that has been emanating from the lower court in recent months and apply the law as it was meant to be done _ with common sense.

_ Greg Hokanson, Pine Island, Minn.

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Israel needs to atone

Letters from readers

Sheik Salah Shehadeh, the Hamas leader, had the blood of dozens of Jews and Palestinians on his hands. Israel put an end to his killing in its bombing in Gaza last week. He will not be missed.

But the innocent civilians killed by that bomb will be missed, and Israel is responsible for their deaths. It was not a simple error: Anyone knows that a one-ton bomb dropped on an apartment building will kill innocent civilians.

Now it is time for an Israeli response _ not for damage control, but for admission of guilt, contrition, reassessment, atonement.

I know that other nations, including our own, have been guilty of wanton violence in the name of national defense.

I know that, unlike Palestinian suicide bombers, Israel did not target the innocent in its attack. I know that Israel must continue to seek out murderers, for justice, for deterrence and for defense.

But this action was wrong. Israel failed to live up to its own high standards of compassion in battle, and we American Jews, who speak loudly in support of a safe, secure Israel, must own up to its failures as well.

_ Rabbi Yosi Gordon, St. Paul.

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Sierra Club rejects Garst

We have heard much about the political antics in Minnesota's Second Congressional District.

To set the record straight: The Sierra Club does not endorse or support Sam Garst's decision to file as a candidate in the race under the No New Taxes Party.

The Sierra Club does whole-heartedly support Rep. Bill Luther. His long-standing support for clean air and water and for protecting special places has made him an environmental champion in Congress.

The Republican Party is claiming that Garst's stunt could mislead thousands of voters. The Sierra Club believes that Minnesotans and Second District voters are smarter than that.

Our strong tradition of civic involvement and environmental concern will have much more to do with the election outcome than the misguided actions of overzealous individuals.

_ Scott Elkins, state director, Sierra Club, North Star Chapter, Minneapolis.

.

A bad lesson learned early

If restrictive zoning laws result in minors being allowed to enter strip clubs, then give the club some other place to go ("Dancers don clothes at adult club," July 25).

The Pure Gold Gentlemen's Club must remain an adult-use business because allowing minors to frequent the club is dangerous.

Strip clubs distort women's sexuality, appearance and behavior, providing an inaccurate image of what a woman is.

Teenagers are still discovering their sexuality and exploring how it relates to members of the opposite sex.

The influence of a strip club on these important developments sets teenagers up for abusive and demeaning attitudes toward women and their sexuality.

Letters from readers

_ Libby Winters, Falcon Heights.

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Reform can't be voluntary

John J. Labosky claims that it's business' nature to reform without government intervention, and holds Merrill Lynch up as a prime example ("Business is able to clean up its own act," July 24).

That is a gross misrepresentation of the facts. Merrill Lynch reformed _ and paid a \$100 million fine _ to settle a lawsuit brought against it by the attorney general of New York.

It did not reform out of the goodness of its heart; it reformed because of a government lawsuit. I'm willing to bet that many corporations will need a similar incentive.

_ Hannah Clark, St. Paul.

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Little hope on horizon

WorldCom, Enron and the plummeting Dow _ they all seem to be affecting my retirement fund.

Other than thinking I'll be working until I'm 75, there's not much I can do about it, though, so I might as well relax and read a good book.

However, I don't know whether I feel frustration or consolation upon reading about the country's first corporate debacle in Stephen E. Ambrose's "Nothing Like It in the World: The Men Who Built the Transcontinental Railroad 1865-1869." He describes the late 1860s financial shenanigans of the Union Pacific Railroad.

More than 130 years later, and now President Bush is really going to fix it?

Hey, boss, better make that retirement age 90 years old!

_ Kathleen Foley, Northfield, Minn.

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Where was Clinton?

The Star Tribune editorial blaming President Bush and the Bush economic team for failing to "take charge" of a downward spiral in the stock market misses the point.

It criticizes current administration officials and implores Bush to hire a "Republican Robert Rubin."

Where were Rubin and President Bill Clinton when the market was being ridiculously oversold and inflated into a bubble that would inevitably burst?

While Federal Reserve Chairman Alan Greenspan was at least warning investors of "irrational exuberance," Clinton and Rubin were taking credit for the unprecedented '90s prosperity, as evidenced by the stock market.

_ Jeff Carlstrom, New Ulm, Minn.

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Taken literally

Letters from readers

Perhaps arch strict-constructionist Supreme Court Justice Antonin Scalia, who believes the Constitution does not evolve and means only what it meant to the authors ("Death penalty in a democracy," July 21), can explain that to Attorney General John Ashcroft, who has recently discovered in the Second Amendment an individual, private right to keep and bear arms.

Scalia can inform him that the arms referred to can only be the muzzle-loading, black-powder flintlocks available in the 18th century when the Constitution was written.

_ John Sherman, Moorhead, Minn.

Load-Date: July 29, 2002

End of Document

Middle East crisis: As curfew bites, a handful of men bring hope to the trapped: Hebron Fire brigade on missions of mercy in one of seven cities turned prison

The Guardian (London)

June 29, 2002

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Section: Guardian Home Pages, Pg. 4

Length: 977 words

Byline: Suzanne Goldenberg in Hebron, West Bank

Body

They are the last free men of Hebron, Nisar Jabari and his crew. A blast shakes the windows of the fire station - as the Israeli soldiers blow up what they say is a bomb in the building next door - and the men are off, clambering into their red fire engine and screeching through the locked down, shuttered streets of this city under curfew.

"This is our protection," Mr Jabari says, tugging a thumb under his fluorescent orange vest. That and the fire engine.

By some peculiarity or whim of the Israeli military commander, the city's fire brigade alone was granted dispensation from the curfew that has turned Hebron and six other cities of the West Bank into open-air prisons: 700,000 Palestinians, men, women and children trapped in their homes for the better part of a week after Israel reoccupied the territory.

We climb aboard, and Mr Jabari's men head out on their rounds. In the past four days they have delivered stacks of pitta bread and packets of medicine, ferried three women in labour to hospital, and chaperoned tankers of water.

The streets are lifeless. No schools, no shops, no traffic. The paralysis extends across the West Bank where the curfew has been unrelenting.

In the past week six Palestinian children have been shot dead by Israeli forces for leaving their homes. Three children were injured in Qalqiliya on Thursday when Israeli soldiers opened fire on pupils who believed the curfew had been lifted so they could go to school. Across the territory, 15,000 teenagers could lose out on a university education because they were unable to sit final exams on Thursday.

The fire engine passes a few people, but they are keeping close to their front doors, and they are mainly children. "They do come out, but as soon as the army passes they run inside," says the driver, Amin Kustaro, ripping through the narrow lanes at terrifying speed.

The fire engine slams to a halt before it can reach the first stop on its mercy run, and the crew are thrown into each other in the cabin. The barrel of an Israeli tank is barely visible beyond the verge - too dangerous to continue. "Every single soldier has his own regulations and mood," Mr Kustaro says. "Last night we got caught by an Israeli patrol, and they nearly beat us up."

Middle East crisis: As curfew bites, a handful of men bring hope to the trapped: Hebron Fire brigade on missions of mercy in one of seven cities turned prison

But people have been waiting. A grey-haired man scuttles out of a house on our side of the hill, clasping his son's hand as if that will offer him protection. He is practically rigid with terror, glancing behind him at the soldiers cresting the hill. Mr Kustaro hands over a pink plastic carrier bag of pitta bread, and the man is off.

Then it is on to the Dandees family, a capacious stone mansion for an extended family of 50. The matriarch, Rahiba Dandees, is fragile after heart surgery a month ago. By morning she was gasping for breath.

The family rang the doctor. He was too afraid to leave his house, and the nearest chemist is miles away, and has been closed since the Israeli army invaded on Tuesday. The clan was worried. "Her medicine was completely finished," says her son, Wael Dandees. "We were afraid that if didn't come on time, she would die."

Mr Jabari picks up the empty packets of pills. He says he will take them to the home of a chemist he knows, then bundle him into the fire engine, and then accompany him to his shop, where they can get the medicines Ms Dandees needs. Then he will return with the pills and possibly bread. The Dandees say they have enough food hoarded away for three or four days.

The relief missions are hardly systematic. "We can only reach the people we know, or the ones who call in," says Mr Jabari. But the fire engines are all that the Palestinian mayor of Hebron, Mustafa Natshe, has to meet the needs of 160,000 people. It's also the only means he has of arriving at the city's offices in the centre of town. "We are not allowed to move," he says.

Unlike the last time Israel invaded and reoccupied the West Bank last April, this time the Israeli army is here to stay, realising the ambition of the prime minister, Ariel Sharon, of obliterating the eight years of Palestinian self-rule under the Oslo peace accord. And, unlike the last reoccupation, this time there is little resistance from the Palestinians. Most of the fighters from Hamas and the Al-Aqsa Martyrs' Brigades, a military offshoot of Mr Arafat's Fatah, are in jail, on the run, or dead.

Except for Hebron, where fighters holed up in the administration headquarters have been under Israeli army bombardment for the past four days. Yesterday, Israeli tanks shelled the compound and then, late last night, a large explosion destroyed about a quarter of the squat grey building. The Israeli army, which declined to comment on the explosion, says there are 15 militants inside the compound, but a Palestinian politician who entered the building earlier to negotiate their surrender says he found no one. Early today a second loud explosion was heard. Heavy fog and darkness caused partly by electricity failures made it difficult to see the extent of damage.

Rubbish is piling up in the city streets, the hospital is running out of water, and several neighbourhoods are without electricity. Food stocks are running low, and people are going hungry.

In his dim office Mr Natshe is telephoning the Israeli military liaison officer to negotiate permission to distribute 15 tonnes of milk before it sours, and bread from the single working bakery.

But Mr Natshe and other Palestinian mayors say the Israeli liaison officers, a product of the Oslo peace accords, are refusing to take their calls. "The Israeli side wants to destroy the Oslo peace agreements completely, but without declaring that they are ruining and destroying Oslo," he says. "They refuse to make any contact with the coordination officer, or anyone from the Palestinian Authority."

Special report on the Middle East guardian.co.uk/israel

Load-Date: June 29, 2002

Arafat and the other side of the Mideast equation

Hamilton Spectator (Ontario, Canada)

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Section: FORUM; Pg. A11; Opinion

Length: 1042 words

Byline: Harold Pomerantz

Body

Since Community Editorial Board columnist J. S. Porter believes in numbers (Mideast numbers more trustworthy, June 26), let me try a few on him.

According to the most recent statistics, Palestinians have murdered 559 Israelis since Sept. 29, 2000, including 235 by suicide bombings. In addition 4,206 Israelis have been wounded, many of them maimed for life. These statistics if applied proportionally to Canada's population, would mean over 3,000 dead and 24,000 wounded. What would Canadians demand of their prime minister if we were attacked in shopping centres and restaurants, if suicide bombers blew up our buses and trains and if Canadians became targets of drive-by shootings? We certainly would not be talking of peace.

The Hamilton Spectator

In 1993, Yasser Arafat was brought out of exile to lead the Palestinians. Arafat's security force would put an end to terrorism and bring about a true peace. Instead, every single promise Arafat made under the Oslo Accords was broken. He was to renounce terrorism, use his police force to control violence and recognize the right of the state of Israel to exist. In September 2000, Arafat was offered a peace settlement of over 95 per cent of the West Bank and Gaza, a capital in East Jerusalem, control over Muslim holy sites and compensation for refugees who would be resettled in the new Palestinian territory. Arafat turned down the proposal because he would have had to make peace with Israel, and that was something he could not do. Arafat has been fighting Israelis for over 30 years and he isn't about to stop now.

Since 1993, over 90 per cent of the Palestinian people have lived under the Palestinian Authority. If their dreams have been crushed, blame Arafat. Billions of dollars flowed into the Palestinian territory from the United States, the European Community and even Israel. The money that was to be used to build infrastructure and schools, and create jobs was sent to Swiss banks, used to buy weapons and pay for terrorist armies. The terrorist organizations of **Hamas** and Hezbollah were joined by Arafat's own band of terrorists, the al Aqsa Brigades and Tanzim with the aim to murder as many Jews as possible. While deploring the actions of the suicide bombers to the English-speaking world, in Arabic he praised their martyrdom.

Porter is quick to criticize Israeli Prime Minister Ariel Sharon. Everything Sharon does in the Palestinian territory is a reaction to the terrorist attacks on Israeli citizens. The first duty of a prime minister is to protect his people. When Arafat refused to move against the terrorists, Sharon had to. I believe the Israelis have shown remarkable restraint in dealing with the Palestinians. Porter has already acknowledged the superior firepower of the Israeli army; they could have inflicted heavy casualties on the Palestinians had they desired to do so.

Arafat and the other side of the Mideast equation

Sharon doesn't have to keep labelling Arafat a terrorist. He is a terrorist and he supports terrorism. It is Arafat who was responsible for the Munich massacre of Israeli athletes at the 1972 Olympics. It was Arafat who made airplane hijacking a popular sport among terrorists. When it comes to blowing up buses and schools or murdering diplomats, Arafat can say, "been there, done that." It was Arafat who taught Osama bin Laden everything there is to know about terrorism.

There are five million Jews in Israel. There are 200 million Arabs in 21 countries in the Middle East who want to destroy them. Porter writes, " ... even a united Arab military force would be the equivalent of a fly attacking an elephant." Who is the fly and who is the elephant?

Although the Arab states have said they will recognize Israel's right to exist, it is difficult to make peace with people when their religious leaders call for the murder of Jews everywhere, when their children are taught in the schools that Jews are the offspring of apes and pigs, when newspapers print stories of how Jews kill Muslim and Christian children for their blood which they say is needed to celebrate Jewish festivals. The worst anti-Semitism since Nazi Germany flows out of the Arab countries.

While Israel does receive significant economic and military aid from the United States, the Arab countries receive just as much. If the Palestinians need more aid, why don't they get it from their rich brothers in Saudi Arabia and Kuwait? They will write cheques to the families of the suicide bombers, but contribute nothing for economic aid to their poor relatives they say they love so dearly.

Just think of the kind of murder and mayhem the Palestinians could produce if they had Israel's army and military equipment. Is there any doubt of how they would use it? If suicide bombers kill Israeli women and children today, just think of what they could do with planes, tanks and helicopters. The Palestinians are waging war against Israel. They are just not very well armed.

As long as terrorists from Palestinian territory are attacking Israel, an independent Palestinian state, even a provisional one, cannot be created. An independent state would be allowed to purchase arms openly and enter into treaties with avowed enemies of Israel such as Iran, Iraq and Syria. These countries could arm an independent Palestinian state with weapons of war that could attack the major centres of Israel. An independent state would provide a haven for terrorists and it would be difficult for Israel to pursue them without incurring the wrath of the United Nations for invading a sovereign country. For now, two countries living peacefully side by side is the dream of people like Porter, who live in another world, not in ours.

Throughout his article, Porter offered not one criticism of anything ever done by Arafat or the Palestinian people. When the evidence to the contrary is right before his eyes, he refuses to see. Because the Palestinians are poorly equipped to wage war, he tries to justify the suicide bombings and therefore the murder of innocent women and children. In the face of overwhelming opposition, the Israelis fight for their survival. Perhaps Porter reads too much Chomsky and Lerner and should look to other sources than the Guardian for the real truth about the situation in the Middle East.

Harold Pomerantz lives in Dundas.

Load-Date: July 5, 2002

Now peace it together

The Weekend Australian

May 25, 2002, Saturday

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Section: REVIEW-COLUMN- REAR VIEW; Pg. R24

Length: 1126 words

Byline: Phillip Adams

Body

IN a recent conversation, Robert Fisk, arguably the best informed journalist on the Israeli-Palestinian conflict, compared that dance of death with what was happening 40 years ago in Algeria. Responding to the Arabs' bombing of French cafes in Algiers, the occupying French army demanded carte blanche to "end terror". Their retaliation was brutal and included the use of torture. Contemporary writers, notably philosopher Raymond Aron, observed that the damage France was doing to the Algerians was nothing compared with the damage it was doing to itself.

Refusing to apportion blame in the conflict, Aron ignored the issues of terrorism, torture and France's campaign of state-sponsored political assassinations to assert that the facts demanded France withdraw. He insisted that the origins of the disaster no longer mattered. What mattered is that it had to end.

MATP

In a fine essay on the Middle East crisis titled *The road to nowhere* (The New York Review of Books), Tony Judt, director of the Remarque Institute at New York University, applies Aron's thinking to the bloodbath in Israel. Like Fisk, he finds the similarities with the Algerian crisis overwhelming. And he calls for the same solution that Aron proposed.

I am pro-Israel. I'm also pro-Palestinian. This is not a contradiction. It is the only way to approach the most dangerous conflict in the world. So I wholeheartedly endorse Judt's advice to both sides.

He argues that the solution to the conflict "is in plain sight". Israel exists and the Palestinians and other Arabs will eventually accept this -- as many do already. The Palestinians can neither be expelled from "Greater Israel" nor integrated into it. Shove them into Jordan and that nation will "explode, with disastrous consequences for Israel".

"Palestinians need a real state of their own and they will have one. The two states will be delineated in accordance with the map drawn up at the Taba negotiations in January 2001. Nearly all of the occupied territories will come under Palestinian rule. Thus the Israeli settlements in these territories are doomed and most of them will be dismantled.

"There will be no Arab right of return; and it is time to abandon the anachronistic Jewish one. Jerusalem is already largely divided along ethnic lines and will, eventually, be the capital of both states. Since these states will have a common interest in stability and shared security concerns, they will learn in time to co-operate. Community-based organisations like Hamas, offered the chance to transform themselves from terrorist networks into political parties, will take this path."

Now peace it together

Judt reminds us that de Gaulle extricated his countrymen from Algeria with relative ease. Following 50 years of monstrous repression, white South Africans handed over power to a black majority who replaced them without violence or revenge. The most feared black in South Africa, Nelson Mandela, became an inspiration to the world.

Judt sees Israelis "still trapped in the story of their own uniqueness". For many Jews, their entitlements derive from the Jewish community that existed in the territory of modern Israel thousands of years ago. Others claim that God gave them title to the lands of Judea and Samaria. Others -- and I include myself in this category -- cite the Holocaust, arguing that this greatest of atrocities allows Jews to make great claims on the world.

But there are Israelis who state their case in geographic or Realpolitik terms. Back to Judt: "We are so vulnerable, they say, so surrounded by enemies, that we cannot take any risks or afford a single mistake. The French could withdraw across the Mediterranean; South Africa is a very large country. We have nowhere to go."

Behind every Israeli refusal to face the inevitability of hard choices "stands the implicit guarantee" of the US.

To visit Israel is to be astonished by its minuteness -- and its sense of geographic vulnerability. But don't forget that the Israel of 2002 isn't the Israel of 1967. Today's Israel is a significant regional and colonial power and, by some measures, the world's fourth largest military establishment. It is, in short, a mighty nation.

Whereas the Palestinians' desperation is a measure of their weakness. They are so weak that their leader, Yasser Arafat, can be jailed in a couple of darkened rooms.

"While the failings of the Palestinian leadership have been abysmal and the crimes of Palestinian terrorists extremely bloody, the fact is that Israel has the military and political initiative," writes Judt. "Responsibility for moving beyond the present impasse thus falls primarily, though not exclusively, on Israel."

Why are the Israelis blind to this? Why do they insist on regarding themselves as, in Judt's words, "a small victim community, defending themselves with restraint and reluctance against overwhelming odds"? Arafat may have been an appalling leader. But Sharon is every bit as appalling -- as the massacres in Lebanon attest. As his present policies prove. Arafat stands condemned for wasted opportunities but Israel has wasted much of the past 35 years. "In that time Israelis have built illegal compounds in the occupied territories and grown a carapace of cynicism towards the Palestinians, whom they regard with contempt." And the US has been "manipulated shamelessly".

Describing Sharon as "Israel's dark id", Judt speaks for many friends of Israel when he says that the Prime Minister has proven as bad as many of us feared. His vision clouded by his hatred of Arafat, his policies have denied Israel credible Palestinian negotiators. "If he ever gets rid of Arafat, and the bombers keep coming, as they will, what will Sharon do then?" asks Judt. "And what will he do when young Arabs from Israel itself, inflamed by Israel's treatment of their cousins in occupied Jenin and Ramallah, volunteer for suicide missions? Will he send the tanks into Galilee? Put up electric fences around the Arab districts of Haifa?"

Israelis can't forget the war of 1948, the Arabs' refusal to recognise their state before 1967 and the random massacres of the past year. But the Palestinians can't forget the mass expulsions of 1948, the land expropriations, the colonisation of the West Bank, the political assassinations.

But the enemies in Northern Ireland are learning to negotiate and will learn to forget. Judt reminds us of a 1944 SS massacre -- the burning alive of 700 French men, women and children in the village of Oradour. Yet a few years later "France and Germany came together to form the core of a new European project".

Yes, Israel's present policy is "a road to nowhere". As Judt says, "there is no alternative to peace negotiations and a final settlement. And if not now, when?"

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Now peace it together

End of Document

***Why those on the Left condone murder;
After Premier's wife retracts remarks over Palestinian***

DAILY MAIL (London)

June 20, 2002

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Section: Pg. 18

Length: 1039 words

Byline: Melanie Phillips

Body

CHERIE Blair has now apologised for suggesting that Palestinian 'suicide' bombers are acting out of a sense of hopelessness.

Downing Street hopes that this retraction will mitigate the damage she has done and draw a line under the affair.

But the issue raised by this incident goes far beyond the controversial figure of the Prime Minister's wife.

There are now a worrying number of her fellow citizens who make excuses for those who commit such acts of mass murder on Israelis, effectively justifying these atrocities.

The political Left cannot see anything wrong at all with Mrs Blair's remark.

The Guardian and The Independent said she was a victim of 'the mob' for merely uttering a truism. Downing Street seemed initially to agree, and said she had merely 'stated the obvious'.

Not to be outdone, the Foreign Secretary, Jack Straw, said the bombers deserved compassion because they must be 'depressed' - although he tempered this claim with a denunciation of terror leaders who use young people as human bombs.

Last week, Radio 4's The Moral Maze, on which I am a panellist, discussed whether 'suicide' bombing could ever be justified, and invited on a **Hamas** supporter to make the case. The fact that people can now solemnly entertain the idea that such crimes can ever be vindicated surely indicates the depths to which moral discourse has sunk.

Mass murder can never be justified. No despair can ever legitimise the deliberate slaughter of innocent men, **women** and children.

YET a dismayingly large number of people in Britain now express more sympathy with the perpetrators of such outrages than with their victims.

While expressing ritual horror at carnage such as this week's bus bombs in Jerusalem, they indicate nevertheless that Israel is asking for it. By its behaviour towards the Palestinians, they murmur, it has brought such deeds upon its own head.

Why those on the Left condone murder; After Premier's wife retracts remarks over Palestinian

Israel is not perfect. But whatever the flaws of such a democracy, surely people can see that there is a profound moral difference between terror and the response it provokes? Apparently, many people cannot. The victims here have become the victimisers, and vice-versa.

How can this monstrous moral inversion have taken place? In large measure, this is the product of the deformed thinking of the Left. Looking for 'victims' to champion, to fuel their own moral self-righteousness, they alight upon those with vendettas against Western democracy, which of course is guilty of colonialism and racism.

So the Palestinians have become a radical chic accessory for the Left, along with the IRA, and before them the Black Panthers in the U.S.

Any wrongs done by such 'victims' must be explained by forces beyond their control.

Hence, the IRA is allowed, literally, to get away with murder. And the Third World, says the Left, cannot be judged by the moral standards of the West because they can't be expected to understand concepts such as human rights.

This is, of course, a deeply racist, patronising attitude.

Israel, meanwhile, is demonised because it is backed by the might of America. It can never be a victim, only an oppressor.

This view is overwhelmingly pushed by our media. The rampant hostility towards Israel by broadcasters and journalists who subscribe to the world view of the Left means the public simply doesn't see the whole picture.

The result is that many ordinary people have sympathy for Palestinian mass murderers.

Crucially, they fail to understand that the main motivation for mass murder is not, as Cherie Blair declared, despair. After all, many of the murderers of Al Qaeda are wealthy and well-educated.

Their main grievance is the American presence in Saudi Arabia, and they only pushed Israel up their public agenda when they realised how this would play in the gullible, ignorant, decadent West.

The 'suicide' bombers are fuelled not by hopelessness, but by a hysterical incitement to murder. Week after week, a tidal wave of venomous anti-Jewish hatred pours out of the Arab media. As the historian Robert Wistrich records in his new pamphlet, *Moslem Anti-Semitism: A Clear And Present Danger*, this vile material uses images straight from medieval Christian bigotry and Nazi propaganda.

JEWS, not just Israelis, are presented as subhuman, diabolical figures who murder children and drink their blood. They are portrayed as conspiring to destroy Moslem society and take over the world.

Judaism is presented as a sinister, immoral religion based on cabals and blood rituals, and Zionists are obscenely equated with Nazis.

Indoctrinated with this, lied to about heavenly rewards, and with their families bribed by Iraq and Syria to sacrifice them, the young Palestinians are strapped to their bombs.

These are not suicides.

These young people are coerced, the victims of cynical Arab terror regimes who surely murder them along with their Jewish victims. The random mass murder of innocents is created not by despair but by totalitarianism. But the British, who have never been subject to tyranny, find it impossible to understand the totalitarian mindset.

Deprived of crucial facts, they conclude that the only explanation for such inhuman activity must be despair.

This conclusion is reinforced by a disturbing willingness to believe the worst about Jews, the result of prejudices so deeply embedded in European culture that decent people have nevertheless imbibed them.

Why those on the Left condone murder; After Premier's wife retracts remarks over Palestinian

Thus, Israel's attempts to defend itself against terror are repeatedly represented as punishment or revenge, when they are nothing of the sort.

But anti-Jewish prejudice is not the whole explanation.

After all, there are Jews who share these views.

There have always been Jews who have either assimilated the hatred of the society around them, or who court social approval by going along with the poisonous flow.

But the key factor is that most of the Jews who present Palestinian terrorists as victims subscribe also to the worldview of the Left.

So warped is this view that its adherents cannot even admit to sympathy for mass murder, even though they express it in words which can have no other meaning.

Cherie Blair ought at the very least to understand that such words give succour and encouragement to those who kill with hatred in their hearts.

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Fearful Iraq parades for Saddam's birthday

Guardian Weekly

May 8, 2002

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Section: INTERNATIONAL NEWS; Pg. 7

Length: 991 words

Byline: Ewen MacAskill in Tikrit

Highlight: Behind the pomp and bravado, worries about war tarnish the dictator's image

Body

A monumental golden horse leaping from a gilded tank stood at the centre of a lavish display of adoration laid on to mark President Saddam Hussein's birthday in his home town of Tikrit last Sunday. He was 65, though there is no retirement age for Iraqi dictators.

Provincial officials had struggled to come up with something suitably splendid. Not an easy challenge, bearing in mind that the Iraqi president's personality cult is as strong as ever and he is honoured with a seemingly infinite number of statues and portraits, most of them, it seems, in Tikrit. Which is why they settled on the monument of Saddam (containing 76 kilograms of silver) astride a golden steed -- itself on top of a tank headed toward the al-Aqsa mosque, the Muslim shrine in Jerusalem -- as the ostentatious mark of respect.

More than 100,000 Iraqis paraded through the streets while army officers and foreign dignitaries crowded into a stadium to hear speeches and martial music and watch traditional dancing. Officials said that about one million people had joined parades nationwide -- many of them shouting anti-American slogans and some burning dollar bills. Attendance at the rallies was practically mandatory.

Hundreds of children danced in the Tikrit stadium, dressed in traditional costumes, mainly flowing silks, but a score were in black masks with the green headscarves of Hamas, sponsor of the Palestinian suicide bombers. It was not a scene designed to dissuade the United States from attack.

In public residents expressed love for their president and made a great show of bravado, claiming to be unafraid of war with the US and Britain. In private the mood was very different -- a combination of worry and weary resignation.

As the celebrations reached their culmination, flashes and explosions filled the sky over Baghdad. The fear of Iraqis is that in six months or a year's time that sky could be filled with flashes and explosions triggered by US and British warplanes.

President George Bush and Tony Blair have discussed the prospect of a war to depose Saddam, and the Iraqi army is preparing its defences.

Many Iraqis watching the celebrations expressed the hope that war would not come, but they tended to be morbidly resigned to the fact that it would. A doctor, reflecting the powerlessness of the population, said: "We cannot change Bush and we cannot change Saddam."

Fearful Iraq parades for Saddam's birthday

Baghdad's population faced Allied bombing during the 1991 Gulf conflict, and again by the US and Britain in Operation Desert Fox in 1998. In the south of the country, and to a lesser extent in the north, bombing has continued throughout the decade, sometimes daily. Against that background, and after more than 10 years of sanctions, there is little love for Washington in views expressed either in private or public. On arrival at Baghdad airport, every third step down the gangway has been spray-painted in red with "down with the US".

Outside what used to be the US embassy in Baghdad, about 150 journalists, all working for government-controlled organisations, demonstrated last weekend. Holding candles to mark Saddam's birthday and banners denouncing Washington, they chanted: "Bush, Bush, we are not afraid of America."

That confidence is not shared in private on the streets. The worry is that the bombing may be fiercer next time and that the dictator will not give up Baghdad easily, and it will be the civilians who will suffer most.

Official guests at the birthday celebrations came from a diverse range of countries and organisations, among them Othman Dawlat Mirzo, from Jordan's Royal Society for the Conservation of Nature. A regular visitor to Iraq, he shared the assessment of the public mood. "They are worried. The war will not be easy for children, for women, for the old," he said. Such an attack would carry great risks. "The Americans, when they decide to do something, they just do it. They do not think of the consequences."

In preparation for a war, Saddam has ordered the army to begin work on the defence of Baghdad, with stockpiles of fuel and food already being gathered. Even more important, he has told his foreign ministry to work harder to improve relations with the Arab world and elsewhere, and to attempt to delay an attack.

The prospect of war comes as the country is beginning to recover from the economic disaster caused in the main by sanctions. In the past two years the standard of living in Baghdad has greatly improved. The main street, Arasat, sells every available luxury, although in the suburbs life can still be harsh. People are generally better dressed. Brand new and expensive cars are fast replacing the beat-up vehicles that Iraqis so skilfully maintained throughout the sanctions.

What is galling for the Iraqis is that, just as they see a semblance of normality returning, they face the prospect of a return to economic ruin.

Which explains why, despite the outpourings of birthday congratulations that have been running non-stop on Iraqi television for days, Saddam is increasingly unpopular. It would be a brave person to criticise him in public, but there are hints of the public's real feelings in raised eyebrows and muttered remarks, a sarcastic comment about his new play, a love story, which opened in a Baghdad theatre last week, or criticism of the behaviour of his son Uday. Or a moan about the haves and the have-nots.

There is admiration for his standing up to the US, but his 22-year-old rule has led the country into two costly wars and, for a time, international isolation. Under him one of the most advanced Arab states, with the best welfare system in the Middle East, has gone backwards.

But Nada, one of the Iraqi women journalists taking part in the demonstration against George Bush, dismissed this, and the lavish comfort of the president and his immediate clique. "All the Iraqi presidents had palaces," she said. "Even if Saddam has 900 palaces, that is not a reason to bomb us."

Graphic

Photo, Iraqi girls parade in Mosul to celebrate Saddam Hussein's birthday, Jerry Lampen/Reuters

Load-Date: May 13, 2002

Fearful Iraq parades for Saddam's birthday

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NEWS SUMMARY

The New York Times
May 8, 2002 Wednesday
Late Edition - Final

Copyright 2002 The New York Times Company

Section: Section A; Column 3; Metropolitan Desk; Pg. 2

Length: 1060 words

Body

INTERNATIONAL A3-18

Blast Kills 15 in Israel; Sharon Cuts Short U.S. Trip

A suicide bomber blew up a gambling and billiards club filled with elderly women near Tel Aviv, killing at least 15 people and wounding 58, the police said. The extremist group Hamas took responsibility. The Palestinian Authority of Yasir Arafat condemned the attack, which came as Prime Minister Ariel Sharon was meeting with President Bush in Washington. Mr. Sharon decided to curtail his visit and return home. A1

In their talks, Mr. Bush and Mr. Sharon remained divided over how quickly to move toward the creation of a Palestinian state and whether to deal with Mr. Arafat. Mr. Bush said he was sending C.I.A. Director George Tenet to the Middle East to work on building a new Palestinian security force. A1

Israeli and Palestinian negotiators reached an agreement to end the five-week siege at the Church of the Nativity in Bethlehem, but the deal stalled after Italy said no one had asked its consent to send a group of Palestinian militants into exile there. A15

Exhumation in Afghanistan

Canadian troops and American criminal investigators have exhumed 23 bodies from a grave site in the Tora Bora mountains that they suspect are remains of Al Qaeda fighters, perhaps a security contingent for Osama bin Laden. A12

Dutch Election Will Go On

Political leaders decided to proceed with general elections next week, despite the killing of Pim Fortuyn, a right-wing politician who had aspired to becoming prime minister. A 32-year-old Dutch environmental activist was being held in his killing. A6

Sanction Approval Expected

The Bush administration said it expected the United Nations Security Council to give quick approval to revised sanctions against Iraq aimed at keeping Saddam Hussein from developing weapons of mass destruction while allowing for the freer flow of civilian goods. A8

NEWS SUMMARY

World Briefing A18

NATIONAL A20-29

U.S. Tells Court Individuals Have a Right to Own Guns

The Justice Department told the Supreme Court for the first time that the Constitution "broadly protects the rights of individuals" to own firearms. The statement departs from decades of government policy on the meaning of the Second Amendment and the view that it protects only a collective right of the states to organize and maintain militias. A1

Student Held in Bombings

A 21-year-old Minnesota student, Luke John Helder, was arrested in Nevada in connection with 18 pipe bombs placed in rural mailboxes in five states. Six people have been hurt. A1

Backing for Army Secretary

Defense Secretary Donald H. Rumsfeld and White House officials expressed strong support for Thomas E. White, saying he was not to blame for a lobbying campaign to protect an \$11 billion artillery system that Mr. Rumsfeld wanted to cancel. A27

Workers Underpaid in Benefits

The Labor Department's inspector general said more than 20 percent of cash balance pension plans violated the law by not providing workers with all the benefits due them. A24

Priest Denies Rape Charges

Paul R. Shanley, 71, one of the priests at the center of the clergy sexual abuse scandal in Boston, pleaded not guilty to charges of child rape and was ordered held on \$750,000 bail. A28

Size-Bias Case Resolved

A 240-pound, 5-foot-8 aerobics teacher reached an agreement with Jazzercise resolving her complaint with the San Francisco Human Rights Commission over the company's refusal to grant her a franchise. A20

EDUCATION B8

AIDS's Toll on Africa Teachers

The virus that causes AIDS is spreading so rapidly in parts of Africa that it is killing teachers faster than nations can train them, the World Bank reported. A12

NEW YORK/REGION A28-29

Government to Clean Up Residences Fouled on 9/11

The E.P.A. is said to be set to lead a federal effort to clean up and test apartments south of Canal Street in Lower Manhattan that were fouled by dust and ash from the destruction of the World Trade Center. The move would reverse a position that indoor spaces were the province of their owners, not the government. A1

Workers took the first step in erecting a new skyscraper on the site where 7 World Trade Center stood. B1

Skakel Murder Trial Under Way

A prosecutor told jurors in opening arguments that Michael C. Skakel had repeatedly confessed to killing Martha Moxley in 1975. Mr. Skakel's lawyer said the state would not be able to prove even a circumstantial case against his client. B1

Action on Adult Homes

NEWS SUMMARY

The Pataki administration issued an array of initiatives to begin reshaping the system of care and oversight for thousands of mentally ill people living in adult homes, where lax regulation has led to abuse of residents. B1

DINING F1-12

SPORTS D1-8

Fabled Racehorse Dies

Seattle Slew, the last living Triple Crown champion, died in his sleep at the age of 28 -- exactly 25 years after his Kentucky Derby victory. D1

OBITUARIES C16

ARTS E1-12

SCIENCE/HEALTH

Pesticides and Organic Produce

The first detailed scientific analysis of organic fruits and vegetables shows that they contain a third as much pesticide residue as conventionally grown foods. A29

BUSINESS DAY C1-15

Enron Files Called Smoking Gun

Politicians, lawyers and consumer groups said documents showing that Enron had manipulated California's electric-power market were invaluable to their quest to recover billions of dollars that the state was overcharged in 2000 and 2001. A1

The Fed Stands Pat on Rates

The Fed voted unanimously to hold its benchmark interest rate unchanged, saying the durability of the economic recovery remained uncertain despite a sharp upturn in first-quarter growth and a surge in productivity. C1

The S. & P. 500 slid 3.18 points, to 1,049.49, its lowest level since Oct. 1. The Dow advanced 28.51 points, to 9,836.55, while the Nasdaq, already down 19 percent this year, fell 4.66 points, to 1,573.82. C10

Good Quarter for Cisco

The leading maker of Internet networking equipment reported profits for its fiscal third quarter that were better than expected, as belt-tightening, lower costs for parts and a slight rise in sales helped reverse a steep loss a year before. C1

Business Digest C1

World Business W1

EDITORIAL A30-31

Editorials: Hijacking Mideast peace; more Enron mischief; tear down the wall; young women at risk.

Columns: Thomas L. Friedman, Maureen Dowd.

Crossword E8

NEWS SUMMARY

TV Listings E11
Public Lives B2
Weather D8

<http://www.nytimes.com>

Graphic

Photos

Load-Date: May 8, 2002

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World fears global fallout

The Sunday Herald

May 26, 2002

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Section: Pg. 19

Length: 1069 words

Byline: Trevor Royle

Body

Despite its isolation, a war in Kashmir could have severe consequences for both America and China, writes Diplomatic Editor Trevor Royle

STANDING on the edge is a mighty uncomfortable business: one stumble, one false move, one fatal hesitation and the result can be calamity. In short, it's a dangerous occupation, yet brinkmanship has been a fact of life for India and Pakistan since August 1947.

Within months of the partition of India trouble flared in Kashmir, a lotus -eater paradise of sunshine and breathtaking scenery. Its ruler, Maharaja Hari Singh, was a Hindu, but by rights his Muslim-majority country should have been ceded to Pakistan. However, he had decided to hold out for independence. It was a mistake. Lacking the numbers to take Kashmir by force, the new Pakistani administration sent hundreds of Pashtun tribesmen from their North West Frontier Province to invade the tiny and defenceless country.

At first this proxy force swept all before it - Maharaja Hari Singh's army was small - but order was restored when India airlifted soldiers of the Sikh Regiment into the capital, Srinagar, and forced him to sign a note of accession. Predominantly Muslim, Kashmir became part of India and the scene was set for six decades of cross-border skirmishing and outright war between the two countries. Ironically, it was that method, the use of Pakistani and Afghan mujahidin fighters, that has ignited the latest confrontation along the line of control that keeps the two countries apart.

Always an unquiet place - artillery fire echoes across the Kargil glacier throughout the campaigning season and firefights between rival units are common along the border - Kashmir could still be the trigger for a new war and one which could see the use of nuclear weapons. In common with every other confrontation involving a squabble over territory on religious or racial grounds, Kashmir has been a festering sore for both countries.

Both leaders, too, are under pressure to resolve it once and for all, if need be by war. India's prime minister Atal Behari Vajpayee has to listen to hardline supporters who are unafraid to talk about "nuking" Lahore, while Pakistan's leader General Pervez Musharraf has to balance the claims of his Muslim followers who want to reclaim Kashmir by jihad, or holy war, with those of the US who want him to clamp down on Islamic terrorism.

Ever since a group of terrorists broke into an Indian army cantonment in Kashmir and gunned down 30 civilians, most of them women and children, there has been no shortage of fighting talk in New Delhi and Islamabad. Both have raised the temperature by redeploying their forces along the border - Pakistan is withdrawing its peacekeeping

World fears global fallout

soldiers from Sierra Leone and in India Vajpayee responded to a question about the possibility of using nuclear weapons by saying that Indian troops were preparing for "a decisive victory".

While the rest of the world urged restraint, and despite suggestions that a compromise will be found, both countries have too much face to lose by simply backing down in the face of international pressure. If a conventional war were to break out it would be no contest. India has a huge army of more than one million soldiers and its defence spending amounts to \$ 13.84 billion ((pounds) 9.54bn), while Pakistan's army numbers 550,000 and it spends only \$ 3.3bn ((pounds) 2.28bn) a year on defence. India's air power is also superior: its air force is the world's fourth largest and its combat aircraft outnumber Pakistan's by two to one.

Most impartial observers believe that Pakistan has only 72 hours of conventional fighting strength before its forces would be overwhelmed along the border and that, in the event of an Indian breakthrough, it would have to consider the nuclear option by firing its Ghauri ballistic missiles - currently being tested this weekend - at targets in India.

Because there are no nuclear protocols between the two countries - only India has indicated that it will not resort to first use - it is unclear under what circumstances they would be prepared to use them. During the Cold War the West and the Soviet Union made it clear what was acceptable and what was unacceptable but this lack of an accord increases the possibility of a nuclear conflagration.

Between them, the two countries have sufficient fissile material for 25 Pakistani and 100 Indian bombs, each of which is capable of creating up to 800,000 casualties. Even if the nuclear card were not played and even if there is no conventional attack until after the monsoon in September, the continuing confrontation is in danger of destabilising the region.

Militant Islamic groups in India could cause all sorts of trouble, such as they did last December when they tried to blow up the Indian parliament in Delhi. At the same time, Musharraf might experience difficulty containing his own extremists. Senior US commanders believe that al-Qaeda and Taliban fighters are now operating with mujahidin forces in Kashmir, leaving Pakistan with problems in the tribal areas on the border with Afghanistan, along the line of control in Kashmir and within the country itself, notably in Karachi, a hotbed of dissent against the new alliance with the US.

For Washington the confrontation has come as an unwelcome surprise. The US has bases in western Pakistan and its troops are operating in the tribal areas; in the event of hostilities these would have to be withdrawn.

Should China intervene there would be a knock-on effect in Central Asia, where US troops are also based and where support for al-Qaeda is thought to be high, and it is possible that the Arab states might be tempted to support Pakistan by providing war planes and AWAC command and control aircraft.

With that in mind, Washington would probably support the solution which many in Delhi see as a way out and one which need not necessarily damage Musharraf. This would involve air-strikes on known Pakistani-backed terrorist camps in Kashmir and the repossession of territory occupied by them. In the post -September 11 world, Israel took that option by attacking Hamas strongholds in the West Bank and senior Indian commanders argue that following the attacks on their bases they too have the right to wage "war on terror". As this would mean the elimination of Islamic terrorists, including elements of al-Qaeda, Washington is unlikely to be overly censorious.

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ISRAEL WILL PUSH AHEAD IN BETHLEHEM, RAMALLAH

St. Louis Post-Dispatch (Missouri)

April 16, 2002 Tuesday Five Star Late Lift Edition

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Section: NEWS; Pg. A1

Length: 1072 words

Byline: Hadeel Wahdan The Associated Press

Dateline: RAMALLAH, WEST BANK

Body

THE BATTLE: Elite Israeli troops arrest a top Palestinian leader

THE OCCUPATION: Sharon says army will leave most Palestinian areas within a week

THE DIPLOMACY: Powell backs an international conference on peace

Prime Minister Ariel Sharon said Monday that Israeli troops would pull back from most Palestinian areas within a week. Israel also arrested Marwan Barghouti, a senior aide to Yasser Arafat who Sharon says was behind suicide bombings.

Sharon told President George W. Bush in a telephone conversation Monday that Israeli troops would, within a week, pull out of Jenin and Nablus, said Ari Fleischer, the White House press secretary.

Sharon told CNN that Israeli forces would remain indefinitely in Ramallah, where they surround Palestinian leader Arafat's headquarters, and in Bethlehem until Palestinians occupying one of Christianity's holiest sites surrender for trial or exile.

"Altogether, we are on our way out," Sharon said of the campaign against Palestinian militants, which began March 29.

Bush welcomed Israel's announced intention to withdraw troops from the two Palestinian areas as "a positive development," although it was far from the complete pullout Bush wanted.

The Palestinians, however, took a harder line.

"We don't plan to deal with these conditions" Palestinian Information Minister Yasser Abed Rabbo said. "He must leave every city that has been reoccupied without any conditions. We are not going to bargain with the Israelis over every town and village."

Early today, Israeli tanks re-entered Tulkarem, one of two towns evacuated April 9. Witnesses said tanks rolled in from four directions, covered by attack helicopters. Israeli military sources said the incursion was aimed at making arrests, not reoccupying the town.

ISRAEL WILL PUSH AHEAD IN BETHLEHEM, RAMALLAH

Also, the military said forces were searching for suspects and weapons in the Askar refugee camp next to Nablus as well as the West Bank villages of Hirbet Beit Hassan, Fara, Luba Sharkiyeh, A-Ram and Anata.

In Ramallah, elite Israeli troops seized Barghouti, a popular figure in the West Bank who Israel says is the leader of the Al Aqsa Martyrs Brigades. The group claimed responsibility for Friday's suicide bombing in a Jerusalem market that killed six people plus the bomber.

Arresting a leader

An elite Israeli force searching for militants captured Barghouti, 41, at the Ramallah house of Fatah official Ziad Abu Ain, who also was detained, West Bank security chief Jibril Rajoub said.

Israel accuses Barghouti, sometimes mentioned as a possible successor to Arafat, of direct involvement in nine different attacks that have killed 13 Israelis and a Greek Orthodox monk.

The Israeli army said a force of infantry, armored corps and elite soldiers surrounded a house in northern Ramallah and ordered those inside to come out.

According to Israel Radio, Barghouti initially told the soldiers in Hebrew, "I know you've come for me," but he refused to come out. The elite unit went in, and Barghouti surrendered without a fight. No shots were fired, the radio said.

Barghouti and his nephew, Ahmed, were given to security forces for interrogation, the army said in a statement.

Sharon said Barghouti "is responsible for horrible murders of hundreds of Israelis. He will be brought to trial in the state of Israel."

In a statement, the military said Barghouti, "as part of his work . . . received large budgets from local and foreign groups, including (funds) authorized by the signature of Yasser Arafat."

Barghouti is head of the Tanzim, part of Arafat's Fatah organization, and "was considered the commander and guide of the Al Aqsa Brigades, which are blamed for a large number of deadly terrorist attacks in which dozens of Israelis were killed and hundreds injured," the military said.

Defense Minister Binyamin Ben-Eliezer said Barghouti turned Tanzim into "the most murderous of the terrorist organizations committing most of the recent attacks against Israel, attacks of all types, but principally suicide attacks including female bombers, shootings and bombings."

Sharon cited Barghouti's arrest in explaining the importance of the military campaign.

"Just imagine if we had withdrawn one day earlier, and he would have been free and he'd be able to continue," he said.

Rajoub warned against harming Barghouti.

"Killing or humiliating him will bring catastrophes for Israel and will expand the circle of violence," he said.

Also in Ramallah, Israeli forces arrested two leaders of the militant Hamas, Jamal Tawil and Fayez Abu Wardeh, Palestinians said. The Israeli military had no immediate comment.

In Bethlehem, Israeli troops exchanged fire with Palestinians inside the church compound, built over the grotto where tradition says Jesus was born.

Two Palestinian policemen - one seriously wounded several days ago and the other reportedly suffering a nervous breakdown - also surrendered to Israeli troops ringing the shrine, witnesses said. They became the first Palestinians to surrender in the 12-day standoff.

ISRAEL WILL PUSH AHEAD IN BETHLEHEM, RAMALLAH

In his CNN interview, Sharon said Israel and the United States agree that the armed men inside the church must surrender, and those deemed to be connected with terrorism should be tried in Israel or deported, perhaps with British assistance, to an unspecified country. The Palestinians have rejected the idea.

Pope John Paul II also called the Rev. Ibrahim Faltas, who is in charge of the church, on Monday. Faltas told The Associated Press the call was "a message from the pope to support and encourage us," and the pope "thanked us for our deep steadfastness and courage."

The search for dead

In the Jenin refugee camp, scene of the deadliest fighting during Israel's offensive, ambulances drove through rubble-strewn alleys Monday searching for bodies.

Israel and the Palestinians have argued over who will retrieve the bodies - part of their bitter dispute over what happened during the weeklong battle. Palestinian officials initially alleged troops killed hundreds of people, including many civilians, in the camp.

Israel estimated at least 100 people were killed, most of them gunmen. Soldiers said Sunday they found 40 bodies.

Sharon told CNN he believes casualties in Jenin were in the "few dozens" and called claims of a massacre a "lie."

"There were very hard battles there, and I think the Israeli forces, not like any other armed forces being involved in a very hard battle, were very careful not to hurt civilians," Sharon said. "We don't have anything to hide there."

Notes

CONFLICT IN THE MIDDLE EAST

Graphic

PHOTO; (1) Color Photo headshot - (Marwan) Barghouti; Said by Israel to be terrorist leader; (2) Color Photo by DAVID GUTTENFELDER /THE ASSOCIATED PRESS - Palestinians carry sacks of food as they walk through destruction at the market in Bethlehem near Manger Square on Monday. The Israeli army temporarily lifted a curfew Monday, as a standoff with Palestinian gunmen continued at the Church of the Nativity.

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Prime Minister Ariel Sharon said Monday that Israeli troops would pull back from most Palestinian areas within a week. Israel also arrested a senior aide to Yasser Arafat who Sharon says was behind suicide bombings.

But Sharon said Israel would press ahead with a campaign against Palestinian militants in two West Bank cities, Bethlehem and Ramallah, despite U.S. pleas for a full withdrawal.

And early today, Israeli tanks re-entered Tulkarem, one of two towns evacuated April 9. Witnesses said tanks rolled in from four directions, covered by attack helicopters. Israeli military sources said the incursion was aimed at making arrests, not reoccupying the town.

Sharon for the first time gave a deadline for ending the campaign against Palestinian militants that began March 29.

He did so in a telephone conversation Monday with President George W. Bush, and in an interview on CNN.

"Altogether, we are on our way out," Sharon told CNN.

In Ramallah, elite Israeli troops seized Marwan Barghouti, a popular figure in the West Bank who Israel says is the leader of the Al Aqsa Martyrs Brigades. The group claimed responsibility for Friday's suicide bombing in a Jerusalem market that killed six people plus the bomber.

In Bethlehem, Israeli forces are engaged in a standoff with more than 200 armed men in the Church of the Nativity, and in Ramallah, Israeli troops surround Palestinian leader Arafat's office.

Sharon said Israeli forces will not leave Bethlehem until the standoff is over and will not leave Ramallah until those behind the October assassination of Tourism Minister Rehavam Zeevi are handed over.

ISRAEL WILL PUSH AHEAD IN BETHLEHEM, RAMALLAH

In response, Palestinian Information Minister Yasser Abed Rabbo said, "We don't plan to deal with these conditions. He must leave every city that has been reoccupied without any conditions. We are not going to bargain with the Israelis over every town and village."

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"It will be basically open," he told CNN's Larry King.

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Marching as to War

The New York Times

May 12, 2002 Sunday

Late Edition - Final

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Section: Section 7; Column 3; Book Review Desk; Pg. 16

Length: 1097 words

Byline: By R. Scott Appleby; R. Scott Appleby, a professor of history at the University of Notre Dame, is the author of "The Ambivalence of the Sacred: Religion, Violence and Reconciliation."

Body

THE NEXT CHRISTENDOM

The Coming of Global Christianity.

By Philip Jenkins.

270 pp. New York:

Oxford University Press. \$28.

MARK your calendar. By the year 2050 six nations -- Brazil, Mexico, the Philippines, Nigeria, Congo and the United States -- will each have 100 million Christians or more. Sub-Saharan Africa will have long displaced Europe as the leading center of Christianity, while Brazil will count 150 million Catholics and 40 million Protestants. And more than one billion Pentecostals, the poorest of the poor, will be spreading their distinctive brand of Christian supernaturalism.

Across the Southern Hemisphere a new wave of nondemocratic states with theocratic pretensions, some of them openly repressive, will compete for regional dominance. When they are not fighting among themselves, these Christian regimes will unite against their common foe, Islam. In 2050, almost 20 of the 25 largest nations will be predominantly or entirely Christian or Muslim; at least 10 will be the sites of intense conflict.

Although Christians will continue to outnumber Muslims, Islam may have the upper hand in the third-world wars. The deciding factor may well be the support provided to oil-producing Muslim regimes by the nations of the industrialized North, whose sentimental attachment to Christianity will be outweighed by economic considerations. Extremists in both religions, meanwhile, will continue to guarantee the absence in the South of women's rights, freedom of worship and other misbegotten ideas of the secular North, even as Asia and Africa develop significant military capacity, perhaps based on chemical or biological weapons. The coming havoc, in short, will make the bloody religious wars of the 16th century look like calisthenics.

These startling and gloomy predictions are served up in "The Next Christendom," by Philip Jenkins, a budding futurist who, having written on pedophiles and priests and on mystics and messiahs, knows disasters in the making when he sees them. A professor of history and religious studies at Penn State, he sketches the contours of a new Christendom emerging from the convergence of third-world demographic explosion, Muslim and Christian missionary zeal and the hunger of millions of newly urban poor for supernatural deliverance.

Marching as to War

Jenkins's forecasts are no less arresting for their occasional flirtation with the absurd -- he would be the first to caution that they may not all be borne out. He must now also be aware that seemingly innocuous events, which could hardly be described as trends, can nonetheless trigger seismic change. (Indeed, Jenkins's earlier research on sexual scandal in the Roman Catholic Church seemed wise in playing down the impact of priestly pedophilia by placing it in comparative context. But his findings did not predict -- could not have predicted -- that a few isolated cases would lead, as they have, to a wider scandal of priestly misconduct and episcopal malfeasance that has significantly weakened the moral authority of the church in the United States.)

Jenkins's more sensational futurist predictions aside, the general scenario is rooted in well-documented demographic, religious and political trends. Already in Nigeria and Sudan, in Indonesia and the Philippines, in Brazil and Guatemala, we can witness the deleterious effects of rapidly growing factions competing for converts, struggling for political power, inciting persecution and striving to legislate and enforce laws drawn from their sacred precepts.

Al Qaeda, the Taliban, Hamas, Hezbollah and dozens of other violent jihadi networks notwithstanding, Islam will not corner the market on religious extremism. Jenkins, if not fully sympathetic to the emerging Christian order, is at least respectful of the right of Christians to remake themselves -- or, as others would say, to manipulate and distort their heritage in much the same way that some Muslims, Hindus, Jews and even Buddhists have ransacked their traditions to legitimize intolerance against outsiders. He argues persuasively that the issues now confronting the Muslim world -- the allure of theocracy as a way of securing political dominance; the rights of minorities; and the penalties for conversion out of the dominant tradition -- will divide and transform the Christian world as well.

The new world of the South will not conform to the vision of liberation theology or other movements for radical restructuring in developing nations that many European and American liberals still cherish. As Jenkins remarks, quoting one writer on Brazilian religion, " 'the Catholic Church has chosen the poor, but the poor choose the Pentecostals,' and the choice rankles." Indeed, Pentecostalism does seem to be the wave of the Christian future. Born early in the 20th century, this Spirit-filled movement, emphasizing the power of personal faith, biblical literalism, visions and prophecy, numbers hundreds of millions of souls in Africa, Asia and Latin America. Its ministers are homegrown products, not seminary-trained missionaries. Apocalyptic visions of extrahistorical justice are more than plausible in societies colored by violence and life-threatening diseases like AIDS. Reliance on faith healers and shamans is also healthier than mounting revolution.

None of this bodes particularly well for Northern Christians. Black missionaries from the Anglican communities of Africa may be inspired to mount huge missionary crusades to re-evangelize the white, affluent "pagans" of England. And the Catholic Church, faced with huge losses to the people-friendly Pentecostals and new indigenous churches, might soon regret its policy of robbing Africa and Latin America of their already inadequate supplies of priests to serve the relatively priest-rich United States.

What to make of all this? Statistics are the stock in trade of futurists, and Jenkins adopts the somewhat dubious methods of these secular prophets: he ventures to predict the future by extrapolating current social chaos and catastrophes on roughly the same scale as population is projected to increase. In the case of third-world Christianity and Islam, more is worse.

Perhaps. But Jenkins is to be commended for reminding us, throughout the often gripping pages of this lively work of synthesis, that the history of Christianity is the history of innovative -- and unpredictable -- adaptations. Those who hope for a future more pacific than the one sketched here might take some comfort in the integrity and autonomy of faith, which is always shaped but never fully determined by social and cultural pressures.

<http://www.nytimes.com>

Load-Date: May 12, 2002

Marching as to War

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MIDEAST TURMOIL: GUERRILLAS; Palestinian Militant Group Says It Will Limit Bombings

The New York Times
April 23, 2002 Tuesday
Late Edition - Final

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Section: Section A; Column 1; Foreign Desk; Pg. 13

Length: 1022 words

Byline: By C. J. CHIVERS

Dateline: NABLUS, West Bank, April 22

Body

Al Aksa Martyrs Brigades, a Palestinian nationalist group responsible for a number of suicide bombings in Israel this year and the only group to deploy women as bombers, said through a commander today that it would not send more bombers into Israel to kill civilians.

But the commander said suicide bombings were being planned against Jewish settlements and Israeli military targets.

The remarks were made by an Aksa leader hiding in Nablus, from which Israeli forces withdrew on Sunday after nearly three weeks of occupation. The commander agreed to an interview on condition that he be identified only as Abu Mujahed, his name in the organization.

Abu Mujahed said the group had survived the West Bank incursion and was planning for more war, but had decided to change tactics out of regrets about civilian casualties and concerns that continued attacks in restaurants, buses and clubs risked turning public opinion against the cause of a free Palestinian state.

"I am sorry for all the civilians that died in this intifada, both Israelis and Palestinians," he said. "I want to fight whoever is in charge of the government of Israel, not civilians."

He added, "What was happening is that we were delivering the wrong message to the world."

Israel denounced the declaration as a mere adjustment to an inhuman campaign. "We don't differentiate between different groups and how they think they differentiate their attacks," said Gideon Meir, a senior official in the Foreign Ministry. "It does not matter whether a bombing happens inside of Israel or not. Terror is terror is terror. They will never achieve a political solution this way."

Moreover, Mr. Meir added, the statements could be a ploy by a group that has been hobbled by Israel's military campaign and needed a public excuse for decreased activity.

The influence of Abu Mujahed's remarks cannot be immediately determined. Al Aksa is decentralized, operating in cells -- some perhaps independent -- and, while taking cues from leaders, not answering to them directly. Moreover,

MIDEAST TURMOIL: GUERRILLAS Palestinian Militant Group Says It Will Limit Bombings

Al Aksa is one of several Palestinian groups using suicide bombers, and Abu Mujahed made clear that he had no connection to the others.

Nonetheless, the statements marked a public shift by a group that has used more suicide bombs this year than its rivals, and has helped keep many of Israel's public spaces empty. They also suggested that international outcry had reached the ears and influenced the decisions of some who plan suicide missions.

Upon its formation in 2000, Al Aksa Martyrs Brigades, a militant wing of Yasir Arafat's Fatah movement, did not use human bombs, a weapon of Palestinian groups including Hamas and Islamic Jihad. But in January an Aksa commander, Raed al-Karmi, was killed in what its members call an Israeli assassination. Fatah was then seen by many Palestinians as less active than rival groups, and Al Aksa decided to change that. It sent a bomber into Israel's streets.

More followed, in a chilling escalation. Al Aksa, largely secular, assigns women to terrorist missions, which the more religious groups have not. Three young women slipped through Israeli security, to devastating effect.

How many bombers Al Aksa sent is unclear, as multiple groups took responsibility for some bombings. Al Aksa has said it is behind seven. President Bush declared it a foreign terrorist organization in March.

Abu Mujahed agreed to meet today as residents of Nablus, a city of 100,000, dug through rubble and streets littered with remains of cars crushed by tanks. He sent a guide, who led a reporter through alleys, turning this way and that before pulling back a sheet at a doorway, leading the way through a kitchen full of women and then up flights of stairs.

In a small room with a covered window was Abu Mujahed, clean-shaven and smoking. He sat cross-legged on a purple plastic chair. He wore black pants, a black turtleneck and a black shirt. A pistol was on a cot to his right.

Beneath the cot were a Kalashnikov rifle and an American-made carbine. A homemade grenade rested by a television, which played a loop of violence: boys throwing rocks at Israeli tanks, Israeli soldiers firing tear gas at crowds, an Arab man on a stretcher, writhing.

Abu Mujahed had an aide serve sweetened coffee. He spoke on several subjects.

Human bombs, he said, are part of a calculated strategy. "Suicide bombings delivered a message to the Israeli people that we are not going to sit and watch you kill our civilians," he said. "What we have for weapons is nothing compared to Israeli tanks, airplanes and artillery. But we showed them that we will defend ourselves any way we can."

He said that he did not see himself as a terrorist, but a resistance fighter, and that he would put down arms as soon as Israel withdrew entirely from the Gaza Strip and West Bank and allowed an independent Palestine within the pre-1967 borders.

"I do not want my children to live as they are living now," he said. "I want them to live in peace and prosperity in a Palestinian state. That is my dream."

Israeli intelligence officials have said Al Aksa has no connection to Al Qaeda, and Abu Mujahed denounced the attack on the World Trade Center, saying it was counterproductive, making all underground Muslim fighters seem alike.

"Osama bin Laden does not represent Palestine," he said. "If anyone wants to help our cause, they should come here and help us fight Israel. They should not go out and kill civilians around the world."

Mr. Meir saw these comments as savvy public relations. "If he is speaking so much against bin Laden, how can he explain that women who are crying now in Jenin are the same women who were dancing in the streets after Sept. 11?" he said. "They are the same women. How does he explain that?"

MIDEAST TURMOIL: GUERRILLAS Palestinian Militant Group Says It Will Limit Bombings

Abu Mujahed declined to answer questions about training or funding. When a photographer asked him if he would be photographed, an aide handed him a black ski mask. He put it on and lifted the carbine.

He said Israel's incursion into Nablus had failed, because only 12 Aksa fighters there had been killed and 15 wounded. Asked how many fighters he could muster, he smiled and said, "Plenty."

<http://www.nytimes.com>

Graphic

Photo: A commander in Al Aksa Martyrs Brigades known as Abu Mujahed held an American-made carbine yesterday in an apartment in Nablus. (Tyler Hicks/The New York Times)

Load-Date: April 23, 2002

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Peace hopes in tatters as Powell heads home: U.S. mission comes up far short of halting bloodshed in Middle East

Ottawa Citizen

April 17, 2002 Wednesday Final Edition

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Section: News; Pg. A1; News

Length: 1014 words

Byline: Hilary Mackenzie, with files from Peter Zimonjic

Dateline: JERUSALEM

Body

JERUSALEM -- U.S. Secretary of State Colin Powell's peace mission to the Middle East was in tatters last night as fighting raged in the West Bank and the U.S. secretary of state prepared to return home with the region still ablaze.

After meeting with Israeli Prime Minister Ariel Sharon yesterday, Mr. Powell said he hoped to work out some kind of agreement before leaving today, but he acknowledged it would be something less than a formal truce. Mr. Powell was to meet for a final time with Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat today before leaving for Cairo to brief Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak on the discussions.

Mr. Powell will leave the region without a ceasefire agreement between the warring parties, but with a watered down commitment to work toward peace, sources told the Citizen.

Palestinian and American negotiators are said to be working on a joint statement condemning suicide bombings and endorsing a Palestinian state, but falling far short of announcing a ceasefire.

The Ottawa Citizen; with files from Citizen News Services

As the diplomatic effort wound down yesterday, heavy gunfire was heard around the Church of the Nativity in Bethlehem, where some 100 Palestinian gunmen have been besieged by Israeli troops since April 2.

Israeli troops denied entering the church or attacking it.

Palestinian security forces accused the Israelis of lobbing tear gas grenades into the south entrance of the holy site.

They claimed that the building was on fire, with the army firing machine guns.

Dozens of monks, nuns, women and children are also believed to be inside the church, revered by Christians as the birthplace of Christ.

Mohammed al-Madani, the governor of Bethlehem who is among the people trapped inside, claimed Israeli troops tried to storm the church.

"They tried to get in, but they couldn't," Mr. al-Madani said. "Thank God, there are no injuries.

Israeli forces also pressed their military incursion into the West Bank yesterday, with tanks and troops rolling into three Palestinian suburbs of Jerusalem and re-entering the town of Tulkarem, from which they withdrew April 9.

Peace hopes in tatters as Powell heads home: U.S. mission comes up far short of halting bloodshed in Middle East

The moves came one day after Mr. Sharon had promised to leave all towns in the West Bank except for Ramallah and Bethlehem within a week.

The army said that it had arrested four members of the Islamic militant group Hamas, before pulling out of Tulkarem.

Israeli soldiers also detained five Palestinians in Nablus, alleging they were militant gunmen on the "terror" wanted list.

United Nations workers and Red Cross officials were allowed into the Jenin refugee camp for the first time yesterday, likening the wasteland to an earthquake zone.

"This was a hellish battleground," said Peter Hansen of the UN Relief Agency for Palestinian Refugees.

Mr. Hansen said Israeli troops had stopped the UN and the Red Cross from reaching the wounded, many of whom are trapped beneath concrete rubble in the camp, and collecting the decomposing corpses for burial.

As the masked aid workers dug with their bare hands through the rubble for the bodies, they voiced fears of a mass epidemic in the camp.

"I'm very fearful of disease," Mr. Hansen said, noting that teams of workers are waiting outside the camp with chemical sprays to stop disease spreading.

Israel said yesterday that it intended to put Marwan Barghouti, the leading spokesman for the Palestinian uprising, on trial for the murder of "hundreds of Israelis."

Investigators began interrogating Mr. Barghouti in the hope that he would reveal the extent of the involvement of Mr. Arafat, the Palestinian leader, in the actions of armed militants and suicide bombers.

Mr. Barghouti, 41, spent six years in Israeli jails as a young man and is thought to be used to interrogation techniques. In security cases, Israeli investigators are allowed to use "moderate physical pressure" -- a term which human rights activists say covers abuse and torture. Israeli radio, however, said he was being treated "with dignity."

Mr. Barghouti is likely to be tried before a military court, where conviction is all but guaranteed and the rules of evidence are less stringent than in a civilian court. Palestinians are usually tried before such courts, presided over by an army judge and two officers.

Earlier in the day, Mr. Powell expressed optimism at the pace and scale of his peace talks.

"I think we are making progress and are looking forward to making more progress in the next 24 hours."

However, despite its lack of apparent progress in bringing about a ceasefire or peace deal, Mr. Powell's mission is being viewed in many quarters as a small step forward for U.S. foreign policy.

"The fact that both sides are talking to Powell is very important," says Judith Kipper, director of the Middle East program for the Centre for Strategic and International Studies in Washington. "There are some very modest achievements and those achievements could lead to a ceasefire."

Ms. Kipper says Mr. Powell's longer term mission is still in its beginning stages and critics should realize the Middle East has a long history of conflict that needs to be understood in context.

But behind the scenes the talk was less optimistic.

The U.S. objected to Palestinian demands calling for an end to the Israeli occupation, for the establishment of a Palestinian state within the June 4, 1967, borders, the recognition of east Jerusalem as the capital and a fair solution to the refugee issue.

Peace hopes in tatters as Powell heads home: U.S. mission comes up far short of halting bloodshed in Middle East

Israel refused to nail down a fixed timetable to withdraw from the occupied territories and reserved the right to go back into the towns and villages.

In a television interview last night, Mr. Sharon said he would attend an international peace summit if the United States is prepared to host the talks.

"The summit will meet, the Americans think this is very important," he said.

While Mr. Sharon would lead an Israeli delegation, he was noncommittal about any participation by Mr. Arafat.

"The fact is that leaders must come to the summit," Mr. Sharon said. "I don't decide who is coming. It's not important to me which of them will be here."

Load-Date: April 17, 2002

End of Document

Iraq prepares for war: Happy birthday Mr President. Great party, but the people are living in fear

The Guardian (London)

April 29, 2002

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Section: Guardian Home Pages, Pg. 3

Length: 1018 words

Byline: Ewen MacAskill in Tikrit

Body

A monumental golden horse leaping from a gilded tank stood at the centre of a lavishly executed public display of adoration laid on to mark Saddam Hussein's birthday in his home town of Tikrit last night. He was 65, though there is no retirement age for Iraqi dictators.

Provincial officials had struggled to come up with something suitably splendid to mark the celebrations. Not an easy challenge, bearing in mind that the Iraqi leader's personality cult is as strong as ever and he is honoured with a seemingly infinite number of statues and portraits, most of them, it seems, located in Tikrit.

Which is why they settled on the monument of President Saddam (containing 76 kilograms of silver) astride a golden steed - itself on top of a tank headed toward the al-Aqsa mosque, the Muslim holy shrine in Jerusalem - as the necessary ostentatious mark of respect.

More than 100,000 Iraqis paraded through the streets of his birthplace while army officers and foreign dignitaries crowded into a stadium to hear speeches, listen to martial music and watch traditional dancing. Officials said that about one million people had joined the parades nationwide - many of them shouting anti-American slogans and some burning dollar bills. Attendance at the rallies was practically mandatory.

Hundreds of children danced in the Tikrit stadium yesterday, dressed in traditional Iraqi costumes, mainly flowing silks, but a score were dressed in black masks with the green headscarves of **Hamas**, the Palestinian suicide bombers. It was not a scene designed to dissuade the US from attack.

In public, residents expressed love for their president and made a great show of bravado, claiming to be unafraid of war with the US and Britain. In private, the mood was very different - a combination of worry and weary resignation.

As the celebrations reached their culmination last night, flashes and explosions filled the sky over Baghdad. The fear of the Iraqis is that in six months or a year's time the same night sky could be filled with flashes and explosions triggered by American and British warplanes.

President George Bush and Tony Blair have discussed the prospect of a war to depose the Iraqi dictator, and the Iraqi army is preparing its defences.

Iraq prepares for war: Happy birthday Mr President. Great party, but the people are living in fear

Many Iraqis watching the celebrations expressed the hope that war would not come, but they tended to be morbidly resigned to the fact that it would. A doctor, reflecting the powerlessness of the population, said: "We cannot change Bush and we cannot change Saddam."

Baghdad's population faced allied bombing during the 1991 Gulf conflict, and again by the US and Britain in operation Desert Fox in 1998. In the south of the country, and to a lesser extent in the north, bombing has continued throughout the decade, sometimes daily.

Against that background, and after more than 10 years of sanctions, there is little love for Washington in views expressed either in private or public. On arrival at Baghdad airport, every third step down the gangway has been spray-painted in red with "down with the US".

Outside what used to be the American embassy in Baghdad, about 150 journalists, all working for government-controlled organisations, demonstrated on Saturday evening. Holding candles to mark President Saddam's birthday and banners denouncing Washington, they chanted: "Bush, Bush, we are not afraid of America." That confidence is not shared in private on the streets. The worry is that the bombing may be fiercer this time and that the Iraqi dictator will not give up Baghdad easily, and it will be the civilians who will suffer most.

Official guests at the birthday celebrations came from a diverse range of countries and organisations, among them Othman Dawlat Mirzo, from Jordan's Royal Society for the Conservation of Nature. A regular visitor to Iraq, he shared the assessment of the public mood. "They are worried. The war will not be easy for children, for women, for the old," he said. Such an attack would carry great risk. "The Americans, when they decide to do something, they just do it. They do not think of the consequences."

In preparation for a war, President Saddam has ordered the army to begin work on the defence of Baghdad, with stockpiles of fuel and food already being gathered. Even more important, he has told his foreign ministry to work harder to improve relations with the Arab world and elsewhere and to try to delay an attack.

The prospect of war comes as the country is beginning to recover from the economic disaster caused in the main by sanctions. In the past two years, the standard of living in Baghdad has greatly improved. The main street, Arasat, sells every available luxury, though in the suburbs life can still be harsh. People are generally better dressed. Brand new and expensive cars are fast replacing the beat-up vehicles that Iraqis so skilfully maintained throughout the sanctions.

What is galling for the Iraqis is that just as they see a semblance of normality returning, they face the prospect of a return to economic ruin.

Which explains why, despite the outpourings of birthday congratulations that have been running non-stop on Iraqi television for days, President Saddam is increasingly unpopular. It would be a brave person to criticise him in public, but there are hints of the public's real feelings in raised eyebrows and muttered remarks, a sarcastic comment about his new play, a love story, which opened in a Baghdad theatre last night, or criticism of the behaviour of his son Uday. Or a moan about the haves and have-nots.

There is admiration for his standing up to the US, but his 22-year-old rule has led the country into two costly wars and, for a time, international isolation. Under him, one of the most advanced Arab states, with the best welfare system in the Middle East, has gone backwards.

But Nada, one of the Iraqi women journalists taking part in the demonstration against George Bush, dismissed this, and the lavish comfort of the president and his immediate clique. "All the Iraqi presidents had palaces," she said. "Even if Saddam has 900 palaces, that is not a reason to bomb us."

Load-Date: April 29, 2002

Iraq prepares for war: Happy birthday Mr President. Great party, but the people are living in fear

End of Document

Israeli troops leave after Bush's demand

Hamilton Spectator (Ontario, Canada)

April 9, 2002 Tuesday Final Edition

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Section: NEWS; Pg. A01; News

Length: 1070 words

Byline: Laura King

Dateline: NABLUS, WEST BANK

Body

Palestinian security sources said Israeli troops began leaving the West Bank cities of Tulkarem and Qalqiliya before dawn today.

The pullout from the northwest West Bank cities came after U.S. President George W. Bush demanded that Israel begin an immediate withdrawal of forces that have occupied most of the West Bank's major cities and towns during the past 12 days.

The army and defence ministry declined to comment on the reported withdrawals.

Tanks were rumbling out of Tulkarem and troops were leaving buildings and schools in the city that was occupied about a week ago, the Palestinian sources said.

The Associated Press

In Qalqiliya, about 50 tanks were leaving the city, the sources said.

A statement issued by Defence Minister Binyamin Ben Eliezer late last night said that the operation to wipe out militant networks in Qalqiliya and Tulkarem was successful and that troops would withdraw and maintain a cordon around the cities.

The incursions were to round up Palestinian militants and seize illegal weapons and explosives used in a series of recent attacks on Israel.

Residents of Qalqiliya and Tulkarem, both close to the Israeli border, offered relatively little resistance to the occupation. However, militants in places such as Jenin and Nablus have battled Israeli forces for several days.

The defence minister's statement said the operations in Qalqiliya and Tulkarem "dealt a heavy blow to the terrorist infrastructure" and involved seizures of weapons, the arrests of wanted suspects and "combat with armed terrorist elements."

At Bethlehem's Church of the Nativity, fire broke out in the compound during a gun battle between Israeli soldiers and Palestinians holed up inside.

Israeli troops leave after Bush's demand

In Nablus, dozens of gunmen surrendered to Israeli troops while scores more lay wounded on the floor of a mosque. Some of the men were dying and doctors lacking even the most basic supplies operated on others without anesthetics.

On the 11th day of the offensive launched in response to a wave of suicide bombings, Israeli helicopters also pounded the Jenin refugee camp with missiles and bulldozers flattened homes as gunmen retreated. Israelis estimated more than 100 Palestinians have been killed there in recent days.

Israeli Brigadier-General Eyal Shline said the armed men "seem to have decided to fight to the last, to make the battle as bloody as possible," and that several blew themselves up in suicide attacks on soldiers.

Addressing a special session of the Knesset, Israeli Prime Minister Ariel Sharon accused Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat of heading a "regime of terror" and said Israel would press on "until it has dismantled Arafat's terror infrastructure and the murderers hiding in different places have been arrested."

After the operation, Israeli forces will withdraw to unspecified buffer zones in the West Bank, Sharon said. In a statement that suggested the Israeli leader is questioning the legitimacy of the Palestinian authority, he added that "the places we leave must have a responsible Palestinian leadership that will take over the areas."

Palestinian cabinet minister Saeb Erekat said Sharon's "endgame all along was to dismantle the Palestinian Authority" and that Israel would not find Palestinians to go along with it.

U.S. Secretary of State Colin Powell, visiting Morocco yesterday, demanded "a clear statement from Israel that they are beginning to withdraw" from Palestinian areas and added the United States wants "to see this operation brought to an end as soon as possible."

Sharon told U.S. envoy Anthony Zinni that Israel must remain in the areas until the anti-terror campaign is completed to prevent a return of suicide bombers.

There was a widespread feeling in Israel that the timing of Powell's trip -- he will not reach Israel until late this week -- suggested an acquiescence with continuing the offensive for a few more days.

"While (Bush) calls for an Israeli pullout 'without delay' ... his secretary of state travels to the region in a slow, week-long glide, even though the Americans know only his physical presence might block 'Operation Defensive Shield,'" Israeli commentator Chemi Shalev wrote.

Israeli troops and tanks rumbled into the West Bank on March 29, beginning a hunt for weapons, explosives and militants who have terrorized the country with suicide bombings and other attacks.

More than 1,500 Palestinians have been arrested by Israel since then, including 500 to 600 fugitives, among them 70 to 80 involved in planning attacks on Israelis, Israeli military officials said.

Troops have confiscated 2,000 rifles and uncovered 15 labs for making explosives, the officials said.

Before daybreak yesterday, Israeli attack helicopters began firing missiles at the Jenin camp after militants ignored calls to surrender.

By early afternoon, Israeli forces controlled almost the entire camp, the army said.

The military said about 150 men put down their weapons and emerged early yesterday, but Hamas activist Jamal Abdel Salam said only women, children and the elderly left the camp. The militants were ready to fight to the death, he said.

Two Israeli soldiers were killed in the camp yesterday, the military said.

In Nablus, smoke rose from the Old City, a densely populated maze of ancient stone buildings and narrow streets.

Israeli troops leave after Bush's demand

Army officials said troops controlled about half the Old City, and that dozens of gunmen surrendered yesterday.

In Bethlehem, Israeli troops surrounding the Church of the Nativity, the traditional birthplace of Jesus, exchanged fire with some of the more than 200 armed Palestinians who have been holed up inside for seven days.

A senior Israeli army officer said two border policemen who had been shot and wounded by Palestinians threw a smoke grenade into the compound, sparking a fire which burned for about an hour in a second-floor meeting hall above the courtyard of St. Catherine's, a Roman Catholic church which is adjacent to the Church of the Nativity.

In his speech to the Israeli parliament, Sharon also said he was willing to meet with Arab leaders anywhere without preconditions to discuss a Mideast peace proposal.

He said a recent pan-Arab call for Israel's withdrawal from all occupied Arab lands in exchange for comprehensive peace, had "positive elements."

But Sharon said Israel cannot accept a return of Palestinian refugees to Israel itself, an issue that Arab nations say must be resolved before they establish normal relations with Israel.

Graphic

Photo: Gil Cohen, Reuters; Israeli soldiers peer out over their armoured personnel carrier as they leave the West Bank city of Jenin yesterday. U.S. President George W. Bush has called on Israel to begin withdrawing from Palestinian lands.

Load-Date: April 10, 2002

WHAT HOPE FOR PEACE?;
As Palestinians kill three collaborators

The Evening Standard (London)

April 23, 2002

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Section: Pg. 1

Length: 1003 words

Byline: Sam Kiley

Body

BRUTAL, bloody and swift, this is how they took revenge on the West Bank today.

The lifeless body of an alleged collaborator is strung up by his ankle from an electricity pylon in Hebron as his arms and other leg dangle at grotesque angles.

The body of another suspected collaborator was dragged through the city's streets by masked Palestinian gunmen. His hands and feet were bound and his body was riddled with bullets. As his corpse was paraded before a crowd of curious onlookers, his pants and trousers were pulled down.

Bystanders kicked and spat at his body.

In all, three men were killed today. But there was just one message: This is what happens to anyone who helps Israel.

About 20 gunmen dragged the victims out of a prison in the West Bank town of Hebron, meeting no resistance from the handful of police on duty there. They took them to the wreck of the car hit overnight by an Israeli helicopter gunship, and shot them there as a crowd screamed "revenge, revenge."

"The gunmen sprayed the collaborators with machinegun fire. Bullets penetrated various parts of their bodies," said a witness.

Men, women and children spat at the bodies as they were dragged through the streets.

All three were strung up on electricity poles.

"This is what these collaborators deserve.

They betrayed the nation and have been liquidated," said one of the gunmen. Palestinian security sources said Mohammed Dibassah, Zuhair al-Muhtesseb and Moussa Rjoub had been jailed for collaborating with Israel.

"They had admitted to giving information to Israel that led to many deaths of Palestinians," one security source said. The gunmen believed they had assisted the helicopter gunships which killed a prominent Fatah fighter and his bodyguard last night.

WHAT HOPE FOR PEACE?; As Palestinians kill three collaborators

Today's courtroom of instant justice was the dusty street where Marwan Zuloum's car was destroyed hours earlier by the Israelis. The jury was a posse of some 20 gunmen, the sentence a bullet in the head.

The execution was witnessed by a large crowd, including children. One boy climbed on the pylon to help with the hanging of one of the bodies. "The fate of all collaborators will be like this," said one masked militiaman, wearing a headband of the Al Aqsa Martyrs Brigades, before he and six other gunmen sped away.

The vigilante attacks raised concern about growing lawlessness offensive, which has left the Palestinian security services largely in disarray.

Palestinian sources identified Zuloum as the local commander of the Al Aqsa Martyrs Brigades, a group linked to Yasser Arafat's Fatah faction and responsible for deadly assaults on Israelis.

The summary execution of the so-called collaborators was the second spate of revenge killings in as many days. It follows the murder of another Palestinian and wounding of two more in Ramallah yesterday.

The helicopter strike came after Israel pulled out of Nablus and Jenin but maintained a siege of both cities as well as Arafat's Ramallah headquarters and the Basilica in Bethlehem. Israel's invasion began on 29 March after suicide attacks that killed scores of Israelis.

At two other flash points - the Palestinian leader's headquarters and Bethlehem's Basilica of the Nativity - there are continuing efforts to resolve stand offs between Israeli troops and wanted Palestinians. The mayor of Bethlehem said Israeli and Palestinian officials are holding their first direct talks.

Negotiators met at a tourism centre on Manger Square for the first time since some 230 armed Palestinians forced their way into the Basilica on 2 April to seek cover from advancing Israeli troops.

Several dozen clergy and Palestinian civilians are also in the compound.

Israel has offered the wanted men among those in the church exile or trial in Israel, a proposal the Palestinians have rejected.

"These are exploratory talks. I hope they will lead to a breakthrough," Bethlehem mayor Hanna Nasser said.

At the Mukaata, Mr Arafat's besieged Ramallah headquarters, four Palestinian gunmen accused of killing Israel's tourism minister are being tried by a military court in an apparent attempt to head off an Israeli raid to arrest them.

According to sources at the Mukaata, where Mr Arafat has been trapped since December, the four men - one in a wheel chair - were being tried by a "supreme court for security" made up of senior officers.

They stand accused of the killing of Rehavan Zeevi, a far-right politician who was part of Ariel Sharon's cabinet. He was shot dead in a Jerusalem hotel last year.

The Palestinians insist that under agreements with Israel they are not obliged to hand the men over but can try them in a Palestinian tribunal.

Israel has insisted that the men face charges in Israel and that there is now close alliance between Mr Arafat, the PFLP, Hamas, and Islamic Jihad - the three main extremist groups opposed to the collapsed Oslo Peace Process.

The Palestinians have said they will not begin truce talks until Israel has left all Palestinian territory in the West Bank, particularly Bethlehem and Ramallah. Israel, in turn, has said it will not let wanted men escape.

Meanwhile former Finnish president Martti Ahtisaari was picked by Kofi Annan to head a United Nations fact-finding mission to Jenin, where the Israelis have been accused of grave violations of human rights. He will be joined by Sadako Ogata, former UN high commissioner for refugees, and Cornelio Sommaruga, former Swiss head of the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC).

WHAT HOPE FOR PEACE?; As Palestinians kill three collaborators

The Israeli army, which lost 23 men in fierce fighting in the Jenin refugee camp, has insisted that it went out of its way to avoid civilian casualties in heavy fighting in a densely populated area. However, the ICRC's delegate in Jerusalem, Renee Kosirnik, said: "When we are confronted with the extent of destruction in a civilian area as we were, it is difficult to accept that international humanitarian law has been respected."

He said the ICRC had been denied access to the wounded inside the refugee camp for six days after the worst fighting was over.

Graphic

HAULED UP A PYLON, THE LIFELESS BODY OF A SUSPECTED COLLABORATOR IS PUT ON DISPLAY BY PALESTINIAN GUNMEN IN HEBRON ON THE WEST BANK TODAY. HE WAS ONE OF THREE MEN KILLED. PALESTINIANS DRAG THE BODY OF A SUSPECTED COLLABORATOR ALONG THE ROAD IN HEBRON TODAY AS MILITANTS HUNT THOSE BELIEVED TO HAVE HELPED IN ISRAEL'S WEST BANK INVASION

Load-Date: April 24, 2002

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Uncovering Israel's intentions

University Wire

April 19, 2002, Friday

Copyright 2002 The Johns Hopkins News-Letter via U-WIRE

Length: 1121 words

Byline: By Jeremy Tully, The Johns Hopkins News-Letter

Dateline: BALTIMORE

Body

As Ariel Sharon wages his brutal war against the Palestinians, U.S. support of Israel continues unabated. The Bush Administration has attempted to portray itself as a neutral party and a voice of reason attempting to mediate between two parties that are either incapable or unwilling to end the violence. But the fiction of the United States as a mediator is not supported by actual U.S. policy. Actions speak louder than words, and U.S. actions have unswervingly been in support of Israel. Bush's "concern" for Israeli military actions are belied by his timeline for sending Colin Powell to the Middle East.

Powell's "urgent mission" has been a substitute for more meaningful measures; the U.S. has avoided imposing sanctions or an arms embargo against Israel -- an action that the U.S. is not reluctant to take against other nations. Indeed, The Washington Times finally stumbled on the truth last Friday when it reported that: "The White House said yesterday it never expected Israel to 'salute and say yes' to President Bush's demand for withdrawal from Palestinian territories in 'a mere eight days.'" Apparently Bush's message of restraint was for American audiences alone -- Israel was never expected to listen.

Johns Hopkins U.

Should the U.S. be supporting Israel? Americans are frequently told that the Israel Defense Force (IDF) operates with a "purity of arms." On Saturday, the New York Times featured an Op-Ed arguing that, "there are significant pockets of armed resistance in the Jenin camp, but there are also lots of civilians. So [Israel] can't just bomb from the skies. We send soldiers house to house, only to watch as Hamas fighters use those same civilians as shields." Such fanciful claims are contradicted by Israeli human rights group B'Tselem.

"According to the information provided to B'Tselem by Dr. Zahara el-Wawi, a doctor at the clinic, the soldiers entered the mosque with their guns resting on the shoulders of Palestinian civilians who were forced to march in front of the soldiers as 'human shields.'"

Other examples of Israeli extremism abound. Peter Beaumont reported for the British newspaper, The Observer, that IDF soldiers are executing Palestinian police officers. Summary executions are also detailed by the secular Christian Science Monitor, which reports that Palestinians "witnessed Israeli troops executing five unarmed young men on Wednesday morning." According to the Monitor, "The young men had hidden in their homes rather than obey the orders of Israeli soldiers that men and boys come out for questioning."

Even the Times, normally unequivocal in its support of Israel in its editorials, remarks that "knocking down houses, destroying electricity pylons and interfering with health care, as Israeli forces have done across the West Bank, cannot be justified by any compelling military need." Corpses are rotting in Palestinian homes because the curfew

Uncovering Israel 's intentions

prevents their burial, garbage remains uncollected and clean water is not available because, as CNN notes, "some sewer lines have been severed" by Israeli bulldozers attempting to "prevent local and media access to various parts of the city."

The greatest danger from the IDF's perspective is that the world might find out what their policies have been. The Israeli government has therefore denied journalists access to the cities under siege. Haider Rashid, the Deputy Governor of Jenin, details IDF concealment of atrocities: "At first I thought they were [bulldozing houses] to make the roads wider for the tanks -- but now I believe the army is doing this in order to cover its crime. When the soldiers finally leave from Jenin, the press, cameramen and diplomats will want to come to see the terrible things the soldiers have done -- but this atrocity will literally be covered up."

Rashid's explanation is so horrible that it is hard to believe. But as reporters begin to sneak into Jenin, there is much confusion as to why after days of fighting there are no bodies in the streets. Is this the result of the vaunted IDF humanitarianism of which we've heard so much? Phil Reeves of the British daily The Independent reported Tuesday that, "rubble has been shoveled by bulldozers into 30 foot piles. The sweet and ghastly reek of rotting human bodies is everywhere, evidence that it is a human tomb." According to Reeves, "Israel was still trying to conceal these scenes yesterday. It had refused entry to Red Cross ambulances for nearly a week, in violation of the Geneva Convention. Yesterday it continued to try to keep us out."

There is ample incentive for Sharon to conceal IDF atrocities. In September of 1982, he was complicit in a brutal massacre. With the assistance and supervision of then-Defense Minister Sharon, Lebanese Phalange militia troops entered the refugee camps of Sabra and Shatila and slaughtered more than 3,000 Palestinian refugees -- many of them women and children, and the vast majority of them, as U.N. observers would later note, unarmed. Newsweek reported that IDF soldiers "stood by as the murderers dug a 50-square-yard mass grave and dumped Palestinian bodies into it," as bulldozers with their IDF markings removed "rumble[d] out of Sabra, their scoops filled with bodies." After Sabra and Shatila, the massive worldwide and domestic outcry cost "Arik" his position as Defense Minister.

None of this is to justify Palestinian suicide attacks against Israeli civilians, which are despicable crimes. But it is our responsibility to go beyond the facile explanations offered by apologists for Israel -- that Palestinians simply hate the Jews. Anti-Jewish bigotry is surely not restricted to Palestinians, yet Egyptians and Jordanians are not embarking on suicide missions.

Complete hopelessness is the cause of suicide bombings which, it should be noted, have not always been as frequent or terrible as they became after the failure of Oslo. The vast majority of Palestinians would gladly put away their guns and explosives in favor of building a civil society and a functioning Palestinian state. Under Oslo, not even a fifth of Palestinian lands were ever placed under Palestinian control, while settlements were allowed to double under Barak. The 2000 Barak proposal, despite the effusive praise it received here, offered only a cantonized Palestinian state without control of its external borders and without control of its own water supply.

As David Shipler astutely observes, in order for the terror to come to an end, "the Palestinians need to have something to lose, and Israel has to give it to them." Israel and the U.S. have so far denied the Palestinians self-determination; tragically, Bush and Sharon are intent on maintaining the status quo.

Load-Date: May 8, 2002

**MIDDLE EAST: WATCHING FROM ON HIGH AS ISRAELI GUNS KEEP
FIRING;
MIDDLE EAST THE BOMBARDMENT OF RAMALLAH AND YASSER
ARAFAT'S HEADQUARTERS CONTINUES, DESPITE CONCERN FROM
WORLD LEADERS**

The Independent (London)

April 1, 2002, Monday

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Section: NEWS; Pg. 2

Length: 963 words

Byline: Robert Fisk In Psagot, West Bank An Israeli soldier on a tank in front of a poster of the; Palestinian leader, Yasser Arafat, in central Ramallah yesterday Nasser; Nasser/AP

Body

THE GREY smoke rose in a curtain over Yasser Arafat's headquarters, drifting high above two minarets and then smudging the skyline south of Ramallah.

"I guess he's blown himself up," an Israeli paratrooper said with contempt. "That guy is finished." We stood at the edge of the Jewish settlement just 400 yards from the first houses of the newly reoccupied Palestinian city - surrounded by Merkava tanks, Magah armoured vehicles and Jeeps and trucks and hundreds of reservists tugging blankets and mattresses and guns from the backs of lorries.

"It's only just beginning, you know that?" the paratrooper asked. "They are idiots down there. They should know their terrorism is over. We're never going back to the '67 borders. Anyway, they want Tel Aviv."

A clap of sound punched our ears, a shell exploding on the other side of the hill upon which Ramallah lies. I wandered closer to the city, through a garden of daffodils and dark purple flowers to where an Israeli boy soldier was standing.

"I want to go home," he said blankly. I said 20 seemed to be too young to be a soldier. "That's what my mother says."

He was eating matzah bread with salami, staring at the empty streets of Ramallah. "They've locked themselves in their homes," he said. "Do you blame them?"

I didn't. But it was a strange morning, sitting with the soldiers above Ramallah, a bit like those awful viewing platforms which generals would arrange for their guests in the Napoleonic wars, where food might be served while they watched the battlefield.

There was even a settler couple, cheerfully serving hot food and coffee to the reservists. The woman held out a bowl of vegetables and cheese for me. "My daughter's at Cambridge University," she said with a smile. "She's

MIDDLE EAST: WATCHING FROM ON HIGH AS ISRAELI GUNS KEEP FIRING; MIDDLE EAST THE
BOMBARDMENT OF RAMALLAH AND YASSER ARAFAT'S HEADQUARTERS CONTINUES, DESPITE
CONC....

studying the history of the Crusades." A bloody business, I remarked, and her companion cheerfully agreed. Religious wars are like that.

That's when I saw the four Palestinians. Just below us, next to the garden with the daffodils and the purple flowers, three of them were kneeling on the grass in front of a group of Israeli officers. All were blindfolded, their hands tied behind them with plastic and steel handcuffs, one of them with his jacket pulled down his back so that he could not even move his shoulders. The Israelis were talking to them quietly, one of them on one knee as if before an altar rather than a prisoner.

Then I saw the fourth man, middle-aged, trussed up like a chicken, stretched across the grass with his blindfolded face lying amid a bunch of flowers.

The paratrooper shrugged: "They all say they've done nothing, that they're innocent, that we just came into their homes and took them without reason. Well, that's what they say."

I mentioned the prisoners to the two friendly settlers. They nodded, as if it was quite normal to have four men bound and blindfolded in the little garden. When I asked the 20-year-old about them, he shrugged like the paratrooper. "They are not my prisoners," he said.

I walked round the corner of a building to the little lawn upon which they were being questioned. A soldier was putting a new pair of cuffs on one of the kneeling men. Another Palestinian was repeatedly bowing his head before a door and his shoulders moved as if he was weeping.

None of it worried the soldiers. In their own unique "war on terror", these prisoners were "terrorists". Indeed, another soldier eating a plate of greens said that he thought "all the people down there" were "terrorists".

In front of us a Merkava tank passed, roaring down the hill below in a fog of blue smoke, its barrel gently swaying up and down above its hull. "Tomorrow is going to be worse," the paratrooper said. "This is only the beginning."

Had he been reading the newspapers? Or did he know something I had missed? There are all kinds of rumours in the settlement of Psagot; that the West Bank is going to be totally reoccupied, that the Israelis intend to re-establish their so-called "Civil Administration", that the Palestinian Authority will be dismantled and its leaders exiled.

The paratrooper's friend, a smiling sergeant who dwarfed both of us, thought it a good idea. "My only question is why we didn't do this weeks ago," he said. More troops arrived in more trucks with their Galil assault rifles. Radio shacks were being erected, armoured vehicles positioned above Ramallah. An officer asked what would happen if this operation failed. He answered his own question: "Sharon will be finished." Yes, you could not help feeling, something was coming.

On the road back to Jerusalem, I passed a rusting old bus opposite Maale Adumim, its windows covered in wire. Hands were gripping the wire and behind them, 20 or 30 faces stared through the mesh. The Palestinian prisoners were silent, looking out at the massive Jewish settlement, watching us, dark faces in shadow, guarded by a Jeep - load of troops.

A few minutes later, I stopped to buy bread and chocolate at a Palestinian grocery store in east Jerusalem. The shoppers - men, for the most part, with just two veiled women - were standing below the store's television set, plastic bags of food hanging from their hands. Israeli television does not flinch in telling the truth about its own casualties. "The toll so far appears to be 14 dead," the commentator announced. The Palestinians of Jerusalem understand Hebrew. A camera aboard a helicopter was scanning the roof of a Haifa restaurant, peeled back like a sardine can by a Hamas suicide bomber's explosives. A boy shook his head but an elderly man turned on him: "No," he said, pointing at the screen, "that's the way to do it."

MIDDLE EAST: WATCHING FROM ON HIGH AS ISRAELI GUNS KEEP FIRING; MIDDLE EAST THE BOMBARDMENT OF RAMALLAH AND YASSER ARAFAT'S HEADQUARTERS CONTINUES, DESPITE CONC....

And I thought of a girl in Cambridge who is studying the Crusades, and what a bloody business we agreed it all was. And how religious wars tend to be the bloodiest of all.

Load-Date: April 1, 2002

End of Document

GROWING UP IN A WAR ZONE The documentary 'Promises' offers a children's-eye view of the Palestinian-Israeli conflict

Daily News (New York)

March 10, 2002, Sunday

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Section: SHOWTIME;

Length: 958 words

Byline: BY NANCY MILLS

Body

HOLLYWOOD - A movie rejected by the Sundance Film Festival usually doesn't end up getting an Oscar nomination. But that's exactly what has happened to "Promises," a 90-minute documentary that explores the lives and feelings of Palestinian and Israeli children. Its Best Documentary nod surprised even its makers, B.Z. Goldberg, Justine Shapiro and Carlos Bolado.

"We were stunned when we won the Audience Award at the Rotterdam Film Festival last February, beating out 'Memento' and 'Crouching Tiger, Hidden Dragon,'" Shapiro says. "Nothing prepared us for that. As a result, film festivals all over the world started to inquire about the film."

"Promises," which took six years to complete, went on to win awards at nine other festivals. What makes the film so compelling is its "cast" of children between the ages of 9 and 13.

"A lot of people questioned our decision to focus on children so young," says Shapiro (who hosts and co-writes the TV travel series "Lonely Planet"). "But we knew they could express their feelings articulately and originally, fusing what they absorbed from their parents with their own experiences and spirit. They liked that we respected them enough to ask them hard questions."

Adds Goldberg, who was born in Boston but grew up outside Jerusalem, "A lot of these kids are heavily politicized, and not just by their parents. They know what's going on all over the world. Headlines will impact them. The connection between politics and daily life is one of the things that make these kids so adult at a young age."

Shapiro, Goldberg and Bolado filmed nearly 100 children, compiling 200 hours of footage, in 1997 and 1998. They eventually focused on seven of the children - six boys and a girl - and added an epilogue shot in 2000.

The children in the film, which opens Friday, provide a cross-section of political views and ingrained resentment; their honesty and naiveté often reflect the worst of what's happening in the Israeli-Palestinian conflict.

"I live in Beit-El," says Moishe Bar Am, a son of Jewish settlers. "We fight because this land is ours. If I could make my future, all the Arabs would fly away. The Jews would stay, and the temples would be rebuilt. ... We have our Army to protect us. We have our firing range. And if the soldiers aim poorly, it's okay because they might shoot an Arab."

GROWING UP IN A WAR ZONE The documentary 'Promises' offers a children's-eye view of the Palestinian - Israeli conflict

Mahmoud's family has owned a spice and coffee shop in the Muslim quarter of Jerusalem's Old City for three generations. "This is my land," he says. "I was born and raised here. You have no right to take it. I support Hamas and Hezbollah. They kill women and children, but they do it for their country. The more Jews we kill, the fewer there will be - until they're almost gone."

"There are some very sad and disturbing things in 'Promises,' but they're shown in a way that reaches out to both sides," says Laurie Brand, professor of international relations at the University of Southern California. "The film's even-handed, and the filmmakers don't heavily editorialize. They allow you to draw your own conclusions. The children speak for themselves, and there's a diversity of opinions and a spectrum of approaches to what peace might be and how to go about obtaining it."

A specialist in Middle Eastern politics, Brand adds, "My experience is primarily with Palestinians, and over the past 25 years I've spent a fair amount of time in refugee camps in the East Bank. These expressions seemed familiar to me, but what is new is seeing the interaction between the kids."

Actress Debra Winger was an early supporter of the film project and helped secure some funding through Norman Lear. Other monies came from the Independent Television Service, the National Endowment of the Arts and many other foundations, along with 300 friends of the directors.

Strong scenes

Goldberg, who speaks Hebrew and Arabic, became a unifying thread in "Promises," despite his initial resistance.

"B.Z. was so fantastic with the kids," says Shapiro. "He really became the narrator who pulled all these disparate pieces together. He'd be sitting next to the camera talking to the kids, and there would be this incredible energy between them."

This connection, which continues today, led to numerous strong scenes in the film. The most moving is a friendly meeting between Israeli twins Yarko and Daniel and a Palestinian boy, Faraj, and his friends at an Arab refugee camp, where they eat together, talk and play soccer.

The film was as eye-opening for Goldberg as it was for the boys.

"I was very resistant to making this documentary because I knew I'd have to change," he says. "I had a fairly liberal upbringing in Israel, but I didn't know anything about Palestinian daily life and I didn't want to know."

"I had to open up to the fact that, like the film does for an audience, these people who were my 'enemies,' and also my partners in peace, were also human beings like me. The same thing happened to me with 'the settlers.' I grew up being taught that they're lunatics and you want to hate them. I went there and saw that they're wonderful people with political opinions that aren't so wonderful."

"I had to become open to the complexities. I wanted to see things in black and white terms, and I wasn't able to any more after the film was over."

Not everything the children say in the film is unequivocally resentful. The following comments come from the epilogue:

"Peace between you and me is impossible unless we get to know each other," says Mahmoud. "Our fathers are at war, and if I don't know you, I can't have peace with you."

"In the movie, you asked me to respond to questions as an Israeli, but I have my own concerns, like friends and volleyball," says Yarko. "I want there to be peace here. I really do. I just don't deal with it day to day."

GROWING UP IN A WAR ZONE The documentary 'Promises' offers a children's-eye view of the Palestinian - Israeli conflict

Graphic

MAKING FRIENDS Yarko (I.), an Israeli, and Faraj, a Palestinian.

Load-Date: March 11, 2002

End of Document

Suicide bomb kills 19 Israelis in hotel: Middle East in crisis as carnage in Netanya and infighting at Beirut summit send peace hopes diving: 19 dead and 140 injured by suicide bomb at Israeli hotel

The Guardian (London)

March 28, 2002

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Byline: Suzanne Goldenberg in Beirut and Graham Usher in Jerusalem

Body

A Palestinian suicide bomber walked into a hotel lobby crowded with Israelis gathered for the ritual Passover meal last night, dealing a crushing blow to efforts at the Arab summit to open a new chapter with the Jewish state.

Police said 19 people were killed and more than 140 wounded after the bomber detonated a large bag of explosives in a dining room of the Park hotel in the seaside town of Netanya. It was one of the deadliest attacks in 18 months of fighting.

The explosion tore through the hotel, blowing out walls and windows and overturning tables and chairs. "Suddenly it was hell," said one of the guests, Nechama Donenhirsch, 52. "There was the smell of smoke and dust in my mouth and a ringing in my ears."

Televised scenes showed screaming women, wailing ambulances, cloaked bodies and shop awnings buckled by heat. Israeli police reported that several of the wounded were in "life-threatening condition".

The Islamic militant group Hamas told an Arab satellite television station that it was responsible for the attack. The bombing threatened to derail the latest US truce mission, which survived two suicide attacks last week. George Bush denounced the bomb attack as "callous, cold-blooded killing".

The Palestinian Authority said it "strongly condemned" the bombing and Palestinian security sources said Yasser Arafat had ordered the arrest of four key militants in the West Bank.

Many in Israel saw yesterday's attack as an event which could goad the Israeli prime minister, Ariel Sharon, into launching a crushing military offensive on the West Bank and Gaza. An Israeli government spokesman talked of a "Passover massacre", vowing "far-reaching responses against Palestinian Authority facilities".

The bomb went off at about 7.20pm, as dozens of guests settled down for the Passover Seder in the dining hall.

Netanya has been targeted several times by Palestinians during the 18-month intifada, due to its proximity to the West Bank border. On March 2 Palestinian gunmen killed two Israelis, including a baby, in the same area as last night's attack.

Suicide bomb kills 19 Israelis in hotel: Middle East in crisis as carnage in Netanya and infighting at Beirut summit send peace hopes diving: 19 dead and 140 in....

The town had been put on maximum alert after warnings of attacks during the Passover holiday. But it is impossible to prevent suicide attacks, said Netanya's mayor, Miriam Feyerberg. "This is a city that can be infiltrated from many different directions." Ms Feyerberg, who witnessed the carnage, said: "I saw little children, bodies. And I want to say something to the Arab leaders in Beirut. This is not resistance. This is murder."

The bombing offered a cruel contrast to attempts by Saudi Arabia to contain the Israeli-Palestinian conflict by conjuring up the prospect of a broad Arab peace.

Minutes after Crown Prince Abdullah outlined for the first time his ideas for a land-for-peace deal with Israel in Beirut yesterday, the summit was thrown into chaos with the Lebanese hosts blocking Mr Arafat from addressing Arab leaders via satellite link.

The Palestinian delegation marched out. It was eventually persuaded to remain in Beirut overnight, but the outburst exposed the internal rivalries among the 22 Arab League states.

While the crown prince appealed to the Israeli public to put their trust in peace, Syria's Bashar Assad called on Arab leaders to support the Palestinian uprising, and condemned the Jewish state as a "living example" of terrorism.

An Arab newspaper said last night it had received an email it believed to be from Osama bin Laden, denouncing the Saudi peace initiative and praising Palestinian suicide attacks. Associated Press said the language of the email, sent to al-Quds a-Arabi, a London-based daily, resembled that used in previous statements by Bin Laden.

The two-day meeting opened in Beirut with two key moderate leaders distancing themselves from the proceedings after Israel barred Mr Arafat from leaving his headquarters in Ramallah. Jordan's King Abdullah withdrew early yesterday, and Egypt's Hosni Mubarak stayed home.

Palestinian officials said Mr Arafat waited in a Ramallah television studio for hours yesterday listening to a succession of speeches before giving up on his fellow Arab leaders and delivering his speech to al-Jazeera television.

"He was kept waiting from 11am to 2.30pm," said Majdi Khaldi, an adviser to Mr Arafat and a member of the delegation. "We cannot accept that."

After the Palestinian leader was put on hold for a speech by Mr Assad, "we understood the message: that the summit chairman will not allow Mr Arafat to make his speech - even if he wants to".

At first the Lebanese organisers said they pulled the plug on Mr Arafat because they feared a live broadcast could be hijacked by Mr Sharon. Later, they blamed technical reasons and egos.

"Our Palestinian friends wanted their chairman to speak first, and when they saw the list was long, they lost patience," said Ghassan Salameh, Lebanese summit spokesman.

The explanations suggest that more radical states such as Syria and Lebanon were working behind the scenes to deflect attention from Prince Abdullah's peace proposal.

In his speech on al-Jazeera, Mr Arafat endorsed the Saudi initiative. However, Mr Assad and Lebanon's President Emile Lahoud were deeply unsettled by the gesture towards their sworn enemy.

Some of those reservations were acknowledged by Prince Abdullah yesterday, who toughened the original conditions of his proposal and downgraded its reward for Israel.

The changes are a reversion to traditional Arab positions: a full Israeli withdrawal from lands occupied since the 1967 war, a Palestinian state with its capital in Jerusalem, and the right of return for Palestinian refugees - which was absent from the original proposal.

Suicide bomb kills 19 Israelis in hotel: Middle East in crisis as carnage in Netanya and infighting at Beirut summit send peace hopes diving: 19 dead and 140 in....

In an unusual appeal to Israelis, Prince Abdullah said that if their government accepted the plan: "We will not hesitate to accept the right of the Israeli people to live in security with the people of the region."

Hopes that other states would rally behind the Saudi initiative to produce a collective Arab vision for peace were undercut by Syrian and Lebanese addresses.

"The real danger resides in our collective submission to 'pressures' to put an end to the resistance and intifada in return for halting aggression, totally discarding the occupation," said Mr Lahoud. He called for the return of all Palestinian refugees to their homes.

In a rambling discourse on terrorism and the aftermath of September 11, Mr Assad called on Arab states to support the uprising and to sever - or suspend ties - with Israel until peace was achieved.

"It's time to save the Palestinian people from the new holocaust they are living in," he said.

Load-Date: March 29, 2002

End of Document

**WEST BANK ATTACKS WIDEN;
ISRAELI TANKS ENTER NABLUS, OTHER CITIES**

Pittsburgh Post-Gazette (Pennsylvania)

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SOONER EDITION

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Section: WORLD,

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Byline: LEE HOCKSTADER, THE WASHINGTON POST

Dateline: JERUSALEM

Body

Long columns of Israeli tanks and armored vehicles lumbered into Nablus in the northern West Bank last night, firing their cannons against Palestinian resistance, while about 40 miles to the south scores of Palestinian gunmen remained holed up inside the Church of the Nativity in Bethlehem's Manger Square.

The massive assault on Nablus, a city of about 100,000 and a focal point of Palestinian militant groups, was the latest step in a methodical, six-day-old military offensive undertaken by Israel to destroy what Prime Minister Ariel Sharon has called the Palestinians' terrorist infrastructure. At the same time, a second front intensified farther north, where gunners from Lebanon's Shiite Muslim Hezbollah movement exchanged artillery and mortar fire for a second day with Israeli troops in a disputed enclave at the intersection of the Israeli, Syrian and Lebanese borders.

U.S. and other efforts to arrange a truce between Israel and the Palestinians, or even to contain the violence, have been eclipsed by the Israeli offensive and a string of deadly Palestinian suicide bombings. Palestinians have set off seven of the bombs over the last seven days, but none were reported yesterday.

The United States sought Israel's permission earlier this week for its presidential envoy to the Middle East, Anthony Zinni, to visit Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat in his besieged compound in the West Bank city of Ramallah. The Israeli defense minister, Binyamin Ben-Eliezer, rejected the request, although Israeli officials said the decision might be reviewed. Zinni has not spoken with Arafat since Saturday.

"The policy of the government is that he will remain in total isolation," said Raanan Gissin, a spokesman for Sharon.

Israel's refusal angered American officials, who are under mounting criticism in the United States and abroad for having done too little to halt the escalating conflict. "We should be able to see whomever we want to see," said one official, speaking on condition of anonymity.

Sharon convened his key ministers to consider Israel's response to Hezbollah's action along the border. Syria, a main backer of Hezbollah, redeployed thousands of its troops stationed in Lebanon eastward to positions in the Bekaa Valley that would be less vulnerable to airstrikes. Israeli warplanes struck Hezbollah sites in southern Lebanon last night but has refrained so far from attacking Syrian targets.

WEST BANK ATTACKS WIDEN; ISRAELI TANKS ENTER NABLUS, OTHER CITIES

The United States warned Syria and Lebanon to restrain Hezbollah or risk severe deterioration of the situation.

The standoff at the Church of the Nativity, which is surrounded by Israeli troops, dragged through its second night as the army negotiated for the surrender of what it said were more than 200 gunmen and terrorists inside.

"We're trying to find a way to make this have a happy end with no damage to the church," said Lt. Col. Olivier Rafowicz, an army spokesman. "If they would just come out from the church, we'll arrest them if they're connected to terror."

Dozens of Israeli tanks streamed into Nablus, the major Palestinian city in the northern West Bank. They attacked from two directions in what Israeli officials acknowledged was a large-scale operation designed to suppress resistance from Islamic and other Palestinian forces, for whom Nablus is a stronghold.

It was not clear whether Israeli forces were also attacking the Balata refugee camp just east of Nablus, another base for militant groups including the al-Aqsa Martyrs Brigades, which sprang from Arafat's Fatah movement.

The al-Aqsa Brigades have carried out many of the suicide bombings and other attacks against Israelis this year. Yet when Israeli forces attacked Balata about a month ago, most of the al-Aqsa militants managed to escape. This time, Israeli officials say they are determined to arrest or kill Palestinian fighters and other wanted men.

Large Israeli forces also reinforced their reoccupation of Jenin, north of Nablus, and entered Salfit, south of Nablus. In fighting in Jenin and its adjacent refugee camp, one Israeli soldier was killed and several others were slightly injured. Six Palestinians were reported killed, including gunmen and a 30-year-old female doctor.

After six days of their largest military offensive in 18 months of fighting, Israeli forces again control most of the major Palestinian population centers in the West Bank that were returned to Palestinian administration in the mid-1990s -- Nablus, Ramallah, Qalqiliyah, Tulkarem, Bethlehem and Jenin -- as well as a number of smaller towns.

Hundreds of tanks and tens of thousands of troops are involved, and Israel appears on a war footing, its citizenry grim and determined. In the West Bank, the Palestinian economy has collapsed, nearly all large-scale commerce and trade is at a halt and the mood is desperate.

"We hate you," said Ahmed Abdel Rahman, a senior Arafat aide who addressed Israelis in an interview with Qatar-based al-Jazeera satellite television. "You should take your tanks and your soldiers and your settlers and get out. The air hates you, the land hates you, the trees hate you, there is no purpose in you staying on this land."

Arafat, confined by Israeli troops to a single floor of his headquarters in Ramallah, continued to strike a defiant note. He told al-Jazeera that he would rather die than be forced into exile as Sharon has proposed.

"Is this my homeland or his homeland?" the Palestinian leader said. "We are rooted here from before the time of Abraham our prophet." Asked about the possibility of Palestinian surrender, Arafat said: "God forbid! I told you, brother: Martyr, martyr, martyr!"

Nonetheless, there were increasing signs that his eight-year-old Palestinian Authority is crumbling.

The Islamic Resistance Movement, known as Hamas, criticized Arafat's security chief in the West Bank, Jibril Rajoub, accusing him of knuckling under to Israeli forces.

As fighting raged around the West Bank, Israel was generally unified in support of the offensive, but there have been some expressions of dissent.

Yesterday, several groups including Israelis, Palestinians and Europeans gathered by the busload at the Al-Aram gate in East Jerusalem, a muddy outpost about three miles south of Ramallah. Despite heavy rain, it was one of the larger demonstrations mustered in recent weeks by Israel's battered peace camp, which has found it difficult to preach tolerance and nonviolence in the face of the suicide bombings and Israeli attacks in the West Bank.

Graphic

PHOTO: Goran Tomasevic/Reuters: A soldier beats back Israeli peace activists at a checkpoint outside Jerusalem yesterday. The demonstrators were trying to deliver humanitarian supplies to the besieged West Bank town of Ramallah.

PHOTO: Magnus Johansson/Reuters: Israeli soldiers enter Bethlehem's city center yesterday.

PHOTO: With an M-16 on his shoulder and an olive branch in his hand, an Israeli soldier mans a checkpoint between Jerusalem and Bethlehem.

MAP: Associated Press; ESRI: (Troop movement continues)

Load-Date: April 6, 2002

End of Document